

THE MESSENGER

A publication of the Hillsboro R-3 School District



Kristen Ellis, a member of National Honor Society, participated in last year's Safe Halloween.

Safe Halloween set for October 31

By **Connie Seigrist, Sarah Porter, Staff Writers**

You'll find haunted houses, scary costumes, face paintings and fun games from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Safe Halloween Friday, October 31 in the primary building.

Every year Hillsboro High School's National Honor Society (NHS) sponsors a Halloween event for children and their families.

"Safe Halloween gives kids a safe alternative to trick-or-treating," said Christine Brooks, a high school business teacher and NHS sponsor.

Safe Halloween has a number of different activities for kids to enjoy.

"We have a haunted house—it's not that scary—face painting, and fun games," said Anne Martinson, Hillsboro High's Senior Class President. "It was my first face painting experience and I loved it."

Cheryl Tilley, the high school At-Risk Advisor and
See HALLOWEEN, Page 13

Smith: More budget cuts loom, test scores above state average

By **Shelton Smith Superintendent**

UNCLE!

Isn't that what we yell when we drop to our knees and surrender?

This is the way public schools feel right now. We can't take any additional funding cuts, yet the state is telling us that in spite of the 1.5 million that Hillsboro has

been cut, we should anticipate more cuts even this school year.

And, keep in mind that we are not just talking about the basic aid that the state distributes to public schools. The state has cut transportation (down to 50 percent), gifted education (down to 50 percent), all grants (especially in the area of technology), textbook

reimbursements, and special education (down to 35 percent).

The district must dip into its dwindling reserves, which we've had to do for three years. The district's operating reserves may only be 6 percent by the end of this school year. Six percent is not a healthy balance.


The cuts keep coming, but the costs to educate

children continue to rise (textbooks, supplies, paper), and the benefit costs escalate (13 percent for employee-only insurance premiums—we don't pay any family benefits).

Hillsboro R-3 will be forced to make additional program and personnel cuts—some before this school year ends. The exact reductions

See SMITH, Page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE



Primary.....Page 3
 Elementary.....Page 6
 Intermediate.....Page 9
 Junior high.....Page 10
 High school.....Page 12

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SMITH

Continued from Page 1

have not been determined, but other districts are (or have already done) making the following changes: reducing staff and increasing class sizes; limiting all field trips; only providing bus service for students who live three miles or more from school; requiring an activity fee to participate in student activities.

Again, we haven't determined the extent that we will make revision in our services, programs, and staffing, but we will begin the discussions very soon. We need YOUR help.

A committee is being established to review the future of this district. If you are interested, please give us your name and telephone number. You can call the principal's office or the superintendent's office.

Consider these facts:

Hillsboro is among the lowest beginning and mid- and end-of-career salaries and wages of the greater St. Louis area:

Teacher	\$25,100 per year
Cook	\$6.25 per hour
Secretary II	\$7.25 per hour
Custodian	\$8.00 per hour
Secretary I	\$9.00 per hour

Fifteen- to thirty-year career coaches, music activity personnel, and a variety of sponsors work year around for less than \$4,000 in extra-duty pay.

Other categories are equally low.

So, here are some questions about which you should be thinking:

- Do we want to pay competitive wages and benefits that attract and keep the best personnel for our children?
- Do we want to maintain clean, safe facilities?
- Do we want small class sizes?
- Do we want to be a leading school district in which long-time residents, as well as new homebuyers and businesses, are proud?
- Do we want to keep current programs and services?
- Do we want to keep current extra-curricular activities?

Again, very soon we will begin addressing these questions.

SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT TESTING

Hillsboro students rank above state and national scores.

Thank you to all students, parents, and staff.

Missouri standards are much higher than national standards, and because of this, recent St. Louis newspaper headlines indicated that 50 percent of Missouri's schools failed on recent tests. NOT TRUE.

The federal test program called No Child Left Behind has three levels: Advanced, Proficient (this is the level for children on grade level), and Basic. Missouri has five levels: Advanced, Proficient, Nearing Proficient (this is the federal level for being on grade level), Progressing, and Level Not Determined.

Missouri refused to change its labels to match the federal

terms, so Missouri's "Proficient" is in the federal government's Advanced level.

Confusing?

The bottom line is this: Our students did very well. In fact, our district will be recognized for the third year in a row as a district with the "Distinction" rating.

Our ACT scores continue to improve, also.

REMINDERS

The Messenger

We are pleased that the Messenger will be produced by our High School journalism class under the direction of teacher Stephanie Gillespie and the production printing class, under the guidance of teacher Russ Schmidt, will print the paper.

These changes will give the students valuable experience, and it will save district dollars. Distribution of the paper in the future will be via students, but we will also have several distribution points throughout the district, including business establishments, convenience stores, and various offices.

Bad Check Policy

Effective immediately, the district has initiated a bad check policy. A \$20 processing fee is charged for the first bad check; subsequent bad checks result in loss of privilege of writing a check and the name will be turned over to the prosecuting attorney's office.

No Concealed Weapons

Concealed weapons are not permitted in or on any school property, and neither are concealed weapons permitted at any away school activity.

Field House Donations

We have been asked if we are still accepting donations for the field house. YES. If you'd like to donate, contact the central office.

Thank You

Over the past few weeks, we have had several K-12 events in which parents have volunteered to chaperone, supervise cookouts, transport students, provide food, work on fields, and so forth. THANK YOU. We could not function as well as we do if it were not for the hundreds of parents and others who volunteer.



Primary welcomes six new staff members

Anna Burke, Kindergarten

By Brooke Epple, Staff Writer

Anna Burke, a kindergarten teacher, had a more interesting start to her first year of teaching than most. She didn't start her class until the week of September 8th.

"I was very nervous. This is only my second week of teaching ... (but) the staff has been very helpful," Burke said. Even though Burke had a late start to her year, she now has a full classroom of 21 students.

"I started with the rules of the classroom, a routine, and went from there," she said. "The hardest part so far (for the children) is the days of the week and actually understanding that there is a day and this is what it is (called)," she said.

Burke graduated from St. Louis University and said she has always wanted to teach kindergarten.

"Teaching kindergarten takes a lot of patience. You can't be too focused on everyone sitting still and everyone quiet; it is physically impossible for them," she said with a laugh. "The best part is seeing them finally understand. When they finally get it is like 'Wow'."



Anna Burke

Sherry Francis, Primary Music

By Brooke Epple, Staff Writer

Sherry Francis, a graduate of Hillsboro, has been teaching for eight years. She has taught at Hillsboro, in California, and in Alabama.

"My husband is in the military; he's a pilot," Francis said.

