



*Honor for our heritage... vision for our future.*

Springdale School District • No. 50  
Springdale, Arkansas

# NEWSLETTER

WRITER/EDITOR: CYNTHIA NEWMAN

Volume 24, Number 1

A Publication of the Springdale School District, Springdale, Arkansas

December 2010

## Grant Provides AEDs for All Schools

Mrs. Kathy Launder, Nursing Coordinator for the Springdale School District, submitted an application that was approved for funding under the state's tobacco excise tax, thereby providing for the acquisition of 23 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for use in the district's schools. Four schools already had AEDs in place; the new equipment assures that each school in the district will have a machine ready for an emergency. Springdale High School received a second AED to be placed near the gymnasium. The district purchased wall mounts to contain the AEDs.

Receiving the new units were SHS and Har-Ber High School, George and Southwest Junior High Schools, Hellstern and Kelly Middle Schools, the Early-Childhood Center, the Alternative Learning Environment, and the following elementary schools: Bayyari, Elmdale, George, Harp, Hunt, Jones, Lee, Monitor, Parson Hills, Smith, Tyson, Turnbow, Walker, Westwood and Young.



PHOTO BY SARAH MALLOY

Act 496 of 2009, also known as the Anthony Hobbs III Act, now mandates that an AED be available in each school by May 31, 2011, and that appropriate school personnel be adequately trained to use the AED. Mrs. Launder will coordinate such training for our Springdale school personnel. Approximately 425 school personnel across the Springdale school system have already been trained and certified in First Aid procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and operating the AED. With the installation of the 23 new defibrillators, the Springdale School District is ahead of the required deadline and is better prepared to handle emergency situations if they occur.

## Coordinated School Health

Springdale's program of Coordinated School Health (CSH) has received the "Diamond School Board" award multiple times, most recently in December 2010, recognizing it as one of the state's best CSH affiliates. In further recognition of the program's excellence, Springdale was one of only nine Arkansas school districts named to receive CSH Health and Wellness Center Initiative grants that will be funded by the state's tobacco excise tax that was passed by the Arkansas General Assembly in 2009. As explained by Mrs. Mary Miller, Springdale's CSH coordinator, that grant will provide \$175,000.00 each year for three years (contingent on availability of funds).

Springdale's grant allowed the district to implement plans to establish a Wellness Center that will be located at Jones Elementary School. In addition to students of that school, students from the nearby Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) will be able to easily access the Center's services.

The Center will provide health education ("a planned, sequential, K-12 curriculum that addresses the physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of health"), physical education ("a planned, sequential, pre-K-12 curriculum that provides cognitive content and learning experiences in a variety of activity areas"), nutrition

services ("access to a variety of nutritious and appealing meals that accommodate the health and nutrition needs of all students"), a healthy school environment (addressing "the physical and aesthetic surroundings and psychosocial climate and culture of the school"), family/community involvement ("an integrated school, parent, and community approach for enhancing the health and well-being of students"), health promotion for staff ("opportunities for school staff to improve their health status through activities such as health assessments, health education and health-related fitness activities"), health services ("services provided for students to appraise, protect, and promote health"), and school-based mental health/counseling, psychological and social services ("services provided on campus to improve students' mental, emotional, and social health").

The district has entered into an agreement with St. Francis House NWA (doing business as the Community Clinic - Springdale Medical) which will enlist a nurse practitioner to serve the CSH Wellness Center, enhancing its services. Dr. Ron Bradshaw, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, reports that Springdale is "raising the bar" with that venture; it is the only one of the nine Wellness Center grant awardees in the state that will have a nurse practitioner.

## Springdale Teacher of the Year is State Runner-Up

Each term a Springdale “Teacher of the Year” is selected through a process that allows our schools to submit nominations of instructors who exemplify the finest members of the profession. Elementary and secondary teachers are recognized on alternate years; for the 2010–2011 term, only elementary teachers could be nominated. Mrs. Therese Thompson, a fifth-grade teacher at Tyson Elementary School, was named the 2011 Teacher of the Year for the Springdale School District and its nominee for state and national honors.

