

The Brahma Beat

East Bernard High School-East Bernard, TX 77435



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Queen of Courage

Junior Homecoming Queen Crowned



(Photo by Stolle)

Homecoming Hugs

Cameron Guthman¹¹ gives **Aliyah Hays**³ a hug after crowning her Junior Homecoming Queen. Guthman is the secretary of TAFE. "Aliyah inspires me everyday," Guthman said. "Even though I'm normally on the field as a trainer, it was a honor for me to be accompanied by Aliyah. She's a true inspiration to me and everyone she meets."

Marissa Macha
Editor-In-Chief

The bright stadium lights shine through the night, causing all of the girls' dresses to sparkle. The line of high school girls stand on the field. Among them, one girl stands out. She is obviously younger, but her brand-new dress does not shine any less. She is anxiously awaiting her chance to be crowned with her tiara.

During halftime of the homecoming game, third grader **Aliyah Hays** was given the honor of Junior Homecoming Queen. TAFE (Texas Association of Future Educators) members presented Aliyah with her own tiara and sash.

"I came up with this idea because I had heard how strong and brave Aliyah is being while she battles cancer," junior **Monica Reyna** said. "I started thinking and I decided it would be really cool if we could give Aliyah her own special title at homecoming."

The preparations started with TAFE members calling Aliyah's parents and principal to ensure that this was okay.

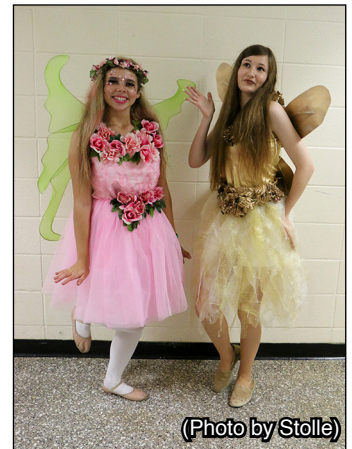
"I was in shock when I first heard about the idea,"

What's inside?



(Photo by Schulte)

See Page 9



(Photo by Stolle)

Page 10-11



(Photo by Rabius)

See Page 17

2 - Feature

Aliyah's mother, **Tracy Hays** said. "I think it's amazing, though. It's so sweet that someone took the time to do something like this for her."

After her parents granted approval, Aliyah was told and was able to go dress and jewelry shopping with her mom and older sister.

"I really liked finding the dress because it was my favorite color and had spar-

All Smiles

Aliyah stands on the field, holding her bouquet of roses. The bouquet was presented when she was crowned Junior Homecoming Queen. "I was excited when they called my name," Aliyah said. "I've always wanted to be a homecoming queen because you get to dress up and have fun."



(Photo by Zahradnik)

kles," Aliyah said. "It made me feel like a princess."

On the Friday of homecoming, Aliyah was able to take part in another special tradition- walking the halls of the high school, junior high and elementary with the band, cheerleaders, cross country runners and football and volleyball players.

"I loved walking in the elementary because I was able to see all my friends there," Aliyah said.

Aliyah was allowed to line up on the field alongside the high school duchesses and queen nominees. Before the announcement of the senior queen was made, Aliyah was crowned.

"My favorite part of the whole experience was seeing the smile on her face when the announcers called her name," Mrs. Hays said. "You could just feel the love from them. I want to thank everyone for what they've done for Aliyah. It's made her feel so special."

Despite her daily struggles, Aliyah stays positive and occupies her time with things she enjoys. She likes painting pictures of houses and horses in addition to watching *Zoey 101* on TV. She is rarely seen without a smile on her face.

"You can never tell when she is sick," Mrs. Hays said. "She's always happy and

no one is ever a stranger to her."

Aliyah's bravery and determination shine through her actions and her life. She manages to impact everyone that she meets.

"I hope Aliyah knows just how special she and that there are a lot of people in this school that care about her," Monica said. "I just wanted her to be able to feel like a princess for a night."



(Photo by Stolle)

Crowns for Courage

Cameron Guthman¹¹ and **Kenzie Floyd**¹¹ crown Aliyah with her tiara. Members of the TAFE organization led the charge to name a Junior Homecoming Queen during the 2015 Homecoming halftime. "It was such a great honor to be the one to crown Aliyah," Guthman said.

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