"That is why we moved around so much. He is now in the National Guard and flies for News Channel 4 because he is a family man and wanted to spend more time with our 2-year-old daughter, Melody."

Francis has returned to Hillsboro to teach music in the Primary building.

"I'm dual certified, as an elementary teacher and in music," Francis said. "I love music and I love children, so it's a good combination."

"The kids sing, dance, and play instruments. Their favorite part is moving to the music. The hardest part of teaching music is the diversity in the children," Francis said. "They have different styles of learning, so I try to use different styles to try to reach all the children. I like music because everyone can be successful."

"The best part of teaching is seeing all the kids smiling back at me," she said. "Smiles are contagious."



Sherry Francis

BethAnn Kampwerth, Kindergarten

By Lindsay Bouska, Staff Writer

"I loved being around and working with children," says new kindergarten teacher, 22-year-old BethAnn Kampwerth.

Kampwerth knew she wanted to be a teacher since second grade because of her own second grade teacher.

Before Kampwerth wanted to be a teacher, she wanted to be a child psychologist or a pharmacist.

"I always knew I wanted to help people and work with children. But my first passion is teaching and working directly with children," Kampwerth said.

When Kampwerth first decided she wanted to be a teacher, she thought she wanted to work with second graders.

"I really wanted to teach second grade, but then I did my work studies in college and I worked with kindergarteners and then I knew I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher," she said.

"I just love working with children. They are so energetic and fun to be around."

She graduated this past May from Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.

"The school year has been going wonderfully. The kids are definitely learning. They are all doing a great job," Kampwerth said.

Kampwerth has already had some significant learning happen in her class.

"One day I was teaching the children about shapes, and I introduced the diamond as a rhombus. Now every single one of the students calls a diamond a rhombus," she said. "It is amazing—every time I introduce something new to the kids, they remember and store it in their minds. The children I have are so smart."

As a new teacher, Kampwerth said she notices things in her class that veteran teachers may take for granted now.

"It is amazing how well all of the children get along. They are always worrying about all of the other children and making sure they are okay. The children will not leave any other child behind," Kampwerth said.

At the beginning of the year, Kampwerth experienced some difficult times because of staff shortage.

"My first two weeks here were hard because I had 27 children in my class running around. Some of them had never been in a school setting before, so it was kind of wild around here. Then they hired the new kindergarten teacher and now I only have 22 children in my class. Now everything is going pretty smoothly because we are on a schedule," she said.



BethAnn
Kampwerth

See PRIMARY, Page 4

Currently Kampwerth lives in Arnold, Missouri, but she is considering moving closer to the school district in the future. "I will probably make that decision next May or June," she said.

Natalie Reardon, First Grade

By Katelyn Hoven, Staff Writer

Most new teachers spend their summers planning for the next year, but Natalie Reardon spent her summer traveling to different cities to watch baseball games.

Reardon has done some traveling before, too. She said she grew up in Bonne Terre, then went to college at Mizzou for three years and UMSL for two years.



Natalie Reardon

Reardon and her husband have been married for five years. "We were a married old couple at college. We went to high school and college together," Reardon said. Even though Reardon has no children of her own at this point, she chose first grade because she loves kids.

"I really like the younger kids. I student taught second and fourth grade," Reardon said. This year is Reardon's first year of teaching first grade. Even though this is her first year, she already has stories to tell.

"The kids are hilarious. The second day of school, two girls went to the bathroom and five minutes later, I sent a girl to check on them. She came back about five minutes later and said that they were washing their hair in the sink. And they came back five minutes later and their hair was all messy," Reardon said.

What inspired her to become a teacher wasn't the funny stories, but her mother, who was also a teacher.

"My mom is a great teacher. She has a lot of interesting stories. I couldn't think of another profession where you could really make such a difference in lives," Reardon said.

Sherri Ward, Cook

By Ogliaro Valeria, Staff Writer

Most people love their families, but Sherri Ward loves hers so much that virtually every decision she has made in her life has been to stay close to them.

Ward is a cook at the primary. She is 39 and lives in Hillsboro. She said the most important thing for her is her family. Her two sisters and her parents live in Hillsboro.



Sherri Ward

"Despite my parents' divorce, I still have contact with each member of my family," Ward said.

"It's because of them I have just moved to Hillsboro," she said. She said she lived for four years in

Arkansas with her husband and her two children.

In Arkansas, Ward was a cook at an elementary school. "I decided to be a cook in the school to stay with my children," she said.

Ward also said she hasn't always been a cook. In fact, she previously worked as a teacher in a preschool. "I would like to be a teacher, but I could be a teacher only in the preschool," she said. "I wanted to stay with my children, so I decided to be a cook."

She said she didn't go to college because she married when she was only 17. She went for two years to a night school after her graduation. Ward said she knew that she could marry her husband when she was older, but "we had so many things in common and I loved him so much. I couldn't wait."

She is still happy she made that choice. Her husband John is now 42. "He's a fantastic husband and a wonderful father," she said. "He's also a good provider for his family. On October 3 it will be 22 years of marriage and they are the best years of my life."

Ward said she still has goals. "I want to bring my children up correctly and I want to see my grandchildren grow up," she said. "Of course I want to keep having a happy life with my family."

Calista Kostine, Administrative Assistant

By Josh McCullough, Staff Writer

Calista Kostine said she is definitely living a dream.

"I love to greet students in the morning as they arrive at school. They are enthusiastic and ready to learn. Their exuberance is contagious," Kostine said.



Calista Kostine

"I have studied at several colleges and universities including Jefferson College, St. Louis Community College, Missouri Baptist College, Wheaton College, SUI Edwardsville, and Southeast Missouri State University," she said. "I graduated from Missouri Baptist College in 2000. I plan to graduate this fall from Southeast Missouri State University with an M.A. in Elementary Administration."

Kostine said she chose to be an educator because she enjoys working with children.

"Concepts grasped at the primary school level form the educational foundation students can build on their entire life," she said. "We have the opportunity to develop our students love of learning, challenge them intellectually and still have fun. I can't think of a better place to work."

Kostine said she grew up in West St. Louis County and Jefferson County. She and her husband will celebrate their fourth wedding anniversary this November. In her spare time, Kostine said she enjoys reading, crafts, jet skiing, aerobics and theater.

“Book-It Breakfast” brings families together to read

By Kari Neulist, Staff Writer

Doughnuts and drinks attracted many to the Book-It Breakfast, held from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m., September 30 in kindergarten classrooms in the primary building. The purpose of the breakfast was for students and their parents to eat breakfast while reading, as well as inform the parents of the Book-It Program.

