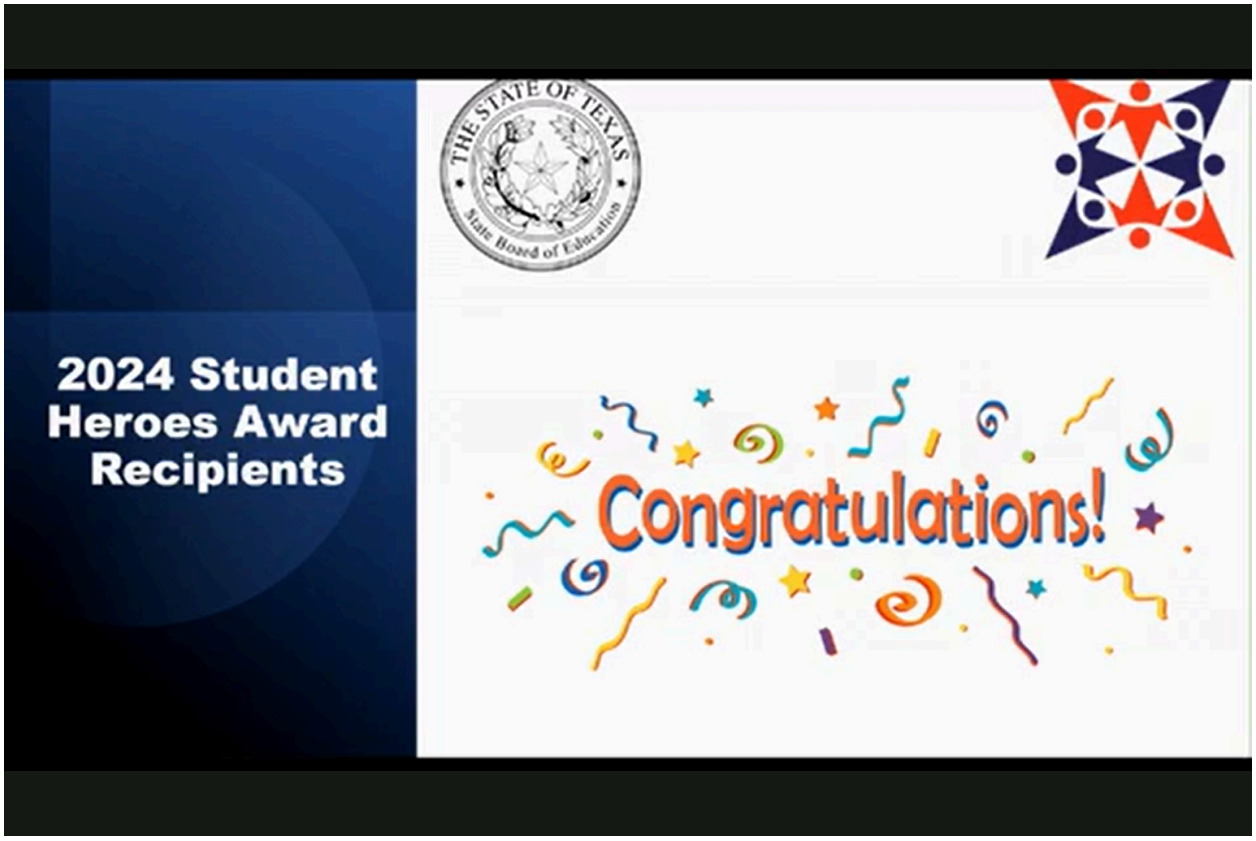
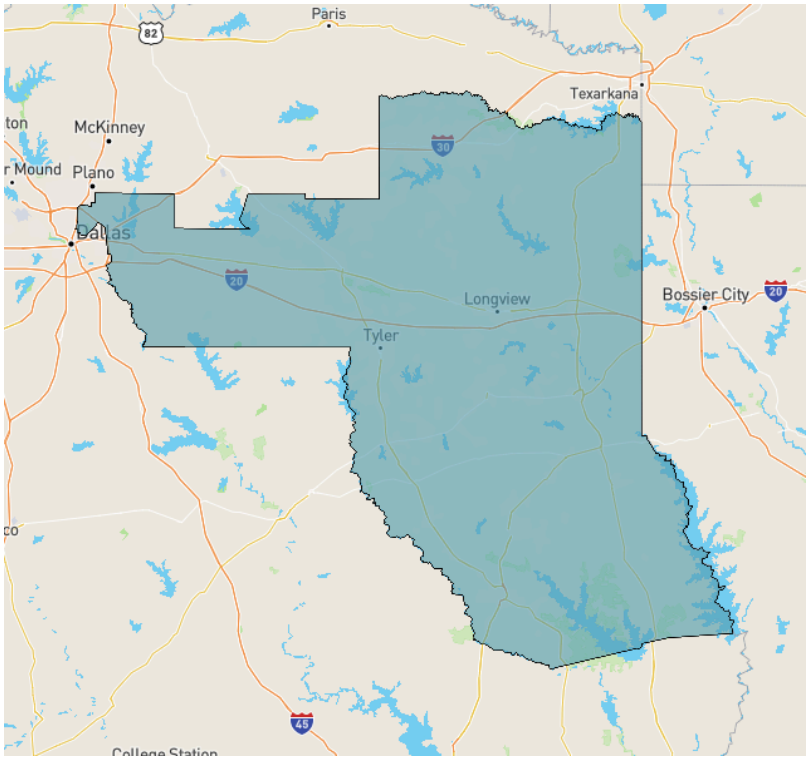


Most have not heard of Avinger, Texas, but those who have most likely know it for basketball. Avinger has won basketball state championships in 1977, 1996 and 2016. Some might even know the town with a population of 367, for its steakhouse, wine festival or for the wildflower trails festival. Even though small, Avinger represents the great state of Texas in many ways. Now we add one more achievement. Andrew Grogan, age 17, who will be graduating next year, May 2025, has been awarded the 2024 Student Heroes Award from the State Board of Education (SBOE) for District 9. For those of you wondering what counties make up District 9, well it covers 24 counties including Cass, Gregg, Harrison, Nacogdoches, Rockwall, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood. Here is the map.



This is a prestigious honor as only 15 students are selected statewide to receive this recognition for acts of kindness, charity, and selfless service.

Andrew's 16,000 plus minutes of service he has completed with the Avinger Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) and his humble service of demonstrating to the Avinger ISD students a firetruck's equipment and how they are used is why he has been bestowed this honor. Since joining the AVFD Andrew has incurred a 95% attendance on emergency calls not only in Avinger but in the surrounding areas.

On June 28th a few family and friends gathered at the Avinger Education and Event Center on Main Street for a watch party where the Resolution for the 2024 Student Heros Award was read and voted on during a live streamed board meeting. Later during the 2024-25 school year, Dr. Keven Ellis will be at Avinger ISD's campus to present the award in person in front of the whole school and the Avinger School Board members.

Thank you Andrew Grogan for your heroism and example to others for leadership, character and work ethic.

