

Board Approves Employment Of Teacher/Coach

At the regular January school board meeting held Monday evening, Chad Larkin of Dimmitt was employed as a secondary teacher (science, math, remedials and ELA), and also a coach to help out with spring sports. His wife, Angela, is a teacher at Hart Elementary.

Only four board members were present: Angie Ramirez, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Raul Gonzalez and Vickie Chavez. Absent were Steven Reyna and

Elodia Rodriguez.

Secondary math teacher Laura Zepeda was the spotlight teacher. She spoke of how she uses iPads that each student has been issued for her classes. Her goal, she said, is, "How can I make theirs and my day easier?"

She poses a question each class day. If all students get the correct answer, then she said

there is no problem to address. She is able to quickly assess on how kids are doing with their answers because of the technology. She told the Board that the students also use paper and pen to work out problems.

The iPads allow the students to record the classroom lessons by making a video, which they can refer to after class. Zepeda

said that by recording the classes before leaving the classroom allows the students to access the video at home, even if there is no Internet connection there. She said, "It's like having a 24-7 tutor."

She said that she also uses the iPads as a way to get rid of excuses and to raise expectations.

January Is School Board Month

continued from Page 1

students."

"Preparing today's students to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow is a tremendous task. As elected officials, school board members are the voice of their communities, serving first and foremost in the best interest of our school children," said Miller.

"We proudly salute these education advocates as they provide vision and leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding and school facilities. Their service ensures that decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of our community's children and families," said Miller. "These dedicated individuals deserve recognition and thanks for their unfailing commitment to the continuing success of our students now and in the future," he said.

The men and women serving Hart ISD are Vickie Chavez, Raul Gonzales, Steven Reyna, Angelica Ramirez, Elodia Rodriguez and Mary Ann Rodriguez.

"Great leadership always begins with a willing heart, a positive attitude and a desire to make a difference. Please join us as we applaud these local leaders for truly caring about our kids," said Miller.

Melanie Upshaw Hart Recognized By TTU

Melanie Upshaw Hart, a Hart High School graduate, recently was recognized by Texas Tech University's Chancellor's Council.

Hart and other TTU professors and researchers were recognized as making a difference in the world. These individuals, according to the Chancellor's Council, are world-renowned experts in their fields and continue to drive the Texas Tech University System forward.

Dr. Hart serves as interim chair of the Dept. of Health, Exercise and Sport Sciences and

associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University. She teaches courses in exercise and sport sciences and assists the university in distance and online education.

A member of Phi Kappa Phi, the National Association of Kinesiology in Higher Education, and the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity, she was inducted into the Texas Tech Teaching Academy in 2008 and

has been commended by students for creating an atmosphere where they are free to express opinions and ask questions.

She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech University and earned her Ph.D. in motor behavior from Auburn University.

Melanie is the daughter of former Hart residents, Preston and LaVerne Upshaw of Ransom Canyon.

Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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