Mrs. Thompson was selected by the Arkansas Department of Education as the regional winner from the Northwest Arkansas area in the selection process for the Arkansas Teacher of the Year. She received a \$1,000.00 award and was honored along with other regional winners in a press conference held in the Governor’s Conference Room at the Capitol in Little Rock. In addition, Mrs. Thompson was named one of four finalists for Arkansas Teacher of the Year. As such, on November 12 she was an honored guest at an evening gala held at the Governor’s Mansion in Little Rock, at which time she was recognized as the runner-up for the state title.

“I believe a teacher should have a passion for educating students and a love of the subjects they teach,” comments Mrs. Thompson. She describes her school’s success as a “a team effort” and states that, “Our students are taught from kindergarten on to value others, show kindness, and do their best at school. We give our students hope by valuing them and never accepting less than their best.”



### SPRINGDALE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Therese Thompson  
Fifth grade, Literacy and Social Studies  
Tyson Elementary School



A NIGHT FOR SMILES AT THE GOVERNOR’S GALA  
(L to R) Therese Thompson, Springdale’s Teacher of the Year;  
Dr. Jim Rollins, Superintendent; Karen Rogers and Valarie Traylor  
(fellow fifth-grade teachers from Tyson)



# Building-level “Teachers of the Year”



**Rachel Emerson**  
Prekindergarten, Harp Elementary School

“My hope is that each day my children in my classroom feel safe enough to be themselves, proud enough to know that they are successful as a learner, and loved enough so that they will be excited to come back tomorrow!”



**Jody Johnson**  
Prekindergarten, Monitor Elementary School

“I believe as an educator I possess the ability to effect positive change in a child’s life both inside and outside the classroom through not just teaching them content but teaching mutual respect and value in themselves.”



**Kim Westphal**  
Kindergarten, Bayyari Elementary School

“My philosophy of teaching always begins with a safe, respectful, supportive, nonjudgmental, and caring classroom where students can grow. It is my responsibility as a teacher to nurture and mold my students into lifelong learners and contributing members of society.”



**Pam Conner**  
Fifth grade, Elmdale Elementary School

“I have high expectations for my students. I believe that every student has the capacity to achieve great things.”



**Tracy Abshier**  
First grade, George Elementary School

“Teaching first grade has given me the privilege of helping children take their first steps in literacy and math. I truly believe that educators can and do make a difference in the lives of children, parents, and our community.”



**Linda Kay Massey**  
Literacy, Harp Elementary School

“To teach children, one must have the knowledge of how children learn, be dedicated to pursuing and increasing that knowledge, and never be satisfied that there’s only one way to do something.”



**Robyn Sizemore**  
Library media specialist, Hunt Elementary School

“I believe every child should have an opportunity to grow as a person, learn as a student, and develop as a member of society.”



**Ashley Kasnicka**  
Grades 4 and 5, Jones Elementary School

“I feel I have a great rapport with my students so they are not afraid to challenge themselves in my classroom. The atmosphere of my classroom allows me to see social, academic and emotional growth.”



**Deanna Self**  
ESL, Lee Elementary School

“I believe that as educators we must show students the importance of applying what they learn in the classroom to the world around them so they will develop to their full potential.”



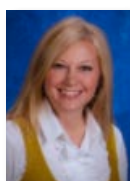
**Danielle Hoeme**  
First grade, Monitor Elementary School

“One of my hopes as an educator is to instill a love of learning in my students as I share my own love of learning with them.”



**Kara Hartness**  
Fifth grade, Parson Hills Elementary School

“I believe success in education will stem from two ideals: teach the whole child (academics, values, leadership, and meaningful life skills), and teach every child (know each of their strengths and weaknesses).”



**Karen Showalter**  
Third grade, Shaw Elementary School

“Relationships are at the heart of effective teaching. I recognize that I cannot take on the very important responsibility of teaching alone and have worked hard to maintain positive collaborative relationships.”



**Brenda Love**  
Fifth grade, Smith Elementary School

“I feel like my classroom is a small family that I get to spend time with daily. An important part of this relationship is providing an environment that ensures that every child has a strong feeling of safety.”