The Book-It Program encourages kids to want to learn to read. Students who participate in the program are required to read ten books. Those who complete the program receive a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut.

“I think it’s a good program because it makes the kids more aware of reading and they like the incentive,” said Margaret Shaw, a kindergarten teacher. “Already most of the kids have begun to connect the sounds with the words.”

Chrissy Johnston, the kindergarten teacher who organized the breakfast this year, said she sent a letter home inviting the parents and kindergarten students to the breakfast, where doughnuts and juice were served.

“We averaged about 15 kids per class that showed up this year,” Johnston said. “We had a good turnout.”



Julie and Benjamin Epple read Weather while enjoying doughnuts and juice in Ms. Margaret Shaw’s class. “My favorite part was the rainbow,” Epple said.



Michelle and Loryn Sauer read Millions of Cats in Ms. Baker’s class.



Steve and Tyler Andrews eat their doughnuts in Ms. Shaw’s class.

Kids learn all about corn at festival



Students investigate their goodie bags during the Corn Festival.

By Lindsay Bouska, Staff Writer

The K-2 grade Multi-Age Class in the Primary celebrated the Corn Festival on Friday, October 3. During the week, the students talked about different types of corn. They made cornbread and popcorn, learned about corn stalks, and did many other corn related activities.



Kaitlynn Wiley-Grubbs holds candy corn from the Corn Festival. Students participated in many activities during the festival, most of which were mathematical in nature.

The Messenger Staff

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Seven staff members are new to elementary

Janell Morse, Library

By Heather Timmerman, Staff Writer

Janell Morse, the newest member of the Hillsboro Elementary library staff, came all the way from Pittsford, Michigan to work at Hillsboro.

Morse grew up in Pittsford, Michigan, and went to Pittsford Area Schools. She graduated in 2000 in a class of 70 people. She then went to Jefferson College and graduated from there in 2003.

This is her first year working at a school and she said that she enjoys the interaction with children.

“(Everyone has been) very helpful and friendly,” Morse said. Morse helps catalog books, check-in and check-out books, and shelve books.

Before she worked at the school, Morse was a summer school secretary at Northwest High School. She also worked in continuing education at Jefferson College.

When Morse isn’t working at school, she said she enjoys reading and spending time with her nieces. She also enjoys listening to Christian music.

Pat Milton, Cook

By Kari Neulist, Staff writer

Although Pat Milton may not be new to the district, she is new to the elementary kitchen staff.

“I was transferred to the elementary from the intermediate building,” Milton said. “But I first started at the primary. I worked summer school at the elementary and got to know the kitchen and staff. Everyone here is great.”



Pat Milton

As well as switching buildings, Milton said she has also taken on extra hours.

“I used to only work three hours, but now I work six,” Milton said. “I get to work around 7:30 (a.m.) and leave around 1:30 (p.m.)”

Milton grew up in St. Ann, Missouri, and graduated from Pattonville High School. She is now currently living in De Soto. She has been married for 34 years and has three sons.

Amanda Page, Fourth Grade

By Dale Beauchamp, Staff Writer

Amanda Page is very excited for the year to come.

“I love the kids,” Page said, “They give me my energy, and I have such a wonderful bunch.”

This is Page’s first year teaching the fourth grade at Hillsboro Elementary, but she



Amanda Page

has also student taught, as well as substituted in her mother’s sixth-grade classroom.

Page said she is enjoying herself so far.

“It’s been a good experience,” Page said. She said she became sick already this school year though, and had to teach with a microphone “the kids really took care of me.”

Page describes herself as a hands-on kind of teacher.

“We love experiment day; we just planted those,” Page said as she motioned toward the plants on the window sill.

Page said there haven’t been any frustrating points to her year yet. “The staff is so nice; the administration is wonderful,” Page said.

Page is also happy with the position of her classroom this year; her class is the only fourth grade class in the hall.

“I tell them they’re the best fourth grade in the hall; I don’t think they’ve caught on yet,” she said. “It’s adorable.”

Julie Sandlin, Paraeducator

By Eric Rains, Staff Writer

Julie Sandlin, a teacher’s aide at the elementary, says this year has been exciting so far.



Julie Sandlin

Sandlin, 36 years old, worked in a daycare for seven years. She began working at Hillsboro last year. She said she chose her profession because she loves working with children.

“I chose to do aiding so I could also stay close to my son, who is in the fifth grade,” Sandlin said. “Last year I was subbing for a teacher who was constantly out, so when that teacher left I took her position full time.”

Her husband, Keith Sandlin, is a machine operator. She and her family live in Pevely.

Sandlin talked about how she can help kids as an aide.

“Some learn at different paces than others, so we constantly have to modify our teaching skills to best suit the child,” Sandlin said.

“This has been exciting so far, I love doing this job,” she said.

Robyn Smelser, Art

By Nichole Butler, Staff Writer

Robyn Smelser, the new elementary art teacher, said she is a well-rounded person.

Along with her love for art, Smelser said she also enjoys walking the Herculaneum track (her husband teaches music at Herculaneum) and spending time with her two sons. In her spare time Smelser says she plays the flute, which she has been playing since she was in sixth grade.

Although Smelser studied art education at Maryville College, she said art was not her first occupation.

"I worked in the lab at St. Anthony's Hospital. I processed blood work, called physicians, and did secretarial work," Smelser said.

Smelser said that she has always loved art, so she went back to school. She is a strong believer in education and how it can motivate children.

"I think that getting my education, as a mother of two children, makes me a strong role model to my own children. They need to understand that hard work and education pays off, allowing me to do what I enjoy," Smelser said.

After teaching a summer school art class at Parkway last summer, Smelser has settled in at the elementary school.

As a native to Jefferson County, Smelser said she liked the Hillsboro district because of the close location.

Smelser said that art is something that she enjoys, and she feels she can help others enjoy it.

"Coming to school and working with these kids is fun for me," Smelser said.

Lissa Smith, Secretary

By Sarah Porter, Staff Writer

Her face has become familiar around the elementary school, but this year she is more than a volunteer. Lissa Smith, 31, began her first year as an elementary school secretary at Hillsboro R-3 School District after volunteering for several years.

"I volunteered with my children here. I wanted the same schedule as my kids," Smith said.

Smith graduated from North County High School and has been married to Alvie Smith for 12 years. Smith said she enjoys going to sporting events with her three girls, who are ages 8, 10, and 12.

Smith said she stayed at home with her kids until she felt like she could handle juggling her family and going back to work.

"I was a stay-at-home mom for 10 years," Smith said.

Smith said she likes the atmosphere of the school.

"I like the people here," she said. "It feels like it's not a job because I've volunteered here before."

