



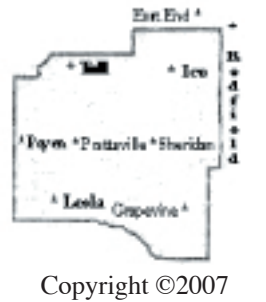
NEWS
ASPIRING STUDENTS
School begins on a bus in Grapevine



SPORTS
B-BALL HONORS
Post-season awards for basketball



The Sheridan Headlight



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Grant County BRIEFS

New Hope CA meeting
All persons with an interest in New Hope Cemetery, near Crossroads, are encouraged to attend the association meeting to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 5, at the Crossroads Community Building. David Johnson, newly-elected Treasurer of the association, will also be at New Hope Cemetery on May 5 to accept monetary donations for the upkeep and care of the cemetery; or you may mail your donation to David A. Johnson, 1989 Grant 74, Sheridan, Arkansas.

SSD Gifted, Talented Program
During the spring the Gifted and Talented Department of Sheridan School District identifies students for the Gifted and Talented Program. Nominations are accepted from teachers, administrators, and parents. Characteristics of gifted and talented children are in the areas of achievement, intellectual ability and creativity. Report card grades are not considered an indicator of giftedness, but rather, an indicator of achievement. The Arkansas Department of Education's Definition of Giftedness: "Gifted and talented children and youth are those of high potential or ability whose learning characteristics and educational needs require differentiated educational experiences and/or services." Teachers specially trained to meet the needs of gifted students teach these classes. Therefore, gifted students are clustered with both their intellectual and chronological peers. At the Middle School and High School level, we offer GATE Seminar classes for the identified students as well as Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement classes. If you would like to nominate your child, you may do so by contacting Deborah Mooney at (870) 942-7488 or by emailing deborahmooney@sheridanschools.org. You can also find a referral form on the school webpage: www.sheridanschools.org.

Leola School Reunion is June 9
The annual Leola School Reunion will be held on June 9. Please meet at the Leola Community Center at 2 p.m. followed by dinner at 4 p.m. at Dorey's Restaurant.

CGWA to meet
Center Grove Water Association's monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m. in the water office. Customers and any interested party are welcome to attend the meeting.

Mother's Day Out
Mother's Day Out at First Baptist Church in Sheridan (across from Wal-Mart) is now offering open registration for the fall. Please stop by on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 9 a.m. and noon to sign up.

Red Cross opportunity
The American Red Cross will be at Poyen High School on April 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To donate you must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Please have a blood donor card or picture ID with you at the time of donation. Those interested in donating may call the American Red Cross for more information by dialing 1-800-GIVE LIFE or go to www.givelife.org to schedule an appointment.

Poyen Elementary School registration for kindergarten
Anyone needing to register a child who turns 5 on or before Sept. 15, 2007, that has not already been registered, needs to contact Poyen Elementary School at 501-332-2939 ext. 109. It is in the best interest of the student to have them registered as soon as possible. Please have their social security card, birth certificate, and shot record.

Health Fair is May 4
The 2007 Grant County Health Fair sponsored by the Grant County Extension Office, Grant County Extension Homemakers and the Grant County Health Department will be held on Friday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sheridan Recreation Center.

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Aspirnaut Initiative launches

SSD students test 'school begins on a bus' concept

By Melody Moorehouse

The State's first virtual mobile classroom was launched Tuesday, April 10 in the Sheridan School District (SSD) in a pilot project titled the "Aspirnaut Initiative - School on a Bus." The three-year program will test the feasibility of providing high-tech educational tools in a unique setting onboard a designated school bus in an effort to increase student learning and achievement in the areas of mathematics and science. If the project is successful, students may one day also receive course credit for their work during long bus rides within the district.

The Aspirnaut Initiative is the brainchild of Billy G. Hudson, Ph.D., a former graduate of the Grapevine School District in rural Grant County, Ark. The Grapevine School District consolidated with the Sheridan School District in 1985. The Grapevine District itself grew from the consolidation of 11 other small one-room schools in the area, including Ain, Amity, Lamont Lowman, Taylor, Wiggins, Winston, Cedar Branch, Grapevine, Fikes, and Pine Grove.

Dr. Hudson is the Elliot V. New-See *Aspirnaut*, page 7



STUDENTS IN THE SHERIDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT who are participating in the Aspirnaut Initiative are challenged by Dr. Billy Hudson from Vanderbilt University during a launch event held last week at the Sheridan School District Administration Building. The students live in the Grapevine Community and ride Bus 46 in the Sheridan School District. The route is the longest in the district and is a 90-minute bus ride one-way for some students, depending upon where they live along the route. Dr. Hudson is also a former student from Grapevine.

