

Lights, Camera, Action

Broadcast journalism students earn spot
in first UIL state filmmaking competition

by Ashley Thompson

Four students in the video technology program advanced to the state Young Filmmakers Festival held in Austin on Feb. 18.

Seniors **Blake Holland** and **Emily Roberson** won third place in the Documentary category for their "Frozen Justice" video about convicted murderer Bernie Tiede.

"We started the interview process the last week of the 2014 year," Holland said. "I shot the B-roll and wrote the script over the course of one week. I spent a night completing the project from about 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. It was worth [the time] though."

Holland, who began covering Tiede's story in February of 2014, decided to make the video because of his vast knowledge of the case. As an employee of the local radio station KGAS, Holland had numerous contacts from news stations who covered the case in 1996.

"The reason I made the video was because I had so much access," Holland said. "I had contacts with the Nugent family and everyone who could help me with court documents."

Tiede's story made major headlines when director Richard Linklater created the film "Bernie" about the incident. The film revolves mainly around Tiede, but Holland; however, wanted to tell the story of the victim, Marjorie Nugent.

"In the movie, you get Bernie's perspective, and Mrs. Nugent is portrayed as the antagonist," Holland said. "With our video, we were able to flip the angle

so everyone could see both sides of the story."

Sophomores **Emily Andrus** and **Chaitali Patel** also competed in the Documentary category with their "Learning to Live Again" video about junior high teacher **Shannon Baldree** and her late husband, Cody.

"We chose our topic because we wanted to choose something that had recently affected the community and was heartfelt," Andrus said. "Even though our film didn't place at the festival, we felt accomplished that we did our job because while we watched it at contest, everyone around us was crying, and we were right there with them."

Looking back at all of their accomplishments, Andrus and Patel acknowledge the emotion that went into making the video.

"The hardest part of making the documentary was the emotions," Patel said. "I didn't know Cody Baldree personally, but I knew his family and their inspiring story. I did not know if I could control my emotions during interviews."

While her students were at the Young Filmmakers Festival in Austin, CHS-TV teacher **Joanna Huckabee** was at home on maternity leave.

"I was getting texts throughout the whole festival, keeping me up-to-date," Huckabee said. "I went into labor that night, too, so it was a big day for all of us."

"I didn't know Cody Baldree personally, but I knew his family and their inspiring story. I didn't know if I could control my emotions during the interviews."

-Chaitali Patel, 10

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

In the CHS-TV studio, senior **Blake Holland** works on editing his documentary short film, "Frozen Justice." Holland had to piece together clips from the news with the film that he shot for the documentary. *Photo by Hunter Poindexter*

RISING RATINGS

Senior **Bradley Holeman** adjusts the levels on

