



## Student Accomplishments

### There is no finish line until there is a cure!

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) hosted the first Denise McClung Relay For Life event on February 16. The event serves as a national community service project for DHS. HOSA students raised over \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society. Thank you to student event chairs Laketa Bowser and Amanda Biggs and all who participated!



photo courtesy of David Goodspeed

### DHS Academic Decathlon Team Goes to State

For the seventh consecutive year, the ACDec team advanced to State after students earned the 3rd place Region VIII Team Award at regionals. One student won a Silver in Music at State. The team finished 5th in Super Quiz Team Relay, out of 40, and finished 24th out of 40 overall. Pictured above from left to right, sitting: Coach Rob Gawedzinski, Melissa Jackson, Sarah Sabo, and Coach Diane Gawedzinski. From left to right, standing: Ian Glenn, Denver Pierce, Andrew Kooor, Max Ward, Laurens Doelman, Paul Brown, Evan Martin, and James Young.



### Duncanville ISD Student Wins Area Spelling Bee

Byrd Middle School 8th grader Amber Key-Murphy won the Dallas County Public Schools Spelling Bee for the second time. She advances to the Regional Spelling Bee which will be held March 20. Pictured above from left to right: Lori Sutherland, Spelling Bee Coordinator at Byrd Middle School; Amber Key-Murphy, Spelling Bee winner; and Sandra Cheshire, English Teacher at Byrd.



### National Merit Finalists Named

Duncanville High School seniors Ian Glenn and James Frank were named National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Ian and James are two of more than 15,000 students nationwide to be named National Merit Finalists. These students will now compete for over 8,000 Merit Scholarship awards to be offered in 2004. Scholarship offers will be mailed to selected students in March.

### District Geography Bee Winners

Thirty-five elementary, intermediate and middle school students competed in Duncanville ISD's 14th Annual Geography Bee on Friday, January 23, 2004. This is the first time in district history that an elementary student has won First Place! Congratulations to our First Place winner Zac Stanton.

- 1st place - Zac Stanton, 4th Grade, Hyman Elementary School
- 2nd place - Stephen Cahill, 7th Grade, Byrd Middle School
- 3rd place - Nathan Warren, 6th Grade, Hardin Intermediate School

### District Spelling Bee Winners

The Annual District Spelling Bee was held February 6. Congratulations to our 2004 District Spelling Bee Winners...

- 1st place - Amber Key-Murphy, 8th Grade, Byrd Middle School
- 2nd place - Shaw Vonder Hoya, 8th Grade, Reed Middle School
- 3rd place - Joice Lee, 5th Grade, Daniel Intermediate School

### Panther Tale Staff Win Awards

The Yearbook staff won 12 Gold Keys and four Sweepstakes awards in the Quill and Scroll Yearbook Excellence Contest. This accounts for about 12 percent of the Gold Keys and a third of the Sweepstakes (single best entry in the category) awards among schools with over 750 in enrollment in this national competition.

### Other DISD Accomplishments

A total of 97 DHS students have qualified for All-Region Band! Seven DHS Band members were named to All-State!

One DHS Choir student was named to All-State!

Nine DHS students advanced to State for solo/ensemble in Choir!

Congratulations to the DHS Pantherettes who are the State 5A runnerup for 2004!

Thirty-eight DHS Career & Technology students will advance to the SkillsUSA District 6 Skills & Leadership Contest later this spring!

DHS Football Players Named to 5A Academic All-State Football Team: one to 1st Team, four to 2nd Team, and ten to Honorable Mention!

### Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day

Duncanville ISD will celebrate June 9, 2004 as national "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" with other Region X school districts.

## Student Transfer Guidelines

Student transfer request forms are now available at all elementary, middle, and intermediate school campuses for parents who wish to request a transfer for their student(s). All transfer requests must be submitted to the office of Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Randy Cothran at 502 East Freeman Street no later than 4:00 p.m. June 1, 2004.

Only valid educational reasons will be accepted for transfer requests. A transfer will not be granted if the transfer would require the District to increase staffing at a campus, change classroom space at a campus, or cause an enrollment imbalance

among campuses.

All transfers are conditional and must be approved each year. The district will not provide transportation for students who have been granted a student transfer.