Krissy Venosdale, Fourth Grade

By Erin Holt, Staff Writer

Most teachers have their students sit in their desks to read their library books, but not Krissy Venosdale. She decided to make a grass hut for the students in her class to read under.

"I decorated my classroom in a jungle theme and no other job could give me the excuse to build a grass hut. The kids say



Lissa Smith



Krissy Venosdale

they love reading under the grass hut," Venosdale said.

Venosdale said she went to college for two years before she knew she wanted to become a teacher; before that she wanted to be a pediatrician. She attended Missouri Baptist College for another two years to become certified.

Venosdale said this is her third year teaching, but her first year at Hillsboro.

"I did my student teaching at Hancock Elementary School. I taught fourth grade for three months," Venosdale said. "I was graduating from college, planning a wedding and student teaching all in one semester. It was a crazy time, but I learned a lot."

After this crazy time in her life, Venosdale decided to have a child. Her daughter, Alex, is 10 months old.

"I love it when she laughs out loud and gets excited about seeing new things," Venosdale said. She also has two dogs: a teacup Chihuahua named Frankie and a German Shepherd named Kirov.

Venosdale decided to go on vacation during summer break.

"My husband Ray and I traveled to Ohio to visit family," Venosdale said. "It was fun because it was the first big road trip with our daughter. Plus, we went shopping a lot while we were there."

Venosdale said she loves teaching and enjoys hearing the kids say they are having fun. She hopes the kids in her class will remember some of the fun that they had in fourth grade, just like she remembers having fun in school.

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For donating Star Student T-shirts to the primary.

Intermediate students win reading contest

By Julie Hicks, Intermediate Secretary

The newest resident of the Intermediate School received stares and second looks from the students who filed into the library at the start of the new school year.

Dobby, the house-elf from the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling, was the prize awarded to the fifth and sixth graders at Hillisboro Intermediate who participated in a reading contest sponsored by Wal-Mart.

Mrs. Stephanie Vaughn, a fifth-grade teacher, submitted the number of books read by the students to Wal-Mart's Literary contest at the end of last year.

Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick, a representative of Wal-Mart in Kirkwood, and his daughter, Kaytlyn, presented Dobby to Mrs. Vaughn.

Dobby will reside in the Intermediate Library for all of the students to enjoy.



Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick and his daughter, Kaytlyn, presented Dobby to Mrs. Stephanie Vaughn.

New field house dedicated Sept. 5

By Tiffany Langley, Staff Writer



Mr. Kevin Roberts and the Block family assisted in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

A dedication for the new field house took place during the first home football game on September 5. During the 15 minute ceremony, speakers were Superintendent Dr. Shelton Smith, the board President Mr. Kevin Roberts, and builder Eddy Boyer of Boyer Construction Company.

A special thanks to Kirchner Block, who donated the stone used to build the field house.

District welcomes new at-risk director

By Angie Posillo, Staff Writer

As a new staff member, Janet Rhame works with the financial management of Hillsboro's programs and committees.

"I've always been interested in what this district has to offer. I wanted to be a part of that, and help students to get all the knowledge they can out of their education," Rhame said.

After working in the alternative school and special education program at Hillsboro in previous years, Rhame transferred into the special education program at Dunklin High School. She then returned to this district to pursue a slightly different line of work.

"I love teaching, but I also wanted to get in a career where I could help the other teachers with techniques and funding. I enjoy working with people," Rhame said.

Professional development, gifted programs, MAP score committees and many other organizations which Rhame is now able to get involved with allow her to work with different groups of people, as well as assist in making important financial decisions for the district.

"The transfer from Dunklin to Hillsboro has been a positive experience for me. I've appreciated all the help," Rhame said.

Fifth-grade singers perform pledge for fellow students

By Julie Hicks, Intermediate Secretary



Front row: Jason Hickson, William Anderson, Jake Prince, Samantha Spangler and Ashley Chaffin. Second row: Doug Urban, Emily Orchard, Michelle Dean, Kelley Keeney, Alley Hogendobler, Tiffany Schwer and Taylor Ryan. Third row: Katie Matthews, Nicole Stetler, Amanda Kennedy, Samantha Young, Kayla Travis, Sarah Smith and Michelle Davidson. Back row: Mr. Jonathon Wolfe, Samantha Smith, Mikayla Muzzey, Jordyn McKinney, and Taylor Turner.

The Intermediate School was treated to a special version of the Pledge of Allegiance on September 19. A group of fifth-grade students, led by Mr. Jonathon Wolfe, sang the Pledge to the student body during the morning announcements. It was an excellent way to start the day. We look forward to more performances as the year continues.

Intermediate has new teachers, counselor

Noelle Horner, Fifth Grade

By Kari Neulist, Staff Writer

Noelle Horner said she always knew what she wanted to do. At the age of seven, Horner would pretend to teach a class, and at the age of 26 she now has her own fifth grade class.

"Teaching was the only career I've considered since I was young," Horner said.

Horner grew up in Ferguson, Missouri. She attended McCluer High School and graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a degree in teaching.

This is Horner's third year teaching. She previously taught at Climax Springs, but moved back to Ferguson to help her parents, who both have health problems.

"My sister lives in Jefferson County and I really like it here. I plan to make this my home someday," Horner said. "I went to college with Ms. Dierks, another teacher here, who told me about the job opening."

One thing Horner said she likes about Hillsboro is working with team teachers. "My team teachers are very friendly and helpful. We didn't have team teachers at my old school because I was the only teacher who taught fifth grade," she said. "I love it here."



Noelle Horner

Jackie Jared, Special Services

By Tiffany Langley, Staff Writer

From swimming lessons to teaching lessons, Jackie Jared has done it all. For six years she gave swimming lessons and taught water aerobics and water safety.

"My first and second years of college I helped organize a class that taught other college students how to help kids swim," Jared said.

Now as a first year teacher, Jared is having a whole new experience out of the water. Jared helps students in the mornings in Noelle Horner's and Kelly Muzzey's classrooms. In her special services class there are only 14 kids in her class at a time. Her favorite subject to teach is reading.

"It is because I like to see kids, who at one time did not like to read, turn into good readers. Also I like to see the kids learn and to see that they are understanding what I am teaching them," Jared said.

Jared said she has also worked at a workshop with adults with disabilities. The workshop was for ages high school and up. The disability range was from mild to severely handicapped. Jared went to Lincoln Trail Junior College before transferring to Carbondale University.

"In college I was originally going to be in speech pathology, but I like Special Ed better," Jared said.



Jackie Jared

Now she is teaching at the fifth and sixth grade building as a special services teacher. Jared said she likes working at the Hillsboro Schools, but the thing she looks forward to is "getting the first year over with and by next year having more experience with my job."

