

Husky Happenings at SJSHS

By: Devyn Roberts

A lot happens on SJSHS' campus, and currently Sherman is in a new semester: An FFA Newsletter is set to be released soon, and The Pack, Robotics, Basketball all have fresh news, including the 3rd Annual Mr. Husky contest.

The Sherman County FFA (Future Farmers of America) have many happenings and news that are about to hit. A FFA Newsletter is set to release soon, with the FFA Officers and Mr. Collins – Advisor – behind the production of it. Devyn Roberts, the current Assistant Reporter, is the Editor in Chief, and Mr. Collins is the Co-Editor of the Newsletter. The FFA Newsletter will feature old and recent news held in the Sherman County FFA Chapter. The Sherman County FFA Chapter recently went to the Prepared Public Speaking contest last month and a lot of excitement was extruded from Mr. Collins for he stated; "Public Speaking was my favorite CDE when I was in High School". CDE stands for "Career Development Events".

With Basketball stirring up,

school spirit hasn't been any greater. From the new Pack shades, to the pom poms, to the blow up guitars, Gail has been on her toes conjuring new ideas to keep students attending co-curricular activities. On "The Packs" official website of SJSHS, it clearly states that their mission is "to promote school spirit, increase attendance to all co-curricular activities, and reward the students based on their dedication to Sherman County Jr./Sr. High School". It is apparent that staff and students have a lot of enthusiasm.

Our boys Basketball team has a current league record of 12-1 and an overall record of 20-3. Our Lady Huskies have a current league record of 8-5 and an overall record of 12-11, so let's continue to show our sports enthusiasm and cheer on our huskies to keep this Basketball season enjoyable!

The senior high robotics team of eight members, here at Sherman Junior/Senior High School are attending the Qualifying Tournament on February 18 this year. The Qualifying Tournament is occurring in St. Helens, Oregon, and "There will

be thirteen teams attending" Mrs. Thompson said. Mrs. Thompson also stated; "I was happy, and still am happy!" when asked about the creation of the robotics team. There are currently eight students enrolled in the high school robotics team and nine in the junior high robotics team.

This year, is the 3rd Annual Mr. Husky contest, which is occurring sometime in March this year. Mr. Husky is a contest of four SJSHS boys, whom give a group performance, perform a talent, compete in a competition, and are quizzed by the judges. The contestants have yet to be announced, for they are undecided, but they will be announced shortly.

A thank you is sent out to Mrs. Consoliver, the Pep Band, and to Mr. Casper for performing at home games and striving to keep the crowd excited.

Left of Center

Top Ten Worst Valentine's Day Gifts:

By Jesse Whitley

10. A pink gaming console (ex. A pink PlayStation)
9. Heart-shaped pizza
8. Anything that requires assembly.
7. Randomly purchased scented lotions and shower gels
6. "His" and "Hers" tee-shirts
5. A mix tape/CD (Or, if you're a geek, a hard drive with 10,000 hours of mp3s)
4. Homemade Coupons (ex. One free hug)
3. Office supplies
2. Anything that can be purchased at a local store or gas station
1. A membership to Jenny Craig or Weight Watchers

"To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world."

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY

History of Valentine's Day

By: Nick von Borstel

If someone asked you to describe the famed St. Valentine could you do it? Unlike most holidays, the history of this celebration is quite unknown and reveals a cagey past. Everyone, of course, knows that this special day is named after St. Valentine, but very few actually know anything about the man himself or know about the origin of the celebration. His history is unclear and even his own identity is hidden amongst the shadows of history. Most of what is known about St. Valentine comes from stories with little supporting evidence, but plenty of popularity backing them up. Many exist, but most center on the same plot presenting St. Valentine as a romantic hero.

During the third century in Rome, Emperor Claudius II found that single men made better soldiers than men with wives and families and, thus, decided to outlaw marriage for young men. A priest by the name of Valentine realized the injustice of this law and performed mar-

riages between the young men and their lovers anyway. Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions and ordered that he be put to death. During his imprisonment, Valentine supposedly met his jailor's daughter and befriended her. Many stories say that Valentine cured the girl's blindness just before his execution, others tell of him falling in love with her in the days of his confinement, and some say that he did both. None of these, however, saved Valentine from his certain death. Upon seeing that his execution was imminent, the night before his death, Valentine addressed the young girl through a letter. At the end of the letter he signed, "From your Valentine," a term still in use today.

