

## EDUCATION

### SCHOOL

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school, Jones will have a certificate in welding, and will be able to read blue prints.

But a new Texas law passed last session that went into effect on incoming freshman this year, could prohibit students like Jones from graduating with such a certificate. The Texas legislature passed new curriculum requiring schools to teach four years of math, science, English and social studies.

"This curriculum puts everyone in a box," Bullard ISD Superintendent Keith Bryant said. "Not everyone is going to college."

The new curriculum leaves less credit hours for electives because students have more core classes to take, Bryant said. If a student has less options for electives, then students will not be able

to pursue classes that interest them.

"If we have a student who knows he is going to a trade school, then we need to have the electives available during the school day," Bryant said.

Several plans are in the works to alter the curriculum, one is at the district level and the other is a the state level.

Bryant said Bullard ISD faculty and staff have been discussing the best choice to accomplish four by four requirements while maintaining and expanding electives.

One option is to introduce a modified block schedule with eight periods in the school day. Certain classes would meet every other day, Bryant said.

Another option is to extend the school day to allow

more time for classes. Or the school could cut minutes out of the day to allow more time for classes, like shortened lunches.

At the state level, organizations are trying to change the Four by Four requirements, Bryant said. Where a student is required to take a science class, maybe a student could take an agriculture science or health science class instead, depending on the students preference.

But all of this speculation will be determined by the Texas State Board of Education Commission.

SBOE commissioner Barbara Cargill said the commission is looking at ways to offer more types of science and math classes. Their goal is to give students more options, she said.

### Hopson, Walker race going to recount

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The Republican challenger to incumbent Chuck Hopson said he will file a recount petition with the Texas Secretary of State for areas of House District 11/

Challenger Brian K. Walker was behind by about 100 votes after Election Day. But Walker says that there are "credible reports" that ballots cast were improperly rejected

and not counted on election day, according to a written statement.

"We are asking for a recount to make sure that all of the voices of East Texas voters are heard," according to the written statement. "My opponent and I disagree on many issues, but I am sure we can agree that this process must be transparent and thorough until every vote is counted and true to our message of conservative and limited government, tax-

payers can rest assured that our campaign will cover the costs associated with the recount.

"I am honored by the extraordinary support I have received and appreciate the message for conservative change that East Texas voters sent on election day. Since that time, I have received hundreds of calls encouraging me to ask for a recount in order to make sure that every vote is counted" Walker said.

### New Commissioner



Jeff Warr has always been interested in public service.

In the 1990s he ran and was elected to the Tyler City Council and served as mayor pro tem. This was when the city moved from property taxes to sales taxes, Warr said, which paid great dividends for the city.

Then Warr took a ten year hiatus from public service to spend more time with his family. But now, Warr will be replacing JoAnn Fleming as Smith County Commissioner.

Fleming served four years and is stepping out of the spotlight of the commission. He takes office Jan. 1.

Warr said his expertise is in risk manage-

ment and real estate.

"As the county grows I'll be able to help them stay on a good financial path."

Warr said he hopes to keep the Smith County Commission's tradition of openness, transparency, accountability for the taxpayers.

Out of 254 counties in Texas, Smith County has the fifth or sixth lowest tax rate in the state. He said although this is good for growth, it can also be negative when trying to maintain facilities.

"It's a double-edged sword."

With the growth, there is a lot more pressure on the county's resources.

### CANDIES

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Courtesy photo

Claudia Steed makes peanut brittle, which can be bought at local Bullard stores, like Remember When and the Texas Book Discount Books.

fee, vintage fudge and candies. Steed has state permits to provide and package candies, cakes and cookies. She works from a professional kitchen on her property, but her business is run like a mom-and-pop, small business.

Each package and labels she creates, she says she does to hopefully bring the joy that cooking has brought her in her life.

When Steed was four years old, she lived in southern Wales with her grandmother. Everyday the two would wake up and cook breakfast. Shortly after, they would walk down a mountain side to the village market and pick out the days food.

Then Steed and her grandmother would go back to their home and cook a large lunch. Later in the day they would have tea and cake.

"She has the strongest

influence for old-fashion love of making something with my hands," she said. "Hopefully what I do will let them slow down and bring them to the past for a bit."

Steed's father-in-law taught her how to make peanut brittle by its color, texture and fragrance. He doesn't use a thermometer.

Steed also makes oatmeal raisin walnut cookies, cakes and candies with fragrance.

She doesn't makes everything in the gift baskets. She bus chocolate covered sunflower seeds, and other items to compliment the candies she makes.

If you would like to order, call, (903) 316 1067 or (903) 566 4172. To but candies already packaged, go to Remember When on Main Street or the Texas Book store.