**Abby Richardson**  
Art, Turnbow Elementary School

“Encouraging students to take risks within the classroom allows them the opportunity to explore their own curiosity.”



**Caryn Pierce**  
Music, Walker Elementary School

“My goal is to give every child the opportunity to feel successful. To me, a successful music program is when the students look forward to and enjoy music class.”



**Mary Trulock**  
K-1 G/T; 1-5 Art, Westwood Elementary School

“Visual art classes should provide an environment rich in mediums, art-making techniques, history, and local and global artists.”



**Laura Duncan Smith**  
Fourth grade, Young Elementary School

“The classroom is a place where focused instruction helps students gain specific skills to move them forward in specific content areas, as well as providing an environment for building relationships and social skills.”

# Shakespeare Festival Educates and Entertains

The Springdale School District hosted its 26th annual Shakespeare Festival on November 8 and 9, 2010. The district's long-time partner in that ambitious venture, the Arts Center of the Ozarks, was again the site for that event. Many thanks to the ACO Director of Theatre, Mr. Harry Blundell, and his staff for their assistance in the production of the plays by William Shakespeare.

Ms. Jo Vanderspikken, Coordinator of Gifted-and-Talented Education for the Springdale School District, reports that the following plays were presented by the respective schools listed:

- *As You Like It*  
Westwood Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Betsy Penix, G/T facilitator
- *An Interpretation of Shakespeare Sonnets*  
Hellstern Middle School  
Director: Mrs. Donna Garlington, G/T facilitator
- *A Sonnet and Soliloquy of William Shakespeare*  
Tyson Middle School  
Director: Ms. Jenny Jones, G/T facilitator
- *Hamlet*  
Walker Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Betsy Penix, G/T facilitator
- *The Tempest*  
Tyson Elementary School  
Directors: Mrs. Cathy Crouch, G/T facilitator, and Mrs. Therese Thompson, fifth-grade teacher  
Choreographer: Emily Thompson
- *Comedy of Errors*  
Shaw Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. LuAnn Little, G/T facilitator
- *Romeo and Juliet*  
Monitor Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Lisa Woods, G/T facilitator
- *Romeo and Juliet*  
George Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Dianne Kellogg, G/T facilitator  
Assistant Directors: Ms. Beatriz Perez and Mr. Ethan Acala
- *Romeo and Juliet* (Act I, Scenes I and II)  
Parson Hills Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Leanne Johnson, G/T facilitator
- *Romeo and Juliet*  
Turnbow Elementary School (Two casts; two performances)  
Director: Ms. Shannon Bay, G/T facilitator
- *Romeo and Juliet* (Acts II, III and IV)  
Hunt Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Wendy Peters and Mrs. Leanne Johnson, G/T facilitators
- *Romeo and Juliet* (Act V)  
Young Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Wendy Peters, G/T facilitator
- *Macbeth*  
Kelly Middle School  
Director: Ms. Lacinda Files, G/T facilitator
- *The Taming of the Shrew*  
Lee Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Lynn Massey, G/T facilitator
- *The Taming of the Shrew*  
Bayyari Elementary School  
Director: Ms. Donita Nye, G/T facilitator
- *The Taming of the Shrew*  
Smith Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Dianne Kellogg, G/T facilitator
- *The Taming of the Shrew*  
Harp Elementary School  
Director: Mrs. Lynn Massey, G/T facilitator
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Act III, Scene II)  
Elmdale Elementary School  
Director: Ms. Erika Wilhite (Trike Theatre)
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Act III, Scene II)  
Jones Elementary School  
Director: Ms. Erika Wilhite (Trike Theatre)
- *The Best of William Shakespeare*  
Springdale High School  
Director: Mrs. Linda Button, SHS drama teacher

As always, the plays presented by cast and crew members entertained fellow students, staff members, parents and patrons. The event was jointly sponsored by the ACO and our school system's program of gifted-and-talented education. Participation was not limited to students in the GATE program, however; any student with interest and aptitude was welcome to be involved in those performances of various works of William Shakespeare. Students participated in both the performance and production aspects, with cast members auditioning for their respective roles.