With a romantic story like that, it is no surprise that St. Valentine is the key figure in the upcoming holiday on February 14th. The 14th is obviously a day filled with love and affection. What is it, though, about the 14th of February that screams passion? One theory of the date for this

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special day is it is the anniversary of St. Valentine's own death and burial, but some say there is much more to it.

February has had a long history of being the month of love. It is thought by many that the celebration was placed on the 14th to parallel the birds mating season that takes place during middle of February. Still others say that this is not the case. Could it be then that the date is linked to an ancient Roman holiday of fertility and

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Sports Center

By: Riley Brown



Boys Basketball

The season for the Huskies is hopefully still young. They have very high aspirations of getting very far into the state playoffs. With a new wave of determination flowing throughout the boys teams. With an outstanding record on the year the boys are still not content with their regular season accomplishments. Hopefully the boys can have a invigoration of energy and continue to improve and achieve the lofty goals they have set for themselves. The key for the huskies will continue to be rebounding which has been an Achilles heel of this team. The boys hope to be playing long into the year, and it appears they have the ability to do so.

Girls Basketball

It's looking like the girls will get a shot at districts and have the chance to compete for a potential state playoff berth. Many tough games have helped this team find their true colors, and are excited that they have a shot to extend their season. Junior Audrey Kaseberg said, " We are striving to get past the first round of districts, and we look forward to working together to achieve that goal". These huskies are getting great experience, the future looks good, but hopefully they can capitalize now. Hopefully with a good game plan, and improvement the lady huskies can be improved. They hope that they will be able to extend their season.

Husky Naismith Award

This edition's husky Naismith award recipient is Steve Bird. He has been a mainstay of husky athletics for years. He has been very helpful for many student-athletes who have passed through Sherman. He has been very professional, as well as showing many athletes how they should conduct themselves, and the essence of sportsmanship. He has been such a help for many sports, from football to basketball, he has performed so well and has been wherever he has been needed. He is a selfless, and good man, who has been taught many kids many important lessons, to be used on and off the field.



| | Wins | Losses | PPG |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| Boys | 20 | 3 | 74.9 |
| Girls | 12 | 11 | 38.1 |



Dear Husky!



Dear Ed,

Do you think this school has social classes or ranks, as in people that are higher than others?

Sincerely, !

Dear !,

Well, being an upperclassman I've gained a lot of wisdom throughout the years and social classes just so happens to be my specialty. The truth is that social classes are everywhere. Throughout your life you will deal with classes or groups and you have to find the one that fits you best. Popular is just a word, it's not going to mean anything once you're out of high school. Just remember to always be yourself and your group will form around you.

Dear Ed,

What is the most helpful place to look up colleges?

-AgentX

Dear AgentX,

The best place that I know of that has helped me the most is oregon-cis.uoregon.edu.

Sincerely, Ed

Dear Ed,

What is your favorite color?

Love, Rainbow

Dear Rainbow,

I enjoy a variety of colors but my favorites are obviously orange and black. I also like the color white, mainly because I love snow, plus my fur is a pristine white.

Sincerely,

Ed

Dear Ed,

Do you get a lot of letters?

Sincerely, Curious

Dear Curious,

No actually. Students have stopped giving me questions in my mail box. All I can ask is that more students please start sending me some. I give wonderful advice and would love to help with any of the questions people might have.

-Ed

Dear Huskie,

I like a boy....but I'm not sure if he likes me. How can I tell if he does or not?

Sincerely,

Confused

Dear Confused,

You need to approach this person and ask him if he has any feelings towards you that are beyond friendship based. This way you can directly approach the topic, and boost your confidence. If he doesn't end up having the feelings that you wish he would, just remember it's high school; you'll have many other crushes, and in the end one of them will return the feelings back.

Sincerely,

Ed

Continued from page 1...

purity called “Lupercalia”?

