



BULLARD BANNER NEWS

50¢

www.BullardNews.com

The community newspaper

Vol. 12 Issue 54 - 9 pages

50 cents

Bullard, Texas 75757

October 1, 2008

Postage paid at Bullard and other area post offices.

Proposal includes new wing to accommodate growth

Allie Wade
Panther Post

Superintendent Keith Bryant urged the Bullard School Board last week to build a new wing at the high school to prepare for an influx of students, which he says is indicated by high enrollment numbers.

He also moved to remove asbestos from the Intermediate School. Both projects would be completed using \$3 million remaining in bond money to

begin construction.

A study conducted when Jim Wright was superintendent estimated that there would only be a 3 to 5 percent increase in enrollment at the high school over the next decade. But the high school has seen a 23 percent jump from last year.

"The high school addition is important because we are almost out of space, and we want to take steps to alleviate the crowded classrooms at the high school," Bryant said.

Bryant stressed the importance of adding a wing to the high school to prevent further overcrowding as a result of increased population. This year's high school enrollment of 561 students reflects a 23 percent jump from last year.

"As Bullard continues to grow, it is prudent to plan for future capacity needs for the school district," Bryant said. "A growing school district must try to be proactive instead of reactive. It is my hope that we can

plan adequately in order to meet our growth potential."

Not only is the high school experiencing dramatic growth, but the district has seen a 36 percent growth this decade, according to Bryant. The population has risen from 1,403 students in 2001 to our current total of 1,915 plus.

Bryant said that the addition will cost around \$3-4 million and consist of about 20 classrooms. The construction for the project could start this

spring and be finished next December.

Asbestos removal at the intermediate is also a major concern to Bryant and the community.

Asbestos is known to be highly toxic. If inhaled it can cause serious illnesses, including mesothelioma.

"As far as asbestos goes, it is important to address this now because the intermediate campus has just recently been updated, and this will be the

final step in the process," Bryant said.

"The only way this type of asbestos could cause harm would be in the case of a fire because the burning particles would be in the air," Bryant said. "However, there is so little asbestos in the building that it is practically harmless."

The removal will cost around \$20,000 and will be done over the Christmas holidays.

Bullard to be host of first jail-bond, town-hall meeting

The Smith County Commissioners Court will hold its first of a series of town hall meetings about a jail bond in Bullard on Oct. 2.

This will be the second time the commission has tried to pass a bond for a new jail, but at a significantly lower cost. In 2007, a \$125 million jail bond was rejected by voters.

This year's jail bond is \$59.6 million. If the bond is approved in November by voters, the owner of an average valued home would pay approximately \$31.33 per year or \$2.61 a month, according to Smith County Commissioner Court documents. An average house in Smith County in 2008 is \$131,899, according to the Smith County Appraisal District.

"[The meeting] will be a factual presentation of the November bond election for the jail expansion project," Smith County Commissioner JoAnn Fleming said in an email. "There will be a factual Power Point presentation followed by a question and answer period."

Students pray at the pole



Bullard Middle School had almost 140 students set their alarms early to attend the See You at the Pole Rally held around the BMS flagpole at 7:25 Wednesday morning. BMS is home to 7th and 8th graders in Bullard ISD and the number of students attending this rally is a record number for BMS. Songs of worship were led by Bullard Southern Baptist 716 student ministry students and small groups were formed to pray for our nation and it's leaders, the community and the schools.

Red, White and Blue Festival searches for talent

Ever dream of being a rock star? Want to hear the next country star before he's famous?

Now is the time to sign up if you are planning to compete or perform or participate in any of the many events planned during this year's Red, White, and Blue Festival which happens November 5-8 right here in East Texas, in Bullard.

There are so many ways to participate; it's hard to know what to sign up for first.

The Talent Search is an obvious opportunity if you are a talented, amateur musician. Besides the chance to perform on a professional stage in front of a receptive, hometown audi-

ence, there is the grand prize of a professionally recorded sound tract contributed to the event by Greg Hunt of Rosewood Studios.

Does your child dream of performing on stage? Want your child to gain experience and poise in front of an audience?

A special stage is planned to feature dancers, cheerleading teams, and gymnasts. Spots are limited.

Is your child a promising young artist?

Area school children are invited to participate in a poster contest honoring vets.

Are you a young woman longing to put your patriotism into words? Do

you look forward to a future as a writer?

Miss Armed Forces will be selected based on an essay written in honor of vets. She will be crowned right after the parade on Saturday. Those essays can be submitted at the newspaper office.

Ever dream of marching in a parade or riding on a float?

The Smith County Sheriff's Posse, and the Shriners, horse clubs, bands, US Armed Forces squads and many others are promising to turn up and wow the crowds lining downtown Bullard. If you are interested in honoring our military veterans by strutting your stuff, too, now is the time to

reserve a place for your group or float.

You'll be marching with a star-studded line up this year including Star McFarlin, the Great American Dog and Proud Mary who is the fastest woman in a speed boat according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Have a tractor or an antique car you like to show?

Registration is already happening for the Antique Car Show and the Tractor Show.

Have you got crafts you want to sell or projects to bless the community?

Clubs, artists, and craftsmen are already contacting the Chamber of Commerce about filling the limited

number of spaces.

And what would all this fun amount to without the food, right?

Food vendors, including corn dogs, hamburgers, lemonade, funnel cakes, nachos, you name it, are signing up now.

For more information, go to www.bullardtexaschamber.com.

See ya at the Festival!

Cathy Primer Krafve, aka Checklist Charlie, lives and writes with a Texas twang. Comments are invited at caekrafve@aol.com or <http://checklistcharlie.blogspot.com>.

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