Tracy Moses, Sixth Grade

By Stefanie Webster, Staff Writer

Tracy Moses, a teacher new to the district, says she is excited to be teaching her first year here at Hillsboro.

"I was a substitute teacher for Grandview and Hillsboro schools for three years," Moses said.

After attending Jefferson College and Southeast Missouri State University for five and a half years, and earning her degree in elementary education, this addition to the staff said she is dedicated to her work. In fact, she plans to make teaching her lifelong career.

"I've wanted to be a teacher since sixth grade. I had a teacher tell me (that) as much as I move around the room, write on the board, and talk, I should become a teacher," Moses said.

It was a struggle for her as a college student as she got married, cared for her own two children, and studied simultaneously, but Moses stayed with it to the end.

"I wanted to become a teacher because I like working with children," said Moses, who finds joy in joining in a softball game with her sixth grade class during recess. "I believe I have brought a genuine love of learning into the district. I am glad to be here and I look forward to a great year."



Tracy Moses

Amy Hodge, Guidance Counselor

By Francis Pounds, Staff Writer

First year guidance counselor Amy Hodge said she has had a pleasant experience so far in the Hillsboro School district.

"Everyone is really nice and helpful," Hodge said. "Everyone works as a team."

Hodge said one of her first priorities is Red Ribbon week and brainstorming for some fun ideas for other activities. Hodge also has some goals for her first year of being a guidance counselor.

"I want to help the kids socially and academically, help them resolve any conflicts that they may have, and just do whatever it takes to help them," she said.

Hodge has the background to achieve these goals. She said she has many degrees: Associates Art of Psychology, Bachelor of Arts, and Masters of Science of Education.

When Hodge is not helping the kids, she said she enjoys the outdoors. "I like the outdoors, volleyball, camping, any outdoor activities," she said.

Junior high has new teacher, paraeducator

Carl Imhof, Social Studies

By Andrea Woods, Staff Writer

After being in the business industry for nearly 13 years, Carl Imhof, the new junior high social studies teacher, decided to change his career path.



Carl Imhof

"I have always been familiar with the Hillsboro School District and some of the teachers," Imhof said. "I really respect the work ethics and the environment. This district has excellent leadership."

This is Imhof's first year of teaching. He substituted last year in the Hancock and Fox School Districts.

"I choose to teach at the the junior high because I really like the age group," Imhof said. "After going through school, I will be certified in junior high social studies and in high school business."

Imhof feels that teaching history will help improve a student's future.

"I feel that if the students understand history better, they can apply to the current of future events," Imhof said.

Imhof earned his Bachelors degree in business and is attending Missouri Baptist to earn his professional certification to teach at the junior high, as well as earn his Masters degree.

"In high school I was involved with baseball, football, SADD, FCA, and the thespian society at Affton, and graduated in 1986," Imhof said.

"I was looking for a coaching job," Imhof said. "I enjoy the staff and the players."

Imhof said a lot of his inspiration to be a teacher came from a few of his high school coaches.

"Coaching junior high football is all new to me," Imhof said.

"I am learning a lot about being a teacher and a coach to these students," he said. "After getting my Masters degree and teaching for awhile, I would like to move up to assistant principal and even principal someday."

Jennifer Musgrove, Paraeducator

By Andrea Woods, Staff Writer

Jennifer Musgrove, a new special services paraeducator, filled the spot of a much-needed aide at the junior high.

"The position opened up, so I tried it and ended up loving it," Musgrove said. "I really like how I help with anything that I can."

Musgrove is currently taking classes at Jefferson College and plans to earn her teaching degree and possibly become a math teacher at the junior high.



Jennifer Musgrove

Even though Musgrove is still attending school herself, this is her first actual job working at a school.

"I used to work at a daycare with children who were younger and had no disabilities at all," Musgrove said. "With the junior high students, I know that I have an impact because this is the right age to start understanding and start getting the help that you need to learn more."

"I personally think that it is more difficult to teach with the special services because you have to work with the teachers, parents, and especially the students. You have to make sure that you give them the attention that they need," Musgrove said. "You really have to be organized."

Musgrove's favorite part of being an aide is circulating from class to class to see how the faculty goes about teaching.

"It is a good learning experience," she said.

Musgrove also helps with the junior high cheerleaders and the pom squad. "I am glad to be able to get the experience in these types of activities, and getting to know the ropes a little bit better," Musgrove said. "My schedule changed and I ended up having the extra free time to help out in any way that I could; it is exciting."

Musgrove said she feels she makes an impact with students. "I plan on teaching here awhile; I really enjoy it," she said.

Trivia Night will be Nov. 1

By Megan Rasmussen
Staff writer

said last year's trivia night was very successful.

"Best one we ever had," Haggard said.

Students have the chance to outsmart their teachers or their parents at Trivia Night beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, November 1.

Anyone can join in on Trivia Night. The cost is \$60 per team of six and proceeds go to the Mark Woods Memorial Scholarship.

The event is the 10th Annual Hillsboro NEA Mark Woods Memorial Scholarship.

The event will be held in the high school commons and the doors open at 6 p.m. Soda, water and snacks are provided, but teams may bring their own food also.

The Trivia Night is named in memory of Mark Woods, a former band teacher and counselor at Hillsboro. He was also the first husband of Kathy Woods-Stoll. Stoll is a band teacher at Hillsboro Jr. High and High School.

"It's a good time; we would like to see as many people come out as possible," Haggard said.

Bill Haggard, one of the organizers of the event,

For more information, call Harold Hagan at 789-2191.

Junior high bids farewell to Old Glory

By Tina Thebeau, Mary Fehlker, and Laura Pffnner

On Thursday, September 18, Hillsboro Junior High held a Flag Retirement Ceremony. This event was a first for the junior high and many of its students and staff members. Senator Steve Stoll donated the new flag and participated in the ceremony.

Mrs. Mary Fehlker, junior high secretary, set the reverent tone for the occasion by reading a story about Vietnam prisoner of war who night after night constructed an American Flag while he was being held in what was known as the "Hanoi Hilton."

Mike Christian, the POW, worked day and night fashioning a flag out of remnants and cast-off items despite the torture he knew would happen if he were to be caught. This crude flag was eventually discovered and destroyed, and Mike was tortured through the night. Undaunted, he began to construct another flag.

This story illustrated how precious our flag is and how so many are willing to defend her honor. Many in the gymnasium were moved to tears as they relived the devotion and pride of that soldier.