In ancient Rome, February was thought of as the beginning of spring and a time of purification. The date was dedicated to “Faunas”, the Roman god of Agriculture. During the festival, houses would be ritually cleansed and then priests would gather at the mouth of a sacred cave and sacrifice a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. Also during the celebration, names of all the young women would be placed in a big urn and the city’s bachelors would draw the names. They would then be paired with the women that they drew for an entire year, which often lead to marriage. Valentine’s Day could quite possibly be a recruitment effort by Pope Gelasius in 498 A.D. when he declared February 14th St. Valentine’s day and outlawed the “lottery system” for romantic pairing. His efforts were made in order to Christianize the festival of “Lupercalia” and turn more people towards the Christian Church. Later, in the year 1969, however, the feast day of St. Valentine was removed from the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints and the General Roman Calendar due to the fact that noth-

ing is truly known about St. Valentine other than his name and possibly his burial place.

The holiday is still celebrated in specific countries such as the United States, Britain, France and in Balzan (Malta) where relics of the saint are claimed to be found. It is also celebrated by traditionalist Catholics who follow the older pre-Second Vatican Council Calendar and by other Christian denominations. No matter which story is true, February 14th has still been well established as a day for love.

Since Roman times, the holiday has evolved immensely. The festival has been known to be celebrated clear back to medieval times and the oldest Valentine can be found in the British Library in London dating clear back to 1415. It did not truly become a popular holiday in Britain until the 17th century and, in the 18th century, it was quite common for lovers to exchange small tokens of affection such as hand-written notes. By the end of the 18th century, due to improvements in technology, the hand-written letters were replaced by printed letters which increased the number of Valentine cards sent along with the help of cheaper

postage rates. It was not until 1840 that the increasingly popular cards were mass produced by an American named Esther A. Howland. Today the holiday holds the spot as the second largest card-sending holiday with a billion cards sent each year, behind Christmas with 2.6 billion cards. The holiday is celebrated mainly in the United States, Britain, France, Canada, Mexico, and Australia.

Valentine’s Day is definitely one of the most interesting holidays of the year. Its unique past is unmasked by any other holiday. It is the only holiday in which you get pierced by an arrow and feel more love than pain. It is the second largest card-sending holiday of the year, and no other holiday can be so passionately hated by a person one year and then loved by the same person the next. Maybe its uniqueness is just what makes it so popular in the United States today. Happy Valentine’s Day Sherman County!!!

References:
www.history.com
www.wikipedia.org
www.theholidayspot.com

Husky Helper: Cindy Brown

by Maddie Belshe

Cindy Brown is the 4-H Youth Development Coordinator for Sherman County. Mrs. Brown organizes the 4-H program for the youth of Sherman County. A big role in her job is to help the volunteer leaders of 4-H groups around the county. Mrs. Brown also assists the Junior High and High School robotics teams. She says that it is great for her to be a part of this team, because the members of the team are “learning by doing,” so it is a great fit for her to help the members grow with their learning and skills. Mrs. Brown says that Sandy Macnab influenced her to become a leader, and to serve for her community. He taught her how to see 4-H as an opportunity to create new skills and to meet new people.

When someone says they are “too cool” to be a part of 4-H of the robotics team, Mrs. Brown simply replies that everyone has to do what is best for themselves and that 4-H might not be for everyone, “I would definitely encourage people to get involved in activities whether that be at school, sports, in their community, their church, their job, or their hobbies, because that is how you learn and grow into an awesome adult.” says Mrs. Brown.

The goal of 4-H is positive youth development. For any 4-H project each individual learns basic life skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. 4-H is for kids grades 4th-12th and it gives them “experiential learning.” Mrs. Brown says, “You don’t just sit in a lecture or read a book, you actually DO the project. You’re not trying to learn just to pass the test, you actually do (cook, grow a garden, take photos, sew or quilt, raise livestock, have a business, build a robot, organize a camp, keep financial records).” 4-H is run by volunteers from the community and staff from the land grant university.

“The best thing we can do in Sherman County is to continue to develop partnerships and work together... the schools, the businesses, the agricultural community, the local governments... we can combine our resources and strengths and get more done,” says Cindy Brown, the 4-H Youth Development Coordinator, OSU Sherman County Extension.



