



LU-T BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Art Brate, President
Joseph Farmer, Shaun Hochradel,
John Hutton & S. Michael Raver

THE MISSION OF THE
LIBERTY UNION - THURSTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
IS TO PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS WITH THE TOOLS
FOR LEARNING AND THE SKILLS FOR LIVING,
THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION.

Message from the Superintendent:

The request to place a renewal levy on the May 4th ballot has been filed with the Fairfield County Board of Elections. A few facts about this issue:

The LU-T School District has a "permanent" 1.25% income tax, which was approved by voters in 1990. In May, 2005, an additional half-percent income tax was passed, for a five year period. That half-percent tax will expire in 2010. The purpose of the levy request this spring is to re-approve the half-percent income tax for an additional five years.

A few questions have been asked about the levy. Here are answers to those questions:

Q: Will taxes go up if this issue is approved?

A: Voter approval for the half-percent income tax renewal will keep tax rates the same as they have been for the past five years. Due to the nature of "income" tax, each individual person's tax obligation depends upon that person's earnings during the year. If an individual's earnings have increased, there would be an increase in tax owed; if a person's income has been reduced, there would be a reduction in tax owed.

Q: Is the tax issue for operating expenses or building/construction expenses?

A: This tax has been and will continue to be for operating expenses.

Q: What is being taxed? All income, or "earned income" only?

A: All income is taxed. Again, this is unchanged; same as the past five years.

Q: Since the state and national economy is in a downturn, resulting in reduced income for some people, will the overall revenue generated by this income tax be less than in previous years?

A: Yes. The Ohio Department of Taxation has projected that our school district should expect a ten to twelve percent reduction in income tax revenue due to the economy. Obviously, that is a concern, and we will have to budget accordingly.

If you have questions about the levy ballot issue please contact me or Treasurer David Butler. If you are a member of a community group and would like for one of us to talk with your group about the levy, please let us know.

Recently, the Ohio Department of Education applied for a Federal grant, titled "Race to the Top". The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for school improvement initiatives which are designed to raise student achievement. Program requirements include greater teacher and principal accountability for student learning. Local school districts interested in improved student performance through this initiative are required to have teacher commitment to the process. Despite the fact that the Department of Education gave Ohio school districts a very short window of opportunity, and limited details, I am very pleased to report that our school district has applied to be a "Race to the Top" district. During the winter vacation, we had teacher representation at a meeting with the Ohio Department of Education Deputy Superintendent, where we were able to get clarification on some grant requirements. Although we are in the very early stages of the "Race to the Top" process, it is important for you to know that our staff is certainly committed to helping students reach their academic potential!

The LU-T School District has partnered for many years with the Columbus AIDS Task Force, to provide educational information for students with regard to the risks of HIV infection and sexually transmitted disease. Fairfield County is one of several surrounding counties which are having annual increases in cases. Through a grant program intended to help reduce the spread of HIV infection, the Ohio AIDS Task Force will be offering an annual HIV testing program. On March 2nd, Ohio AIDS Task Force Intervention Specialists will provide free HIV testing at the Basil Joint Fire Station, from 3 - 5 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m. Testing does not require a blood draw, and results are available within thirty minutes. Testing and results are strictly confidential. To be tested, please contact Ohio AIDS Task Force representative Kathy Sellers, at (614) 340-6737 or 1-866-739-0720 ext. 107 for a specific appointment time. Your call and testing can be anonymous.

Paul Mathews

ADMINISTRATION

Paul E. Mathews, Superintendent	862-4171
David I. Butler, Treasurer	862-4171
Ed Miller, High School Principal	862-4107
Chet Coleman, Asst High School Principal	862-4107
Scott Williamson, Athletic Director	862-4107
Hank Gavarkavich, Middle School Principal	862-4126
Kelli Brownfield, Elementary School Principal	862-4143
Judy Cleland, Transportation Coordinator	862-4171
Jan Friedrich, Food Service Supervisor	862-4107

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Liberty Union High School "Students of the Month" for January are **Travis Reeves** and **Elijah Varney**.

Travis Reeves, son of Bill and Cassie Reeves, is a senior student at Liberty Union High School. Travis is a very active member of FFA. He is a member of the FFA Tractor Trouble-Shooting Team. Travis is also a 4-H member, and participates in horse showing events through the American Quarter Horse Association.