Tyson Elementary students perform as Caliban and Miranda in ***The Tempest***

PHOTO BY LAURA SCIRTO



Tyson Elementary students perform the dance of the fairies in ***The Tempest***

PHOTO BY CATHY COUCH





Walker Elementary students rehearsing a sword fight for their performance in **Hamlet**

PHOTO BY BETSY PENIX



Matthew Scirto of George Elementary and Ben Dodson of Lee Elementary wait in the wings for their turn on stage at the Shakespeare Festival

PHOTO BY LAURA SCIRTO



George Elementary students performing **Romeo and Juliet**

PHOTO BY LAURA SCIRTO



George Elementary students performing **Romeo and Juliet**

PHOTO BY LAURA SCIRTO



Smith Elementary cast members in costume outside the Arts Center of the Ozarks

PHOTO BY DIANNE KELLOGG



Westwood Elementary students in costume, ready to perform **As You Like It**



## Central Junior High Opens Lowe's Addition

On November 12, 2010, Central Junior High School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the school's new seminar room and library expansion. That construction project was financed by a \$100,000.00 grant the school received in 2009 from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation for the purpose of improving instructional services.

Participating in that event were Dr. Jim Rollins, Superintendent of Schools, Principal Darrell Watts, Central Junior High faculty and students, Lowe's representatives, Mrs. Kenna Reynolds, the president of the CJHS Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), and Mr. Mark Cloud of the Partners in Education (PIE) organization

Mr. Watts presented a "grant overview" prior to comments by guest speakers and the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. (See photo.) A tour was then conducted of the newly-opened facilities, and Mr. Winfield Watson and his students conducted a demonstration of the technology available in the new addition,



A student demonstrates the new technology available in the school's new addition

including interactive whiteboards and wireless Internet capability. Mr. Watts describes the addition as "a wonderfully flexible space" and anticipates that it will provide "a 21st Century, technology-rich learning environment," further describing the



Principal Darrell Watts (left) is joined by Lowe's representatives, Mark Cloud of PIE (back) and PTO president Kenna Reynolds (right) for ribbon-cutting ceremony

project as having "the potential to jump-start a school-centered, communitywide initiative for improved services to students, and ultimately improved workers and contributors to our community and beyond."

In addition to the Lowe's grant in the amount of \$100,000.00, the project received financial support from Central's PTO (approximately \$16,000.00 pledged over a two-year period).

## STAR Discovery Educators

In late August 2010 eleven Springdale teachers were named STAR Discovery Educators by the Discovery Educator Network (DEN). STAR status was conferred on teachers for volunteering their own time "to share insight and expertise in the use of educational technology in the classroom with peers." As explained by Mr. Andy Schaefer, the Discovery Education vice president, that volunteer service was "accomplished through trainings, workshops or presentations on how to integrate digital media and the latest of educational technologies into classroom instruction." Mr. Schaefer describes the DEN as "a global learning community of more than 180,000 active educators who are passionate about using educational technology and digital media in the classroom to engage students in learning." He reports that the DEN "fosters collaboration and helps educators share resources, ideas and classroom-tested strategies for engaging students in learning and ultimately improving academic achievement."

Congratulations and commendations to our Discovery STARs:

- Kelly Autry of Springdale High School
- Annette Paul of Central Junior High School
- Kerri Packwood of Hellstern Middle School
- Justin Keen of Tyson Middle School
- Julie Crane of Bayyari Elementary School
- Laura Etchison of George Elementary School
- Raquel Morris of George Elementary School
- Kimberly Green of Harp Elementary School
- Abigail Farrell of Smith Elementary School
- Holly Mast of Turnbow Elementary School
- Teresa Olinger of Walker Elementary School

Only 5,000 teachers in the world and only 53 from Arkansas have been named Discovery STARs — and eleven of those distinguished educators are from Springdale!

# Early-Childhood Program Expands

The Springdale School District is proud of its exemplary program of early-childhood education, and a newly awarded grant will allow us to expand that program to serve more children. The Arkansas Department of Education recently notified Ms. Darlene Odom, our prekindergarten director, that the district will receive a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 for the 2010-11 term. The awarded funding is channeled through the ADE from monies received from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant to the Springdale School District, as a new grantee, will continue for five years.