Cindy Brown

Husky Pups

4-H Camp

By Bri McKinney

4-H Camp is one of the most fun camps of the summer. There are tons of exciting activities for the three days of camp. The food is amazing and the cooks are really nice. The classes range from fish and water to different crafts. For free time they have lots of options from mini-golf to canoeing (my favorite are the crafts.) There are also some really entertaining bonfires at night. Also, they have an awesome carnival and a rocking game of Capture the Flag. 4-H Camp is the best camp I’ve

ever been to. I would recommend attending 4-H camp to anyone in grades 4-6. You won’t be sorry!

Why YOU Should Like Fudge!

By: Desiree Winslow

Fudge is a very yummy dessert! I will now tell you why: fudge is really sweet and chocolate! It has so good ingredients and makes you want to have lots and lots and lots more of fudge. You can dream of fudge like every day and you will arrive in

fudge land! It is yummy and yummy in your tummy!

Why Mint is the Best Toothpaste Flavor!

By Luke Martin

The best toothpaste flavor is mint. This is true because I know. All fruit-flavored toothpaste is really gross and hardens after about a week. It takes about eight months for mint to harden. And cinnamon is horrible. It never tastes like cinnamon. Mint is the best!

Valentine’s Day

I see no point in the silly way
That people will take a single day
And use it to tell their special someone,
A cheesy line of, “Unfettered love.”
If you mean it then say it in every way,
Don’t just wait for Valentine’s Day



Poems by Jason Earl

S.A.D. Day

Although everyone else
Seems to search hard for love
I’m perfectly fine with a day on my own
To walk around town, buy myself flowers
And talk to my cat for hours upon hours,
So while you’re so happy just holding hands
I’ll be on my way with a smile on my face
Celebrating Singles Awareness Day
-Dedicated to Ms. Ross

Junior High

10 Helpful Tips to Studying

By: Hannah Hays

1. Test yourself repeatedly before a test.
2. Review the hardest information right before you go to the bed.
3. Don't wake up earlier than usual to study.
4. Make sure to eat breakfast the day of the test. High fiber, High carbs (Oatmeal).
5. Eat healthy all the week before.
6. Don't listen to music or text while studying.
7. Reduce stress on the day of a test.
8. If anxious, write down your worries. Doing this relieves the brain.
9. Study for a short time but more frequently.
10. Study, study, study, study

Found at:

<http://headhearthand.org/blog/2011/10/28/whats-the-best-way-to-study-top-ten-tips/>

Just Say Whoa

By: Hollee Kaseberg

Imagine you are a sound, young racehorse. You've just finished a long, tiring race and doing your best you receive fifth place. Just because you didn't finish in first place, your cruel owner, instead of giving you a second chance, takes a chainsaw and slaughters you alive! Sadly enough, over 3,000 horses meet their deaths this way each year, slaughtered alive. Even worse, nearly 134,059 horses are slaughtered for human consumption each year. Thousands of innocent horses lose their lives yearly for no reason and it needs to be stopped.

Mahatma Ghandi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Then, what does this say about people? The fact that we allow these brutal people to send untarnished horses off to be slaughtered alive is nauseating.

Horses have been helping people around the world for centuries. Transportation, farming, war, recreation and everyday life has been changed since the horse was tamed and put to work. These are animals of trust, freedom, friendship, strength, beauty, and history. They don't deserve to be treated this way. Horses positively changed America, but we repay them by slaughtering them.

Some people may argue that these horses are sick, old, or unmanageable. However, the truth is 92% of the horses slaughtered annually are not any of the three. These are generally young, healthy, trained horses with a life of potential that is cut short due to the cruelty of humans who don't put the effort

into finding a better alternative.

If a horse is old, sick or unmanageable, euthanizing is the best answer. Euthanasia means a gentle and painless death to prevent suffering, whereas slaughterhouses prolong the suffering for days. Horses sent to a slaughterhouse spend 24 hours in an over packed cattle trailer with no food or water. Often, legs are caught in the siding of the trailer and torn off. Upon arriving at the slaughterhouse, the horses are killed while awake. There are two different types of slaughterhouses—municipal plants and clandestine facilities. Municipal plants take the horse and use it for human consumption. Clandestine plants are non-regulated.