The audience stood with hands on hearts during the Presentation of the Colors by Troop 406 Color Guard, Travis Drilingas, Shelby Ketchum and Billy Thebeau. The old, faded and tattered flag was carried in by military Vietnam veteran, Gary Erxleben, and retired JAG officer, Jack Stewart, as Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" played. Mr. Erxleben draped his uncle's Army uniform over one of the designated chairs to represent World War II veterans.

Staff Sergeant Andrew Treydte performed the retirement ritual by cutting the old flag, starting with the stars and then each individual stripe, as the audience watched in silence. The burning of the flag was held in private and the ashes buried beside the junior high flagpole. The marker reads:



Gary Erxleben and Jack Stewart present the tattered junior high flag to Staff Sergeant Andrew Treydte as Troop 406 Color Guard stands at attention.

"American Flag retired 9/18/03; She served us well. Hillsboro Junior High Faculty, Staff, and Students."

All in attendance were dismissed from the ceremony in total silence. The retired flag flew for many years in front of Hillsboro Junior High. It inspired patriotism during Desert Storm, comforted us through 9/11, and was a continual reminder of the bravery of our men and women in uniform, who have selflessly and honorably defended freedom at home and abroad.

Advanced Art students decorate building for fall

By Michelle Isermann, Junior high faculty

The Advanced Art students at the junior high are responsible for the fall decorations in the foyer and throughout the junior high building. These students gave up their free time after school to work on the paintings. I would like to thank them and their parents for allowing them to stay after school. The junior high has received many positive comments from parents and visitors to the building. Thanks, also, to Mr. Edwards for supporting the efforts of the art class and to Mrs. Fehlker for her inspirational idea.

The Advanced Art also did an awesome job on the 9/11 remembrance display. The "We Will Never Forget" posters hung proudly in the foyer for our Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Encore performance Honor Choir sings a fourth time at Major League game



The Hillsboro Junior High Honor Choir sang the National Anthem at the St. Louis Cardinals' game September 10. This is the fourth year the group has been honored with this opportunity. The Honor Choir performs under the direction of Mrs. Benna Stokes. The students and their families were then able to see the rest of the game and see the Cardinals beat the Astros.

14 new faces greet high school students

Elizabeth Podgurski, Language Arts

By Elizabeth Gentry, Staff Writer

Passion for the English language and the skills needed to explain things are the motivations behind new English teacher Elizabeth Podgurski.

“I really love English, and I wanted to teach kids to love it, too,” said Podgurski, a St. Louis University graduate.

Podgurski went from being a full-time college student to a full-time teacher. It wasn't until her freshman year in college that she knew that she wanted to pursue a career in teaching.

“In college when I helped my friends with their homework, they said I was really good at explaining things, so I decided to try it,” Podgurski said.

“I found the job (opening at Hillsboro) on the internet, and when I applied I really liked the school—and the people,” Podgurski said. “The students are very well behaved and friendly, and the teachers are great; they are very helpful and friendly.”

Podgurski not only takes her newfound career seriously, she also makes it fun.

“The most fun about teaching is getting to share great stories with my students,” Podgurski said. “The worst thing about it is getting up in the morning.”

While Podgurski loves to share her stories with her ninth and tenth grade students, her creative writing class consists of juniors and seniors.

Podgurski also hopes that her students will also be inspired by their parents as she was by her mother, who taught her to work hard.

“You should always work hard and never forget your dreams,” Podgurski said.

Debbie Schwalbert, Custodian

By Josh McCullough, Staff Writer

Debbie Schwalbert is from rural Jefferson County where she has lived all her life. She attended and graduated from Hillsboro and said she loved the time she spent here.

Schwalbert currently works at the high school as a custodian.

“It's a pleasure to be around the kids; they are so much fun and they are very interesting,” Schwalbert said. “It's fun to see all the different types of people that attend this school. I love my job, and I would not trade it for anything.”

“My kids also attended Hillsboro School District, and they loved it as much as I did. They enjoyed growing up in Hillsboro and they all graduated from Hillsboro High School,” she said.

“In my free time I like to go to car shows; I like to

do yard work and house work,” Schwalbert said. “Well, house work isn't my favorite thing, but I like most things that have to do with cleaning or making things look better; that's why I do what I do.”

Karen Hinds, Secretary

By Megan Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Karen Hinds is a secretary at Hillsboro Senior High School. She is the woman on the other side of the window the students approach when they are late for school. Hinds has a sticker on the window that says, “Following your dream begins by getting out of bed.” The students tell Hinds their reason for being late, then get a little blue pass which excuses their tardy.

Hinds actually started working here last year.

“I started as a sub at semester, then I was hired full-time for this year,” Hinds said.

Being in charge of the attendance and writing notes for the students who are tardy, people may think she gets a lot of strange excuses. Most of them are actually normal. Most students just oversleep or could not find keys, but one student actually missed the bus and walked ten miles to school. The biggest reason students are late is the traffic in Hillsboro, Hinds said.

Hinds said she has two children of her own. She has a 19-year-old daughter, Jeni, who graduated from Hillsboro last year. Hinds also has a son, Justin, who is in

HALLOWEEN

Continued from Page 1

a parent who attended with her kids last year, said that the event seems to grow every year with more activities.

“I think it's a good family activity,” Tilley said, “We don't have to worry about being hot or cold. It's just a safe environment.”

In addition to the games and activities, the kids can also wear their costumes to Safe Halloween. The NHS students who attend often dress up as well.

“Little kids love to see big kids all dressed up in costumes,” Brooks said.

Brooks said that last year Safe Halloween was “very successful,” and about 200 kids attended.

“There seemed to be a lot of people there; it was full the whole evening,” Tilley said.

“It's a great community event, I just wish there was more participation,” Brooks said.

“Most of the high schoolers who attended are in student council, or NHS,” Martinson said.

The event is free to the public.

8th grade. Hinds and her husband, Lee, have been married for 23 years.

Hinds attended Lindbergh High School. She said there were about 1,000 students in her graduating class.

"I prefer the size of Hillsboro better," Hinds said.

Hinds said she enjoys her job as a secretary.

"I hope to stay here until retirement age," she said.

Gretchen Duersch, Language Arts

By Eric Rains, Staff Writer

Gretchen Duersch, a new English teacher at the high school, says teaching is in her blood. "My whole family is practically full of teachers, so that's why I chose teaching as a profession—also because it's what I love to do," Duersch said.



Gretchen Duersch

Even though Duersch said she tries to make every student of hers see what they can really accomplish, she wants to make a significant difference in at least a handful of her students lives throughout her career.

"I believe my teaching style is unique. I try to utilize more creativity in my class by doing more hands-on projects," Duersch said.

