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An annual publication of
Rural Educational Heritage Inc.

Send address changes to:
news@ruralspecial.org or by
calling 870-363-4411.

Rural Educational Heritage Inc.

A non-profit organization serving Rural Special School in Fox, Arkansas



Board of Directors: Chuck Hastings-Pres, Jay Berry-VP, Renee Carr-Sec/Treas, Terry Carlton, Doug Daniel, Debra Kocher, Travis Linville, Cindy Osburn, Stanley Morrison, Judy Ross, Al Schiefer, Marvin Sutterfield, and Johnny Thomas, All board members serve the organization as volunteers.

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Organization formed to support school

Rural Educational Heritage Inc.(REH) was formed last year to provide local support for Rural Special School. Although the school has been administratively controlled by Mountain View School District since 2004, there still remains strong support from the community and alumni to see the school continue to thrive and serve its students. The new organization provides a means for local support and local control of the funds. Last Fall, Friday Eldredge & Clark law firm applied for tax-exempt status from the IRS and approval was received, making donations to the organization tax deductible. The bylaws require that funds be used to benefit the school or for community projects that benefit the school. Natural gas revenue is a potential source of funds for the organization. Several land owners negotiated their lease



A new "pitched" roof was added to the high school in July by Noacon Inc. with funding provided by federal stimulus funds.

contract to require the production company to contribute a % of its production revenue to Rural Educational Heritage. Likewise, mineral owners may donate a portion of their royalties. Drilling is still in the experimental stages, having begun in the southernmost part of the county last

year. Other donations have been received, enabling the board to begin evaluating projects to fund including the ceiling tile project below. Donations are accepted for specific projects as well as for general support to fulfill the mission of the organization..

REH funds cafeteria improvement and volunteers install new ceiling tile.

REH and Noacon Construction split the cost of new ceiling tiles which were installed by volunteers Junior Barham, Johnny Thomas, Jay Berry, Marty Berry, Doug Daniel, David Mitchell, Philip Carr, Roger Hipp, Robert Stone, and Allen Stone. Scaffolding for the project was loaned by Mr. & Mrs. Roger Koenig.





Rural Special PTO continues to support students and teachers.

The school's Parent Teacher Organization remains active in supporting programs of the school. The cost of the marquee at left was donated to the PTO by Typhoon Energy in late 2008. PTO continues to get the bulk of its funds from the Fall Festival, which is well supported by teachers, students, parents, and community alike. PTO also receives a \$1,000 annual prize for 30 years from winning a promotional drawing during the grand opening of Centennial Bank's branch bank. PTO funded the following projects last year: landscaping on campus, peewee basketball uniforms and banquet, reward field trips, Science camp fees, Quiz Bowl equipment and meal, yearbook fundraiser, teacher supplies,

and teacher appreciation. Fall Festival is scheduled for September 24 this year and the public is invited to participate. Below PTO Treasurer Kami Sutterfield models her t-shirt with a spirited message.



Scores among highest in Arkansas

The tradition of academic success continues at Rural Special. Several classes posted scores among the highest in Arkansas last year. Mrs. Pam Thomas' 3rd grade class was 3rd in the state (among 762 schools) in Math and all students were proficient or advanced in Math and Literacy. Mrs. Linda Linville's 8th grade class was 2nd in the state (out of 546 schools) in Literacy and 3rd in Math. In high school, Ms. Ashley Dorsey's 11th grade continued a strong tradition, placing 8th among 280+ high schools in the End-of-Course Literacy exam.

Enrollment Increases for 2010-2011

Enrollment is on the rise at the school with 218 students in K-12, a 25% increase since 2007. The growth potential looks promising with Kindergarten (19) and First Grade (23) being among the largest classes. Elementary Principal Shelia Mitchell said "After a very busy summer, the school year is off to a great start! We are all very proud of the various improvements that took place over the summer and that our enrollment has again increased: On top of all this, we are excited about new floor tile in the elementary building and a new roof on the high

school, and thanks to REH, new ceiling tile throughout the cafeteria and stage. We also welcome several new staff members and students, including some students from Norway!"



Deariens are Farm Family of the Year



Rural Special alum Viola (Sutterfield) Dearien, husband Phil, and sons Johnny and Shane were named Stone County's 2010 Farm Family of the Year. Their farm is located within one mile of Rural Special where Johnny & Shane are students. (Photo courtesy of Stone County Leader)

Golden Wedding Wall dedicated

Long marriages of 50 years or more were recognized in May 2010 with a photo wall at the Fox Community Center. The Fox History Committee worked on the display that includes 5x7 photos of 96 couples who reached the 50 year milestone. This adds to a 2007 Veteran Wall project at the Center that displays photos of 201 veterans from the Fox area. Contact Lela Schiefer at 870-363-4368 to be added to either wall or to schedule a tour.