Student transfer request forms and a complete description of student transfer guidelines are available at each elementary, middle, and intermediate campus as well as the Duncanville Administration building, 802 South Main Street, and the Duncanville Education Center (DEC), 502 E. Freeman Street.

## DISD Board of Trustees Election May 15

Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees Places 1, 2, and 3 are on the May 15, 2004 election ballot. Applications are available Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the office of Jim Schiele, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, located at the DISD Administration building, 802 South Main Street. The deadline to file an application for a place on the May ballot is 5:00 p.m. March 15. Early voting begins April 28 at the Duncanville Library/Community Center.

Two Board of Trustee members have announced they will not seek additional terms. Board President Dan Jespersen, who serves in Place 3, and Lesa Conley, who serves in Place 1, will not seek additional terms. Joe Gray, incumbent for Place 2, has filed.

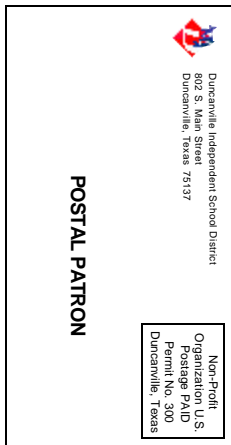
Trustees Jespersen and Conley have served the district a combined 27 years, providing invaluable leadership and extensive knowledge to our

District. They have been stalwarts of sound decisions on the Board, always putting the needs of students first. The District extends its appreciation and gratitude for their many years of outstanding service.

The Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees hosted their fifth annual Potential Board Member Academy on January 31 and February 7. The purpose of the academy is to offer potential candidates the opportunity to become familiar with school board practices and procedures. The first session of the training was conducted by Dr. Bob Thompson of Lamar University. The second session was conducted by current Board members who shared their experiences and successes as Board Trustees.



2003/2004 Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees from left to right: first row: Joe Gray, Dan Jespersen, and Marshal Wesley; second row: Dorothy Wolverton, Max Harper, Superintendent Jerry Cook, Lesa Conley, and Terry Barnard.



## All-American Team Coach

Cathy Self-Morgan, Duncanville High School Girls Basketball Coach, has been selected as head coach of the West team in the 3rd annual McDonald's All-American Girls High School Basketball game. The game will be played Wednesday, March 31 at Oklahoma City's Ford Center. This prestigious honor is a reflection of Cathy's exemplary coaching career. Duncanville ISD is blessed to have Cathy in our family and we are proud of her many accomplishments.



# The Source

Duncanville Independent School District

From Superintendent  
Jerry Cook



March 2004

## State Funding Issues

1980 versus 2004. The world we live in today is vastly different from the one we lived in more than twenty years ago. Advancements in technology alone have dramatically reshaped our lives. In 1980 the internet did not exist, scanning products at the check-out line had not been introduced, and security officers were not seen on school campuses.

In 1980 the cost of public education was also considerably different. For example, a starting teacher's salary was approximately \$10,000 in 1980, compared

to Duncanville ISD's current starting teacher's salary of \$36,500.

There are a number of other critical differences that have influenced the increasing cost of providing a quality education today. In 1980 the student teacher ratio of 22 to 1 did not exist, TEKS/TAKS and other state testing requirements did not exist, and technology was not part of classroom instruction. Furthermore,

the needs of our students are much different. Today 49% of Duncanville ISD students participate in the free/reduced lunch program and the number of other

special programs, such as bilingual education and ESL classes, has significantly grown.

Despite the increased cost of public education, the state share of public school funding has steadily decreased since 1980 to its lowest level since World War II. In 1980 the state paid 54% of every general operation dollar. Today, the state funds approximately 38% of the cost, leaving districts to fund the remaining 62%. Duncanville ISD receives even less state funding. Only 35% of the General Operating Cost is paid by the state, while the remaining 65% is funded by local taxpayers.

This shift of funding to

local districts is the key reason a number of superintendents across the State of Texas are speaking to the lack of resources available to fund schools. A lack of resources makes it increasingly more difficult to meet the ever-changing needs of our students, and this concerns educators greatly.