This is Duersch's first year teaching. She said she plans to stay at Hillsboro for at least three years, hoping that her husband, who is a doctor, will stay where he is currently working. Duersch said she enjoys being here and thinks the students are great.

"I'm fresh out of college, so this is a new experience for me; I'm really excited," Duersch said.

Sharrie Busch, Paraeducator

By Heather Timmerman, Staff Writer

Volunteering at her kids' schools was what inspired Sharrie Busch, a special services paraeducator at Hillsboro High School, to work with kids at school. Busch has two sons, ages 11 and 4, and a daughter, 13.

"I like to volunteer at my kids' schools," Busch said. "That was what really got me into wanting to work at a school.



Sharrie Busch

So far it's been really great, and I've had no problems with the kids."

Busch grew up in South County and graduated from Mehlville High School in 1986. Previously, Busch worked at a physical therapy center in South County.

Busch does not teach her own class, but helps individual kids with their work.

"(I) basically just try to help the kids who need more on-on-one learning," Busch said.

Although Busch said she loves working at the high

school, her goal is to someday work with children at the elementary level.

"As far as the younger kids, they can be lovable and fun. I'm kind of on the same level because I'm growing with my children," Busch said.

When she is not helping the students at school, Busch said she and her family enjoy going to car cruises.

"(It's) just everybody getting together with their sporty cars. It's normally in Fenton or Festus, just walking around looking at sports cars and hot rods," Busch said.

Busch also said she enjoys listening to country music. Her favorite artist is Vince Gill. Her kids, however, like to listen to the music on Z107.7. "I can't stand it," Busch said. Busch said that her own children have been a great inspiration to her and that she is enjoying her new job.

Ashley Jones, FACS

By Connie Seigrist, Staff Writer

There is a healthy addition at Hillsboro High School. Ashley Jones is the new Family and Consumer Science (FACS) teacher.

Some students may remember her from last year as a student teacher for Ms. Carolyn Helms and Ms. Julie Davis. This year she is on her own and ready to teach.

"I really liked it here and wanted to come back," Jones said.

Jones is 23 years old and just out of college. She graduated from Southeast Missouri University with a certification in FACS. She says she likes FACS and enjoys teaching. She did not always want to be a teacher, though.

"I wanted to be a chef up until the summer of my senior year," Jones said.

Growing up, Jones said she had a very close family life; she spent a lot of time with her older sister. Jones was married last June.

She grew up in Desloge, Missouri, and resides there still. Her home is approximately 33 miles from the high school building.

Outside of school, Jones said she has a very busy life. "I'm very musical. I like to play instruments and sing," Jones said.

She performs at First Baptist Desloge Church. She sings with the choir, does solos, and performs duets with her husband. In her spare time, Jones said that she likes to read.

She does find some aspects of teaching challenging. "It gets difficult trying to keep things fun and interesting," Jones said. "It's hard teaching people so close to my own age."

She did say that she feels like she relates to her students better because of the closeness in age.

Jones said that sometimes the responsibility of teaching can be difficult.

"When the storm hit last May, I was chaperoning a middle school dance at West County," she said. Jones said

See HIGH SCHOOL, Page 14

HIGH SCHOOL

Continued from Page 13

she was faced with keeping the students calm and safe in a very stressful situation.

This is her first year as a teacher, and she said she hopes to have many more. "I like getting to know the students and watching them grow," Jones said.

Janice McClinton, Special Services

By Tiffany Langley, Staff writer

Janice McClinton, a special services teacher, used to substitute teach for Hillsboro before becoming a full-time teacher.

McClinton attended Southeast Missouri State University in the late '70s. She said she decided to be a teacher at one point, but instead she went into business administration. McClinton worked at Cottonwood Golf Course as a general manager until 10 years ago.

"Then I had the opportunity to substitute and I loved it so much that I decided to be a teacher," McClinton said.

"The greatest thing about teaching is my involvement in the students' lives by giving them help and encouragement in life decision making," McClinton said.

In her spare time, McClinton said that she golfs. When she is not golfing, she is spending her time with her grandson, who is three-and-a-half years old and also has a set of golf clubs.

At this point in her career, she is attending UMSL to earn her Masters Degree.

McClinton said she is "very happy and grateful to be involved in the Hillsboro schools because we offer such a great future to our students."

Jacki O'Malley, Special Services

By Kristi Carrico, Staff Writer

Jacki O'Malley is a 23-year-old who teaches Hillsboro High School Survival Skills and helps with Study Assistance.

O'Malley is originally from Chicago, Illinois. This year is her first year teaching; she attended Fontbonne College.

"I help students with their homework in Study Assistance; I go from class to class helping and I teach a survival skills class," she said. "Survival Skills is a class where I teach kids how to do things they'll need in the world. I teach them how to prepare for jobs and colleges by filling out applications, and I teach them how to balance a checkbook."

Her favorite thing about working here is the students and the teachers.



Janice McClinton

"I chose to come to Hillsboro because they had a position open for coaching basketball and I love sports. I really like working here. This year has been good so far; nothing has gone wrong yet," O'Malley said.

Her career inspiration came from her own dreams and some from her teachers.

"I've wanted to be a teacher ever since I was a little girl. My teachers also supported me a lot. Plus I love kids," O'Malley said.

"Over the summer I had a little girl. Her name is Logan and she's four-and-a-half-months old. Having Logan was probably the most exciting thing that happened."

"Now the most interesting thing (this summer) was probably the basketball float trip. It was fun, but it seemed like it took forever," O'Malley said.

Lynette O'Toole, Cook

By Lindsay Bouska, Staff Writer

Hillsboro Senior High has a new cook in the cafeteria this year, and 44-year old Lynette O'Toole has nothing but good things to say about her co-workers.

This is O'Toole's second year working in food preparation. She worked at the Northwest School District last year.

"The thing I like most about working at Hillsboro would have to be the girls I work with. You could not ask for better co-employees. They are just so nice about everything," O'Toole said.

As a new employee, O'Toole has been overcoming the challenges of learning the ropes of the kitchen at the senior high.

"The biggest challenge about my work is trying to learn how to do all of the things that go on in the kitchen here at school. Yes, the work definitely keeps you busy at the high school. They prepare a lot of food in this kitchen," she said.

"No one realizes how much work is put into feeding the kids here at the senior high. The ladies are not recognized like they should be," O'Toole said.

The senior high prepares an average of 96 pretzels, 390 pieces of pizza, and 809 crisпитos, the most popular items on the menu.

The cooks and workers in the senior high kitchen start their workday daily at 5:30 a.m. and work until 1:30 p.m.

"It takes about six hours to prepare the food. We prepare the food from 5:30 a.m., when we get here, to about 11:13 a.m., when the lunch shifts start," O'Toole said.