When a horse is slaughtered, none of it is wasted. Manes and tails are cleaned and sent to China to make paintbrushes, foal (pony) skin is used in some high end leather, small intestines are made into sausage in Egypt, and carcasses are used in Crayola Crayons, cement, ink, some soaps, lipsticks, pet food, glue, and even Jell-O and gummy candies.

Horse slaughter is cruel, horrid, inhumane, and completely unnecessary. To save thousand of horses' lives you can contact members of Congress and ask to support the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (AHSPA). There are also many prevention websites online that you can join to help save the horses one at a time.



Library Learning Express

By Jason Earl & Riley Brown

The Husky Times was recently invited by Arla Melzer to the library to try out the new, "Learning Express Library," program. This program pleasantly surprised us with the broad amount of topics available to study from first grade to job hunting and even passing the U.S. Citizenship test. The site features over 770 practice tests, tutorials, job search and workplace skills improvement, career certifica-

Book Chats in the Library

If you're looking for a place to discuss your favorite books, head on down to the library during one of the upcoming book chats. These chats are more than a place to talk about books; they're also a good way to learn about

tion/licensing exam preparation, GED Exam preparation and graduate school admissions exam preparation. With all these services freely available to you, there's no reason that you shouldn't try it out.

The county library's new site also offers several other services such as the Gale databases, Tutor.com, Library2Go and much more. It's a great place to

new books that are on the library shelves and novels you might be interested in reading. Also, check with your English teacher to see if you can get extra credit for going. Book chats are held at 12:00 PM in the Library meeting room, so feel free to bring your

study for the PSAT, ACT, GED, and any other test. Also, before you take the real test, try out one of the many practice tests available to see how you would do.

Beyond just the program itself, Arla, the librarian, has a wealth of knowledge that you might find helpful in your pursuit of whatever it is that you are pursuing. She

will be glad to be of any assistance that you might need.

No matter where you find yourself in life, if there's any skill that you feel that you need to brush up on, stop by the library's website at <http://sherman-county.plinkit.org/> and click on the link that says, "Learning Express." You'll be glad that you did.

lunch, it's okay with Ree Ella to bring you tray. If you have any questions you can stop by one of the chats or ask Arla in the library.

Upcoming book chats are on the following dates:

February 15th

March 7th

March 14th



Will You Be My Anti-Valentine? *—title from New York Times* by Devyn Roberts

S.A.D. Day also known as "Singles Awareness/Appreciation Day" is on the 14th of February. Commonly associated with Valentine's Day, Singles Awareness Day is a holiday where single persons celebrate for themselves, hinting to the "Singles" in S.A.D. It is said

that many people on Singles Awareness Day wear green since green is the opposite of red; Valentines Day's color. On Singles Awareness Day, single people buy gifts for themselves, go to single events, send pictures of themselves to an ex, celebrate with friends and family,

and treat themselves by dining out. Some people who celebrate Singles Awareness Day like to remind people in relationships that being in a relationship isn't needed to be happy with one's life or needed to celebrate life. So I ask you, will you be my anti-valentine?



Superintendent's Corner

By: Ivan Ritchie

The snow and freezing rain hit our area very hard in January. We missed three days due to the severe weather. Educating our youth is important, but not as important as the safety of our children.

When deciding on closing schools I first consult with our transportation director who drives the roads starting at 3:00 am. I also drive some of the roads in the county during snow days to get a better understanding of the conditions. A decision is made by 6:00 am on a severe weather day and it is then sent to FlashAlertnewswire.net. The http address for the Portland/Gorge webpage is <http://www.craigwalker.net/pdx.html> The delay or cancelation is then distrib-

uted to TV stations in Portland and local radio stations. If you go to these websites you can view the information as it appears in the communication to the media. In our district we have a phone tree that contacts each employee and students family regarding closures/delays.

Hopefully we will have no more cancelations due to weather this school year. Sherman County is unique in that it is a large area of near 1000 square miles and has varying weather conditions, from the river to the highlands. So weather in Wasco, Moro and Grass Valley can be very different than weather in Biggs and Rufus. We

want all children in the county to travel safely to and from school.