Duncanville ISD continues to evaluate opportunities to provide programs and services in a more efficient and effective manner without compromising academic achievement. Difficult cuts in personnel budgets were made last year through the implementation of the "First Things First" budget process in order

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## Inside this Issue

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- Campus Teachers of the Year
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- Student Transfer Information

## Fiscal Accountability Rating

In January 2004, Duncanville ISD was presented with a clean audit report that indicated no material weaknesses and a sound internal control structure. The audit indicated that the District's reserve fund is very healthy, especially for a district of our size.

In addition to a sound audit report, the District received a superior rating on the Financial Integrity Rating

System of Texas (FIRST). This rating is the highest possible rating that the district can receive. Our careful planning and frugal management have assisted the District in maintaining quality education programs.



## Campus Teachers of the Year Selected

Duncanville ISD congratulates the 2004 Campus Teachers of the Year. These gifted educators will represent their campuses at the Annual Employee Awards Banquet on May 10, when the district Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year will be announced.

<b>Acton Elementary</b> Tameka Butts	<b>Fairmeadows Elementary</b> Beverly Warren
<b>Alexander Elementary</b> Janice Kalinec	<b>Hardin Intermediate</b> Rebecca Pearson
<b>Bilhartz Elementary</b> Domisha Shead	<b>Hastings Elementary</b> Lori Jackson
<b>Brandenburg Intermediate</b> Jan Boilinsky	<b>Hyman Elementary</b> Debra McNair
<b>Byrd Middle School</b> Sandra Cheshier & Alexondria Zeigler	<b>PACE School</b> Valerie Kelley
<b>Central Elementary</b> Sherry Sanders	<b>Merrifield Elementary</b> Jose Garcia
<b>Daniel Intermediate</b> Tiffani Smith	<b>Reed Middle School</b> Kim Edmondson & Leslie Laws
<b>Duncanville Ninth Grade School</b> Jimmy Alcorn & Hazel Wiley	<b>Smith Elementary</b> Christine Dodge
<b>Duncanville High School</b> Eddie Mansfield, Kathy Richey, & Ted Thomas	<b>Summit</b> David Gund

### 2003 District Teachers of the Year

Media Smith & Eunice Hamlin



### State Funding *continued from page 1*

to streamline the District. This budget process allows every department to prioritize programs and relate all decisions to what is educationally sound for students.

Unfortunately, the District will eventually be forced to reduce or eliminate programs and services if the current funding system does not change. Public schools need more base funding than what is allotted

under the current system.

Please encourage your legislators to support state funding of at least 50% of the general operation cost of education in Texas by 2005, and 60% within the next ten years. Doing so will produce a public education funding reform plan that provides adequate base funding for all schools so that our children are afforded a quality education.

## Coach Alpert a Duncanville Champion



Bob Alpert joined the Duncanville ISD staff as Athletic Director and head football coach in July, 1996. In his seven and one-half years with Duncanville, Coach Alpert held one of the best 5A records in the Dallas Fort Worth metropolplex, with an impressive record of 59 wins and 15 losses. In his first year, Bob led the team to its first undefeated regular season in school history. In 1997, his team advanced to the state semifinals after winning back-to-back district titles. In 1998, his third season with Duncanville, he coached the Panther football team to a 5A Division I state football championship.

In recognition of his outstanding football coaching performance and dedication, Coach Alpert was named 1998 Coach of the Year by the Dallas Cowboys and the NFL, as well as the Dallas Morning News and the Texas Sports Writers Association. Alpert also received a number of District Coach of the Year honors during his 34-year coaching career.

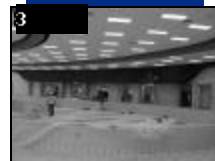
Alpert's 21-year combined record as a head coach is 184 wins, 57 losses, and four ties. He cultivated leadership among his players at every district he served.

Duncanville Independent School District lost a true educator on January 8, 2004 with the passing of Athletic Director Bob Alpert. Coach Alpert was known for his leadership and motivation. With the belief that athletics teaches valuable life lessons, Coach Alpert expected his students to set high goals and make positive contributions to society. His vibrant personality and enthusiastic spirit molded the Duncanville athletic program. He was a true Champion in so many ways, and will be deeply missed by our community.

### Congratulations to DHS Career & Technology Teacher, Karen Anderson!



Ms. Anderson has been selected by the Texas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences as the 2004 Teacher of the Year.