In addition to the services provided at our Early-Childhood Center by Ms. Odom and her dedicated staff members, prekindergarten services are available at certain individual elementary schools in our district. Our program began in the fall of 2004 with five participating schools, and it has grown steadily in student enrollment and the number of participating schools since its inception. Springdale's new 21st Century Community Learning Center grant will provide for the expansion of prekindergarten services to yet another facility, Monitor Elementary School.

It is extremely important for children to get "off to the right start" and up to grade level as soon as possible to give them an optimal opportunity to succeed in school. Our Springdale preschool program prepares children to take their "next step" into kindergarten with confidence and accomplishment. Parents of preschoolers can enhance that degree of preparation by what they do at home to help their children grow and develop as learners. One important facet of that process is "social and emotional preparation." In a booklet titled, "Helping Your Preschool Child," the U.S. Department of Education observes that, "Children start school with different degrees of social and emotional maturity." These qualities take time and patience to learn. Give your child opportunities at home to begin to develop the following positive qualities:

**Confidence:** Children must feel good about themselves and believe they can succeed. Confident children are more willing to attempt new tasks — and try again if they don't succeed the first time.

**Independence:** Children must learn to do things for themselves.

**Motivation:** Children must want to learn.

**Curiosity:** Children are naturally curious and must remain so to get the most out of learning opportunities.

**Persistence:** Children must learn to finish what they start.

**Cooperation:** Children must be able to get along with others and learn to share and take turns.

**Self-control:** Children must learn that there are good and bad ways to express anger. They must understand that some behaviors, such as hitting and biting, are not acceptable.

**Empathy:** Children must have an interest in others and understand how others feel.

We look forward to an exciting year in 2010-11 of working with our new class of prekindergarten students and to the expansion of our early-childhood educational program to include Monitor Elementary School as a result of receiving the lucrative 21st Century Community Learning Center grant.



Prekindergartners conducted a Halloween Parade at the district's administration office.

PHOTOS BY SARAH MALLOY





## Scholars of Distinction

Three Springdale students have received distinguished recognition in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Named as National Merit semifinalists were McKenna Scharlau and Kyle Pugh, both of Springdale High School, and Mark Brandon Lee of Har-Ber High School. (See photos.) That prestigious program “honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.” The assurance is given that, “Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.”

Barry Fontenot of Har-Ber High School was named a semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

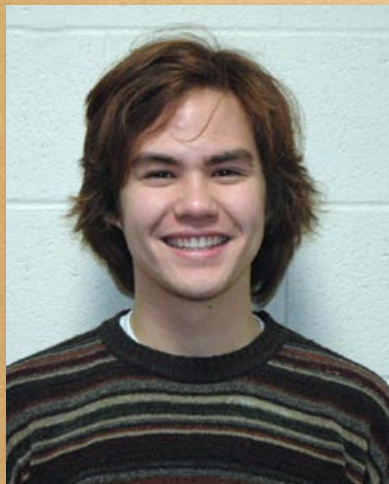
Rick Palomino of Springdale High School was honored through the National Hispanic Recognition Program.



McKenna Scharlau  
National Merit Semifinalist  
Springdale High School



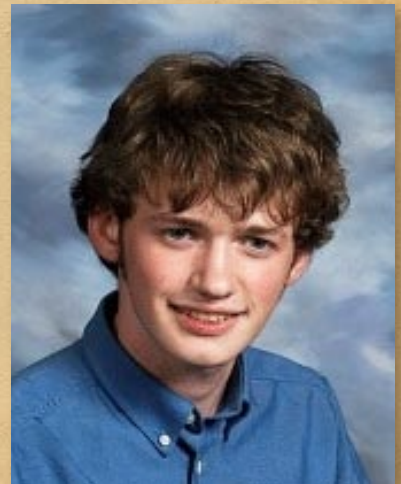
Rick Palomino  
National Hispanic Recognition Program  
Springdale High School



Mark Brandon Lee  
National Merit Semifinalist  
Har-Ber High School



Barry Fontenot  
Semifinalist, National Achievement  
Scholarship, Har-Ber High School