On another note, in cooperation with the Mid-Columbia Community Concert Association we had a musical performance at Sherman Elementary January 11th by the "Men of Worth", a duo from Scotland and Ireland.

They performed several songs playing traditional instruments including the mandolin, banjo, accordion and guitar. They told stories related to the Scottish/Irish immigration to America. The children were able to participate in the music and even got to play some of the instruments. After the performance they spent time talking in detail about Scotland and Ireland with the 6th grade class.



"Lord! I wonder what fool it was that first invented kissing."

- Jonathon Swift

Mock Trial Recap

By: Samantha Coons & Brian Simantel

On January 25th the law students presented a Mock Trial for the high school students and some staff members. The students in the class had to create questions for each one of the witnesses. This trial had four members fighting for the freedom of Brit Reynolds, who was being on trial for the murder of Ann Piscatella. The members of the defense team were Riley Brown, Dan McDermid, Jordan Lane, Zach Smith, and for State of Oregon, the prosecution team members were Scot Stroud, Jesse Whitley, McKenzie Foyen and Coby Horton. Jenica Mason was the Bailiff and Ms. Kunderling was the judge. The

trial was very well done and kept you wondering who actually committed the murder. The jury was selected at random and they had to decide if Brit Reynolds was guilty or not guilty. After an exciting two hours of very convincing examinations and cross examinations, the jury deliberated. The audience waited patiently during deliberating Jason Earl was the speaker and stated that they reached a verdict of not guilty. The law class did an outstanding job of keeping everyone entertained while show casing their skills as a lawyer. This was the first Mock Trial that was done, and

we hope that there are many more to come.



"What the world really needs is more love and less paper work."

- Pearl Bailey

Fascinating Foliage

By: Brian Simantel

The Common Lilac

February is a great month for when it comes to fascinating foliage. It is a transition month for plants; they really come into their own and start producing flowers instead of their lifeless winter months. This edition, I am doing the common lilac, a beautiful smelling flower that brings a warm sensation even on the coldest of times. It is one of the first flowers to start blooming every year. It has a purple, pink or white flower and grows extremely fast. Surprisingly the lilac is not native to North America, but

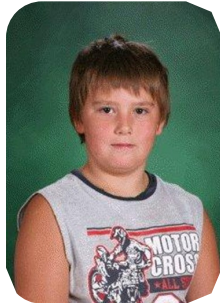
Europe. Good thing they grow in most places in the world because they make everything around them smell wonderful. Growing up with lilacs, I especially know how they make you feel. As a kid I would run past our lilac bush and it would smell wonderful, so I would cut off some flower cones to give to my mom to make our house smell good. The flower cones grow in a way to where they are perfect to cut off and put in a vase, they last for a day or two but not much more when in the open. It is a bush, but you can make it look like a tree if you let it grow big enough. They can

also grow 96 to 144 inches tall but the perfect height is when the flower cones are at eyelevel. To keep your lilac in shape cut off any dwindling branches or dead parts. If the lilac canes start to look small just cut some off and the next ones will be bigger.

http://www.garden.org/plantfinder/index.php?q=view&id=26553&bloom_color%5B%5D=PU&light%5B%5D=&moisture%5B%5D=&sort%5B%5D=common&sort_order%5B%5D=common&keyword%5B%5D=lilac



Students of the Quarter



Will James



Kelly McAlister



Hannah Hays



Scot Stroud



Hunter Grenvik

Being “Student of the Quarter” is something every student should hope for, it shows drive and hard work as a student and Athlete. The students chosen from SJSHS were Scot Stroud a Senior, Hannah Hays a Junior, and Hunter Grenvik an eighth grader. Scot Stroud was nominated by Mr. Somnis, who wrote, “Scot has been one of my top students in Strength and Conditioning class, consistently putting out a great work ethic on a daily basis and pushing himself to become better every day.” Hannah Hays was nomi-

nated by Mr. Gradek, who wrote, “Hannah puts in the time to understand my class despite the fact that it is conceptually difficult. Her hard work in my classroom helps motivates others and keeps them on task.” Hunter Grenvik was also nominated by Mr. Gradek, who wrote, “His enthusiasm is infectious and really helps other students feel welcome in my classes, the halls of SJSHS, and robotics. He’s a delightful student to teach.”