Herbert & Shirley Taylor Trust provides \$30,000 gift

Jeanne Taylor Castro has announced a gift of \$30,000 to Rural Educational Heritage Inc. from the Herbert & Shirley Taylor Trust. Herbert was born and raised in Rushing and left home as a teenager during the depression. He took a train and also hitchhiked, ending up in southern California. There he married Shirley and spent his career in business and investment. Herb and Shirley retired to Greers Ferry where they spent the last 20 years of their lives. To give back their love and appreciation of both the people and the environment, the goal of the trust is to aid local

residents to achieve educational and employment goals via scholarships and assistance in local business ventures. Jeanne and REH have agreed to use this \$30,000 gift as a challenge to the community to raise matching funds through local donations. The funds will be used to build a multi-functional facility to house a Pre-School and a Business/Technology Center that will provide technical assistance and training for those starting a trade or business. Once the funds have been matched, grants will be pursued to complete the project.



Herb & Shirley Taylor leave a legacy of giving back to community

Other business and community gifts received and scholarships established

A donation was received in memory of Violet and Keith Taylor. Violet recently passed away. She was a graduate of Rural Special and later served as secretary/bookkeeper for many years. The donation will be used to help fund programs of the school with further guidelines to be developed by the Taylor family. A new scholarship was recently established for Rural Special graduates. A scholarship honoring Ruby Berry and the late

Aubrey Berry has been established by their children and grandchildren and will be awarded in May. Criteria for the scholarship will be developed by the family. This scholarship adds to existing community scholarships including: Elsie Morris Compton Scholarship, Paul Harris Scholarship, Rachel Bonds Scholarship, Broyles Memorial Scholarship, and the Rick Bane Scholarship.



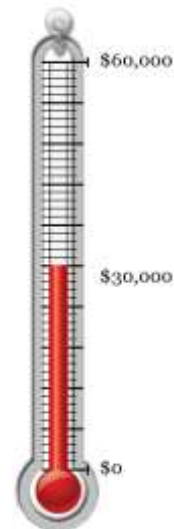
Petrohawk Energy donated office furniture for the main office and library in August

Board sets long-term goal of acquiring land and building preschool center

At its May board meeting, the Rural Educational Heritage board discussed the needs of the school and determined its first priority to be replacement of cafeteria ceiling tiles. Showing a long-term vision and commitment, the board set as its next priority the construction of a pre-school facility and an extra classroom. Currently there are no childcare facilities in the **Fox area. This year and last year's** large Kindergarten enrollments dem-

onstrate there are sufficient numbers of preschoolers to make the project feasible. All classrooms on campus are currently fully utilized, leaving no other options for expansion of programs. The organization agreed to acquire land on which to build the facility and planned to begin fundraising efforts toward the goal. Within a month after establishing this long-term goal the board was notified of the commitment of a generous dona-

tion in memory of Herbery & Shirley Taylor. This significant gift jumpstarts the fund development for the project, giving the community a target to reach. The board is grateful for the generous gift and acknowledges that the timing could not have been better. The website at www.ruralspecial.org will have a thermometer to register the donations as received. Gifts of any size will help the project and move us closer to reaching the goal.



Rural Educational Heritage Inc.

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If you have a news article or alumni news to be considered for future editions, please email to news@ruralspecial.org

We're on the web!
ruralspecial.org

Bi-annual Alumni Reunion for 1949-1960 graduating classes will be Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 27, 2010 at 2 pm. Location to be determined. Contact Wendell Murray 870-363-4391 or Angalee Rushing 870-363-4451.

Rural Special History Books

Rural Special history books may be ordered for \$25 dollars plus mailing costs, if any. The profit from sale of the books goes to Rural Special PTO. The book includes the senior class photo of all seniors from 1949 to the present, and includes photos and information on basketball teams and other sports. A listing of all graduating seniors, teachers, staff, principals, superintendents, and board members, etc over the school's 64 year history is included.



Fox Fun Fest set for October 9. Fox Disaster Center assembled.

The Fox Fun Fest, typically held on the first Saturday of June, was postponed this summer after an April tornado destroyed the pavilion and uprooted trees around the park. The park was cleaned up and the pavilion rebuilt this summer with state funds. The annual fest will be held Saturday, October 9 from 10 am to 3 pm and will feature kids games, music, food, and fire department competitions. Recent tornadoes and ice storms prompted community members and church congregations to work together to build a Disaster Center at the Fox Community Center in April 2009. A generator sufficient to run the fire department

and the community center was donated by Arkansas Forestry Commission. Donations were received from businesses and individuals to purchase a storage unit and buy supplies to stock it. A disaster response plan was compiled by Al Schiefer and distributed at the service day in April 2009. Volunteers built a shed for the generator, leveled the container unit, built shelves in the unit, assembled personal hygiene kits, canned dry foods, and stocked shelves. The Fox Community Services Committee may be contacted with items of donation. Contact Scott Branscum for more information.