Kyle Pugh  
National Merit Semifinalist  
Springdale High School



## Cross-Country Stars

Two Springdale students captured both the girls' and the boys' state titles in cross-country competition in the 2010 State Indoor Track and Field Championships, further establishing the star status they



had already earned. Valerie Reina of Har-Ber High School, coached by Brett Unger, was named the Arkansas state champion in the girls' division. She had previously won the 7A-West Conference Girls' Cross-country Meet. Gabe Gonzalez of Springdale High School, coached by Seneca Lassiter, won the Arkansas state championship in the boys' division. Gonzalez had previously won the

Valerie Reina  
Har-Ber High School  
State Champion, Girls

7A-West Conference title in the boys' meet. In October Gonzalez was the first Arkansan to win the Chili Pepper competition in the 22-year history of that event.



Gabe Gonzalez  
Springdale High School  
State Champion, Boys

Both Reina and Gonzalez then headed to Charlotte, North Carolina, to participate in the prestigious South Regional Foot Locker Cross-Country Championships held on November 27, 2010, in McAlpine Park.

## Economic Education Pays Dividends

The Springdale School District has long been recognized for its outstanding program of economic education. Our teachers engage in much planning and effort to develop and conduct projects that help students understand and put into action basic economic principles. The students learn to appreciate the pertinency of what they are learning and its application in their lives. Ably led by Ms. Jo Vanderspikken, our coordinator of economic education, our teachers have been innovative and creative in developing their instructional units, and their students will be better prepared to function successfully in today's global society and the real-life marketplace.

Recently six Springdale teachers were named winners for their project entries in the annual Bessie B. Moore Arkansas Awards Program for Excellence in Economic Education. Named as winners in the "Newcomer" category were the following educators: Jennifer Graham of Bayyari Elementary School; Michelle Wallis of Elmdale Elementary School; Lisa Taylor of Shaw Elementary School; Teresa Jordan

and Ashley Davis, both of Harp Elementary School. Each of those teachers will received a cash award of \$500.00 and will be honored at the awards luncheon that will be held on December 3, 2010, at Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, Arkansas. Also to be honored at that event is Dottie Sue Hill of Har-Ber High School, a winner in the "Veteran" category. Mrs. Hill will receive a cash award of \$1,000.00.

The Arkansas Council on Economic Education, now known as Economics Arkansas, initiated the Moore Awards Program in 1995. The goal of that competition, in the words of Ms. Vanderspikken, was "to recognize highly skilled classroom teachers who devote their creative energies to assure that their students become effective economic decision-makers. Units of study correlate with the Voluntary National Standards, and concepts are taught to mastery. Evaluation instruments and techniques are used to assess learning economics. The instructional procedures can be adapted by other teachers in the state and nation." Economics Arkansas

identifies its purposes as being fourfold: "to stimulate improvements in economic education teaching practices; to encourage educators to develop descriptions of their successful teaching practices; to recognize outstanding educators who effectively teach economic education principles; and to encourage replication of successful teaching by fostering a widening and continuous exchange of ideas in economic education among educators throughout Arkansas in every level of education."

The late Bessie B. Moore, one of the founders of the ACEE and its Executive Director, is remembered for her "vision of a more economically literate Arkansas and her ability to excite teachers about economics" which have set our state "in the forefront of the economic education in the nation." We feel confident that she would be proud to see the outstanding work being done by our Springdale teachers who are receiving the recognition bearing the honor of her name.

## Central and Southwest Honor Veterans

Veterans' Day Assemblies were conducted at Central Junior High School and Southwest Junior High School on November 11, 2010, honoring men and women who had served in our nation's Armed Forces. The events were enlightening experiences for the students, communicating to them the heroism and sacrifice that purchased and maintains our freedom as Americans.

PHOTOS BY SARAH MALLOY



Central Junior High's choir performs for the Veterans' Day assemblage

An honored military guest speaks with students at Central's Veterans' Day Assembly



## Har-Ber Debate Team Is Big Winner at JBU Invitational

Speech/debate instructor Taneisha Wright of Har-Ber High School reports that her team of students was named the Tournament Sweepstakes Champion at the John Brown University Forensic Invitational held on the first weekend in October. The Har-Ber team first won the Novice Division and the Varsity Division before being selected for the ultimate Sweepstakes Award.