Grant County Health Fair to be held May 4

The Grant County Health Fair will be held at the Sheridan Recreation Center on Friday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free preventative health screenings that will be performed at the health fair are: blood sugar, blood pressure, percentage of body fat, body weight, bone density, cholesterol, colorectal screening kits, massages, oral cancer screenings, pulse ox, pulmonary testing, triglycerides and vision tests.

The Health Fair is being sponsored by the University of Arkansas Grant County Cooperative Extension Service, Grant County Health Department, Grant County Extension Homemakers and Grant County Hometown Health Coalition.

St. Joseph's Mobile Mammogram will also be conducting mammograms at the Health Fair. Medicare and insurance will be accepted as payment. To make an appointment please call the Extension office at 942-2231.

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Board oks student drug testing policy, proposed salary increase

By Melody Moorehouse

The Sheridan School Board implemented a student drug testing policy within the Sheridan School District and endorsed a proposed salary increase for certified and classified staff members during its regular monthly meeting held on April 9 in the boardroom of the 1913 Administration Building.

A draft of the policy was proposed to the board in March and was created by a committee comprised of Dr. Phil Clark, Principal at Sheridan Freshman Academy, and a number of parents represent-

ing various campuses, including Kim Crosby, Tami Blakemon, Bruce Bennett, Teddy Cole and Leslie Brown.

The original proposal sought to conduct random drug-testing of students involved in extra-curricular activities within the school system. Students who do not consent in writing to be tested would not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities. However, upon the board's desire last month to expand the policy to include as many students as possible, Superintendent Scott Spainhour said the student drug testing mandate presented on Monday night has been revised to allow for the inclusion of all students who park on campus.

Spainhour noted there are approximately 1,200 students in the seventh-12th grades involved in activities with an additional 400 students who park on campus.

Therefore, he said the student pool eligible for testing would be approximately 1,600 students. He said if 60 students are randomly selected each month then a significant portion of the students would be tested. An outside agency would be contracted to select the students, conduct the tests and handle all aspects of the procedure. At a rate of \$18 per test, he said the expense would total about \$10,000 per year. The district is seeking grant funds to help cover the costs associated with the drug screening.

Board member Jeff Lisenbey said he would like for all students who fall under the policy to be tested initially before the random testing would begin and Board member Lee Henson inquired regarding which drugs would be screened.

Spainhour said he realized some prescription drugs may produce

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Sheridan unit identified in ANG official alert notice

By Melody Moorehouse

Approximately 60 members of Sheridan's Arkansas Army National Guard Unit, Company D, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment within the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, has been placed on an official alert for a second possible mobilization to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In a press conference held last week, ANG Maj. Gen. William Wofford said the alert order does not mean the 39th Infantry BCT will be mobilized, but means the team has been identified and will "probably" be included in a mobilization order when it is published. The entire brigade, which is under the command of Col. Kendall Penn, is currently on alert status.

The brigade from Arkansas is one of four that has been identified. The other three are the 45th Infantry Brigade from Oklahoma City,

Okla., the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Indianapolis, Ind., and the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Columbus, Ohio. There are approximately 13,000 personnel in the four brigades. If a mobilization order is approved it would mark the first time full Guard combat brigades were sent for a second tour to Iraq, according to Department of Defense information. They are expected to serve as replacement forces in the rotation of troops.

Maj. Gen. Wofford stated current priorities for the 39th Brigade will be on soldier readiness processing, individual training and meeting warrior tasks. He said the brigade with 3,000 total soldiers is the largest unit in the Arkansas National Guard and "obviously draws more attention than our other units." He added that the Arkansas Guard currently has other Guard members who are already

deployed with others preparing for deployment.

He emphasized that in contrast to previous deployments, the mobilization that potentially includes the 39th Brigade is limited to 12 months.

"That's 12 months as opposed to the 16 to 18 months that we have experienced in the past," he said. "Within that 12 months that they'll be mobilized definitely includes two to three months of training at the mobilization station with the remainder of that time being spent in Iraq."

The mobilization station is to be determined by the Department of the Army. Maj. Gen. Wofford said training prior to any mobilization would be conducted at either Camp Robinson, Fort Chaffee or at local armories, depending on a specific unit's task.

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Victoryfest is April 21

The Keeping the Faith shelter for victims of domestic violence in Grant County will be holding Victoryfest 2007 on April 21 at the Sheridan Recreation Center from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Victoryfest is a Domestic Violence Awareness celebration and the community is invited to attend.

The goal of Victoryfest is to educate the community regarding the dangers of domestic violence that exist in Grant County, according to a spokesperson for the shelter, Keeping the Faith will also hold a candlelight vigil to remember the lives lost in 2006 due to domestic violence. A Tree of Life will be on display during the event to represent each form of abuse and the number of Grant County victims affected in 2006.

The Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence will be sponsoring the Silent Witness Project, which consists of wooden silhouettes that also represent victims from 2006. Another activity during the evening will be the Clothesline Project, which consists of t-shirts that victim's families have designed in remembrance of them.

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