O'Toole has seven children, three of whom are adopted. She lives with her family in De Soto. O'Toole and



Lynette O'Toole

her family also raise horses.

"I raise 17 horses. On top of feeding all of the kids here and at home, I have to feed all of my horses, too," she said.

Amy Phillips, Assistant Principal

By Nichole Butler, Staff Writer

While some people have a five-year plan, Amy Phillips, the new assistant principal and activities director at the high school, has an eight-plus year plan.

After graduating from South Illinois University in Edwardsville with a degree in Speech Communication and a Bachelor of Science, Phillips went on to Southwest Baptist University for a master in science and education administration.

"I taught alternative school at Ritenour my first year and then transferred to Bayless, where I taught English, speech, and drama for the next four years," she said.

"Last year I was the athletic director at Bayless," Phillips said.

Phillips, who said she has lived in the South County-St. Louis area for four years, came to Hillsboro High School because the building is so technologically advanced.

She said that the number one thing she likes best at Hillsboro, though, is the people.

"I've met some of the friendliest people," Phillips said.

Although Phillips likes that the high school building is so advanced, she does not think that she has advanced herself to her limits just yet.

"I'd like to continue on as assistant principal for three years and then obtain a principal position for five years," Phillips said.

"From there I'd like to maintain a central office position before owning my own business."

Now Phillips said she spends her days answering the phone, opening mail, and sending faxes.

In her spare time Phillips said she likes to play football and softball, sing karaoke, tan, and take her boat to Rend Lake in Southern Illinois.

Michele Reed, French

By Brooke Epple, Staff Writer

Michele Reed, a former French student of Mrs. Henningsen, took over for her teacher this fall after Henningsen left to pursue other teaching opportunities.

"I like Hillsboro. I've gone here my whole life," Reed said. "I started taking French my sophomore year of high school ... Mrs. Henningsen took us on a trip to France. I've loved it ever since."

Reed was a substitute teacher prior to this year. "I like being a full-time teacher better because I am able to



Amy Phillips

have my own classroom, my own rules, and my own plans," she said.

Reed said she is enjoying her first year. She is also the sponsor of the French Club.

"They asked me and I said yes. The school should be more interested in foreign language," Reed said. Reed and her husband have baby boy named Thomas. They are currently living in De Soto.

Corey Schweitzer, Industrial Arts

By Kari Neulist, Staff Writer

Corey Schweitzer has always had a passion for construction and teaching others. After putting two and two together, he said he decided to be a shop teacher.

"I struggled with a learning disability and I had to have a lot of help," Schweitzer said of his experience as a student. "I just want to give back to the community by helping kids learn."

Although this is Schweitzer's first year teaching, he said he previously coached basketball at Crystal City.

"Hopefully someday I can be a basketball coach here," Schweitzer said.

Schweitzer grew up in the St. Louis area. He graduated from Oakville High School and went to Meremac for two years before taking a year off.

After returning to school, Schweitzer attended Southeast Missouri State University, to complete his degree.

During the summer, Schweitzer works as a self-employed construction worker.

He spends most of his free time playing basketball and spending time with his daughter, Zoe, who is 2 years old.

Joe Thebeau, Custodian

By Melissa Bennett, Staff Writer

When students are long gone for the day, he will still be around cleaning up the messes.

Joe Thebeau is the new Hillsboro High School night custodian.

Thebeau arrives at the school at 2:30 p.m. and does not leave until 11 p.m.

"Before coming here I was a roofer and a tractor trailer mechanic," Thebeau said.

Thebeau does a number of things around the high school. "I clean classrooms, hallways, and I help move things for teachers," Thebeau said.

Like all jobs, there are up and downs to being night custodian.

"Some advantages I have are working indoors and it's predictable—nothing weird is going to happen. It's nice and quiet. Some of the disadvantages are cleaning up the gooey messes," Thebeau said.

See HIGH SCHOOL, Page 16

HIGH SCHOOL

Continued from Page 15

bies include collecting racing memorabilia, target shooting, and fishing.

"Sometimes I cut grass for people and sometimes I work on houses," Thebeau said.

"I plan to be here (working at Hillsboro) for quite a while, until I retire."

Stephanie Williams, Speech and Drama

By Mallory Dodson, Staff Writer

There is a new name on the director's chair this year as the high school welcomes a new play director, 26-year-old Stephanie Williams.

Williams is currently working on the upcoming musical, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Along with her duties of producing the musical, Williams is also the new teacher of the communications department.

"The classes I teach are Media, I.P.C., Acting, and next semester I'm going to be teaching advanced critical writing," Williams said.

"I am hoping to get more acting classes, and then eventually a directing class as well."

Williams said that what she hopes to accomplish at Hillsboro is to educate her students about theater and culture.

"This is my first year teaching high school; so far it's been really fun. And I have really fun students," Williams said.

"Everyone I've met so far has just been interesting and nice. Every day has been interesting."

Other than being new to the school, Williams is also new to the area.

"I lived in Cape Girardeau for eight years, and Decatur, Illinois, for the previous 18 years," Williams said. "I got a scholarship to S.E.MO. Then I moved to Missouri. I graduated from S.E.MO both times; I have my Bachelor's degree and a Master's."

"I also ran a costume shop at S.E.MO for a couple of years," Williams said.

"They didn't have a professor that was a costumer back then. So if you got the costumer's assistantship, that pretty much meant that you were designing the whole show. I really enjoyed it."

Williams said she has always had a taste for the arts.

"When I was younger, I painted and then I did theater for four years as an undergrad. And then I spent most of my graduate school writing poetry," Williams said.



Stephanie Williams

Substitute bus drivers needed

Driving a bus is a great opportunity to earn extra income while the kids are in school, as well as a great way to be of service to your community.

Qualifications: Must be between 21 and 70 years of age; physical exam required; criminal background check required; subject to drug and alcohol tests; all training is provided.

For additional information, contact Tony Steffen, Transportation Supervisor, at 789-2128.

Substitute teachers needed

If you are interested in substitute teaching in grades K-12, please contact the central office about getting your name on the list of available substitutes.

Please bring a college transcript showing a minimum of 60 hours of credit.

The salary for substitute teaching is \$65 per day. For more information, call 789-0000, ext. 6000.

TO CONTACT THE DISTRICT

e-mail to

hr3_co@mail.hillsboro.k12.mo.us

Check out Hillsboro's web site at

www.hillsboro.k12.mo.us

R-3 Board of Education

The Hillsboro R-3 Board of Education meets on a regular basis at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the Board of Education office, located at 20 Hawk Drive on campus. The meetings are open to the public.

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