Not only is being “Student of the Quarter” a great honor at the Junior/Senior high level, but also at the Elementary level. The students chosen from the Sherman Elementary school were Will James and Kelly McAlister.

Black History Month

By: Hannah Hays

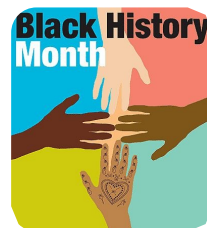
Black History Month is a huge part of America today and is celebrated by people all over the world. It wasn’t always the whole month, though. It was first celebrated as “Black History Week” in February 1926 when a Harvard Historian Carter G. Woodson believed that, “Truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice.” Even though Woodson was the first to start Black History Month, President Gerald R. Ford was the first to announce to the United States that it was an official month, not just a week

in February. Ford thought we should “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” The theme for this year’s Black History Month is “African Americans and the Civil War” highlighting the efforts of African Americans in abolishing slavery. Keep Black history month in your mind and show people you’re grateful for everything America has accomplished in becoming a strong-

er and happier place for everyone to enjoy, no matter what race.

Information from:

<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>



Principal's Corner

By: Wes Owens

Never before in history has there been more value placed on possessing a quality education. Acquiring a quality education at Sherman Jr./Sr. High School demands a concerted and consistent effort over 6 years. With this being said, parental involvement is a major component of student success. What are some appropriate ways for parents to be involved with their child’s education? The following are some strategies for your consideration:

Make school and getting an education the number one priority. Academic rigor and expectations are on the rise and it is increasingly difficult to coast to a high school diploma. Getting an education requires effort and dedication. Students need parents to consistently remind them that education is a key to their student’s future economic success.

Goal setting. It is important to help students begin to make the connections between schoolwork and success as an adult. It is critical to help students understand what they do today in school can help them reach lifetime goals.

Effective goal setting means setting high, but realistic goals that are measurable. They should include long-term and short-term goals. They should be written down, shared with others, and reviewed and revised regularly.

Monitor homework and academic progress. Setup a time and place at home for nightly schoolwork. During this time schoolwork is required and is the only activity (no TV, cell phone or Facebook, etc.). When homework is completed, go over it with your student. Any time left over should be spent reading, reviewing, or studying. Evenings at home are a wonderful time for students to hone reading skills with a book or eBook of their choice.

Attending school events with your family. Encourage your student to participate in clubs, athletics, music, drama, career related learning activities, etc.

Give your student lots of ongoing support and encouragement. Help them build on their strengths rather than focus on weaknesses. Everyone has

something they are good at and enjoy doing. Help your student find his or her niche. Assist them in becoming confident and competent by communicating implicitly and explicitly that they can deal with adversity and setbacks. Help them develop a sense of responsibility by holding them accountable to high standards.

The number one predictor of academic success and earning a high school diploma is attendance. Please assist in the effort to get your student to school on time, every day, ready to learn.

Take the opportunity to attend school activities related to supporting your student. This sets the example that you are interested and concerned with their education. For example, on March 8th at 6:30 p.m., all Sophomore, Junior, and Senior parents/students are invited to attend a College Information workshop at SJSHS. Topics will include Information on Colleges/Trade schools, Admission Policies, Scholarships, CIS Program, On-

Line Guidance Tips, and College Life.

Take the opportunity to provide feedback to us on how we can better serve you and your student. This is how we improve. I welcome your comments, questions, or concerns. You can reach me at 541-565-3500 or wow-ens@sherman.k12.or.us.

In closing, the level of commitment demanded to help ensure success is significant and challenging. Efforts on the part of our parents are nothing short of miraculous and inspiring, particularly when they are on behalf of a student who faces special obstacles to academic achievement. My sincere hope is that all parents, with the support of SJSHS, will provide direction and guidance for their student by insisting that they pursue a quality, purposeful education that leads to college, trade or professional school that prepares them for a successful future.