## Phase IV Academic Additions Completed...

When students return from spring break they will be eating lunch in the new 16,000 square foot dining hall that will seat over 1,000 students. On March 22, students will also begin attending class in the new 220,000 square foot academic wing. The science labs will provide a state-of-the-art environment for learning.

## Phase V Athletic Addition Completed...

The Sandra Meadows Memorial Arena was completed nearly two months ahead of schedule, in time for the SWAUU Tournament in December 2003. The Pantherettes inaugurated the Arena by winning not only the tournament but all nine home games played in the new arena. The athletic complex includes two additional competition gymnasiums and two physical education gymnasiums.

## Softball Complex Completed...

The softball stadium is complete and is ready for the 2004 spring season.



### Photography Index

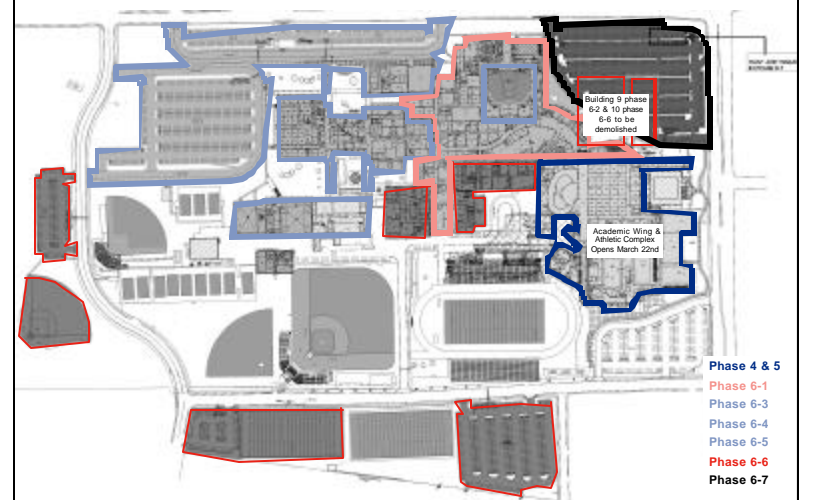
- 1 Inside the Sandra Meadows Arena.
- 2 "Main Street" corridor of the new academic wing opening March 22.
- 3 The new DHS cafeteria.
- 4 A science lab in the new DHS academic wing.
- 5 Hallway in the new DHS academic wing.
- 6 Sandra Meadows Arena.
- 7 New DHS softball complex.
- 8 Central Kitchen construction site along Cedar Ridge.

## Duncanville ISD Facilities Receive National Recognition

Two Duncanville ISD athletic facilities have received national recognition. Baseball America, a national magazine, ranked the Duncanville Panther Baseball Stadium as the 5th Best High School Ball Park Facility in the nation and USA TODAY, a national daily newspaper, named the Sandra Meadows Memorial Arena as one of the Top 10 Great Places to Watch High School Basketball.

## Construction Update 7

### DUNCANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PHASE 6 - CONSTRUCTION PHASING PLAN



## Under Construction...

Construction of the new **Central Kitchen and Food Storage Warehouse** is underway with the clearing of the site located along Cedar Ridge Road across from the high school. Completion is scheduled for Summer 2004.

The **Duncanville High School Phase 6** construction plan includes the demolition of Building 9, which is currently underway, and the demolition of Building 10, which is scheduled to occur June 2005. Phase 6 also includes the renovation of west campus classrooms, and construction of the fine arts performance theater, the library

media center, Career & Technology classrooms, and parking lot improvements at the campus. Phase 6 construction is scheduled for completion in July 2005.

**When will ninth grade students move to the high school campus?** The conversion of the Duncanville Ninth Grade School into a third middle school will begin in May 2005 with completion scheduled for August 2005. The ninth grade will permanently move to the Duncanville High School campus in August 2005.

Renovations will start this summer at **Brandenburg Daniel, and Hardin**

**intermediate schools, and Fairmeadows, Hastings, and Smith elementary schools.** Renovations will be complete in August 2004.

**Byrd Middle School, Hardin Intermediate, and Acton, Merrifield, and Hastings elementary schools** parking lots and drives will be improved beginning May 2004 and completed by August 2004.

Renovations of the two existing middle schools, **Byrd and Reed**, will begin May 2005.