

Aspirnaut, Poyen student receives Pinnacle Scholar Award

Josh Avance, an Aspirnaut student and senior at Poyen High School, was recently awarded a Berea College Pinnacle Scholar Award of Excellence. More than 500 nominations from across the United States were received for the 2011 Pinnacle Scholar Awards. Of those, 125 have been selected for recognition as a 2011 Pinnacle Scholar and were honored at an award ceremony on Nov. 19 at Berea College in Kentucky.

"I am very honored to receive this award. Winning this award is a good start to my future and I hope it is the first of many great accomplishments to come," said Avance.

The Pinnacle scholar award was created by Berea College to recognize excellence in the areas of science, music, and service. Avance was recognized for his excellence in the area of science because he demonstrated a mastery of the scientific process, including scientific inquiry, common research practices, and critical evaluation of results.

"Josh is an ideal candidate for this award. He has not only excelled in advanced studies in math and science, but he has also participated in six weeks of diabetes research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He successfully competed for funding from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and presented his summer research findings at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland in August. Josh finds time to serve others. He spends time each



Poyen Senior Josh Avance

week mentoring elementary students in the Aspirnaut after-school program at Poyen where science labs are beamed from Vanderbilt to rural students," said Julie Hudson,

M.D., Aspirnaut Director and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs for Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Avance participated in the Aspirnaut Summer Research Internship Program and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)'s STEP-UP programs. Through these programs he excelled in his endeavor to participate in high level scientific research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Through his employment with the Aspirnaut at Poyen Afterschool

program, Avance has helped facilitate hands-on inquiry-based science labs for 3rd through 5th grade students. This program has allowed him to share his enthusiasm for science with younger students, encouraging them to pursue science excellence.

"Josh is a super young man who is very school and community-minded. He is always helping out at school with anything that is

needed," said Jerry Newton, Poyen School District Superintendent. Berea College was founded in 1855 as the first interracial and coeducational college in the South. Berea admits only academically promising students and funds their tuition cost of over \$23,000 per year.

About Aspirnaut - The Aspirnaut Program is a partnership between Vanderbilt University and rural K-12 schools to help recruit and

develop the STEM workforce necessary for the 21st century. Billy Hudson, Ph.D., a professor of Medicine, Pathology and Biochemistry at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, along with his wife Julie Hudson, M.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs for Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and brother Johnny Hudson and sister Ann Kincl cofounded the Aspirnaut program in 2006.

New businesses face common problems

If you recently started a business of your own, your challenge now is to make your business as successful as possible. To improve your chances for success, try to avoid some of the common traps that snare new companies.

Troubles with cash flow. If you actually run out of cash, that's a disaster. But a business can also suffer if it's chronically short of cash or if cash flow is unpredictable. A written cash flow projection can help you spot potential problems and take corrective action before it's too late. If you aren't able to prepare an accurate cash flow projection on your own, ask your accountant. It may be one of the best investments your business will ever make.

Difficulty managing growth. A growing business might not seem like a problem, but many companies stumble as they get larger. While you're managing today's business, it's important to keep an eye on where you're heading. If it looks like you're going to need additional capital, employees, or office space down the road, put the plans in motion as soon as possible.

Failing to keep in touch. In today's economy, your markets, your competitors, and the needs of your customers can change overnight. Keep up with the news of your industry through trade publications, the Internet, and by attending conferences or conventions. Scour

your market for new competitors. Never stop paying attention to your customers' concerns.

A good way to get customer feedback is simply to ask how your business is doing, either through face-to-face meetings or customer satisfaction surveys. Don't overreact to negative comments, but do try to identify real problems and take appropriate action.

For assistance with the issues faced by your new business, contact our office. Call Alissa K. Hollinger, CPA, PA, in Sheridan for more information and a review of your tax and financial plans. Hollinger is located at 1013 W. Center St./Highway 270 W. For information, call (870) 942-1686, email ahollingercpa@windstream.net or visit www.ahollingercpa.com.

Bell inducted into Purple Circle Club



LAYTON BELL of Sheridan was inducted Nov. 5, 2011 into the Arkansas Purple Circle Club in Little Rock. The club is an awards program recognizing junior livestock exhibitors who earned championship honors at the Arkansas State Fair. It is sponsored by Arkansas Farm Bureau. Arkansas Farm Bureau is a nonprofit, private farm and rural advocacy organization of more than 212,000 families throughout the state working to improve farm and rural life.

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Angel Tree applications

The Family Resource Center will begin accepting Angel Tree applications on Nov. 7 and will continue to accept applications through Dec. 2. Our Angel Tree office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Guidelines for parents wishing to put their children on Angel Tree are as follows: Children must be 15 years old or younger. Families must live in Grant County. Parents must provide a current utility bill in their name. Parents must provide a current Food Stamp (EBT) verification letter from DHS if family receives Food Stamps. Parents must

provide proof of income. If the family does not have income, the person who pays the bills for the family will need to come into our office and provide proof of their income and evidence that they are paying bills for the family. Parents must provide proof of the ages of all children over 10 years old by providing ArKids cards or birth certificates. The Family Resource Center relies solely on support from the community to provide Angel Tree gifts for families in need. Citizens who would like to provide gifts for Angels may visit The Family Resource Center office or call 942-7373 for information. The Angel Tree appreciates the Sheridan Masonic Lodge for hosting the Toys for Tots program each year and everyone who makes the project a success.

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