In the individual honors, sophomores Ty Smolenski and Alex Stillwell placed fourth and fifth respectively in Top Speaker recognition for the Novice Division. Freshman Abby Rice of Central Junior High, a member of the Har-Ber team, was named the Novice Champion.

In the Varsity Division, senior Allen Franco was named the Top Speaker (first place). Victor Cuellar was one of the four semifinalists.

The JBU tournament was sanctioned by the International Public Debate Association (IPDA). Established in 1997, the IPDA is a "national debate league" whose central focus is "to promote a debate format that emphasizes public speaking and real-world persuasion skills over the use of evidence and speed." Most member programs are associated with colleges or universities, making the accomplishments of the high school-level team from Har-Ber all the more significant. Out of 20 schools competing in the JBU event, only two were high schools; all of other competitors were universities (University of Arkansas, Southern Baptist University, Kansas Wesleyan University, West Texas A & M, etc.) or community colleges. Represented were the states of Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma.





Principal Brice Wagner speaks at the Southwest Veterans' Day Assembly



Special guests take turns at the lectern at the Central Junior High Veterans' Day Assembly



Southwest Junior High's band performs at the Veterans' Day Assembly



A military helicopter lands at Southwest for the Veterans' Day celebration



## Dr. Rollins Receives Honorary American FFA Degree

Dr. Jim Rollins, Springdale's Superintendent of Schools, was presented the Honorary American FFA Degree during the 83rd annual National FFA Convention. That event was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 20–23, 2010. (See photo.) As explained by the National FFA, "The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond the valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists." Each recipient of that award receives a certificate and a medal, and their name is permanently recorded in the organization's history.

The National FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America) is "a national youth organization of 520,284 student members (and counting) — all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture — as part of 7,420 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988 in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."



Dr. Jim Rollins accepts the Honorary American FFA Degree at the 2010 National FFA Convention

## Outstanding Choral Students

Auditions for All-Region Choir were conducted at Har-Ber High School in Springdale on October 2, 2010. Har-Ber choral director Randy Erwin reports that "750 students auditioned this year, making it the largest tryout in the history of the event." Only 240 students are accorded the distinguished All-Region recognition. Of that total, 103 students selected were from Springdale.

Fifty-eight (58) students from Har-Ber High School were named to the All-Region Choir. Achieving the prestigious First Chair status in Baritone was Nick Padgett. Blake Bratcher was named the Second Chair, First Tenor. Selected as Third Chair in their respective sections were Olivia Rollene, Tamara Thiam, Enoch Graham and Dylan Siemens.

Mrs. Rhonda Hawley, the choral director at Springdale High School, reports that 45 of her students were selected for the All-Region Choir. In addition, Ashlyn Hardin of SHS was invited to perform before the American Choral Directors' Association (ACDA) at the upcoming annual convention of that organization. That event will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on March 9–12, 2011. Ashlyn was selected to participate in the Women's Choir for High School, College and Adults.

Also invited to perform at the ACDA convention was Jacob Reynolds of Southwest Junior High. Jacob is one of only 150 students chosen out of 1,200 students who auditioned for the ACDA's National Middle School/Junior High Honor Choir. His choral director at Southwest is Alan Showalter.



## Agri News from Springdale High School

Agriculture educator Chad Burkett of Springdale High School reports that his school had the highest number of participants (38) at the annual Dale Bumpers College Career and Leadership Day held at the University of Arkansas on November 11, 2010. "Springdale participated in various leadership contests and educational seminars," states Mr. Burkett. "All of our students had excellent experiences."

Mr. Burkett also reports that Mr. Carl Tapp, Vice President of Operations at PAM Transport in Tontitown, donated a new Cub Cadet 25-horsepower tractor for use in agriculture mechanics classes. The estimated value of that tractor is \$15,000.00. Mr. Burkett states that PAM Transport is a long-time supporter of the district's agriculture education program and "one of the largest employers of Springdale agriculture and FFA members." On behalf of the Springdale agri program and the students it serves, he presented a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Tapp at the November 10 meeting of the Springdale School Board.