Elijah Varney, son of John Varney and Dawn Varney, is a sophomore student at Liberty Union High School. He has a 3.4 grade-point average. **Elijah** is a member of the High School Chorale, and is a yearbook team member. **Elijah** also sings in a church youth group band.

Travis and **Elijah** will be recognized at the February 8th Board of Education meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library.



TEACHER OF THE MONTH

The "Teacher of the Month" for January is **Ms. Mallory James**, intervention specialist at Liberty Union Middle School. She was selected by her peers to receive this award, and she will be recognized at the February 8th Board of Education meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library. Our thanks to the Mark Matthews Insurance Agency, for sponsorship of this award program during the

2009/2010 school year!



HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION HAS BEGUN

Bids for the new middle school have been advertised, and opening of the bids is scheduled for February 23rd. We anticipate a high number of bidders and very competitive bid proposals. The first phase of the high school renovation is progressing well.



MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

PFC Donald Roshon is our featured military person for the month of February. **Mr. Roshon** is a 1951 graduate of Liberty Union High School, and a 1955 graduate of Capital University. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1956. He completed basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado, and then attended Small Arms School in Aberdeen, Maryland. **Mr. Roshon** was then assigned to the 708th Ordnance Battalion "Company B", in Nu Ulm, Germany. As Small Arms Repairman, **Mr. Roshon** traveled across Germany inspecting and repairing weapons, and was recruited to assist the European Rifle & Pistol Team in competitions in Europe and, back in the United States, in competitions in Georgia, Ohio and Kansas. Discharged from the U.S. Army in 1958, **Mr. Roshon** returned to Baltimore, and married Nancy in 1960. **Mr. Roshon** purchased the Basil Lumber Yard in 1967, operating the yard for thirty years, until his retirement. **Donald** and Nancy had two children, Melissa and Amy, who both graduated from Liberty Union High School and Capital University. We thank **PFC Roshon** for his service to America through the United States Army, and for his support of our school district and community!



MILITARY RECOGNITION

Do you have a family member or friend who is a LUHS graduate or lives in the Baltimore community and has served or is currently serving our country through military service? Bring, mail or e-mail a picture and pertinent information to the District Office.

HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Helen Cothrel, Hannah Montgomery, Michael Kennebeck, Tiffany Lawless, Ryan Hankison, and Tori Holstein, represented LUHS at the Ohio Model United Nations Conference, held in Columbus, January 10th through the 12th. Our students were among twelve hundred high school students from across the state, who participated in the mock United Nations Assembly. The LUHS team selected Paraguay as their country of representation. They created a resolution for introduction and debate in their council session, and represented Paraguay's interests in the General Assembly and General Summit of Nations. Team Paraguay also participated in the Peace Essay Contest as well as the Native Talent Competition.



LITERARY GUILD

Read with the Liberty Union High School Literary Guild as we raise money for new books for the Baltimore Branch Library, on Saturday, February 27th, in an all day Read-A-Thon from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Baltimore Branch Library. The LUHS Literary Guild will be holding a high school wide Read-A-Thon from February 15th-27th, ending with the all-day reading event. You can help by giving pledges or donations to those reading, or you can read with us! !



Please help the HS Literary Guild (Library Club) save BoxTops4Education. The guild is saving box tops as an annual project to buy new books for the high school library. The box tops can be found on the bottom of General Mills cereals, Green Giant frozen vegetables, Huggies products, Toaster Strudels, Betty Crocker, Fiber One bars, and many more products. Each one is worth 10 cents, so they can add up. Any box tops you can forward to the high school would be much appreciated.



LIBERTY UNION KNOWLEDGE BOWL TEAM

The Knowledge Bowl team opened its season with a home match on Wednesday, January 20th. They lost to Canal Winchester but defeated Licking Heights and Hamilton Township. In their second week of play, the team lost to Fisher Catholic and defeated Fairfield Union and Logan Elm, earning a 4-2 record.

There are a total of five weeks of regular season play. Liberty Union will travel to Berne Union and Granville, host another home match on February 24, and finish the season with the tournament at Teays Valley on March 10.

1st row: Miranda McGrothers, Christina Kohler
2nd row: Brielle Moon, Helen Cothrel, Madison Moore, Jayce Born, Sarah Klopfer, Josh Motts
3rd row: Andy Dickson, Aaron Burnside, Josh Makuch, Ryan Hankinson, advisor, Debbie Young



TEACHER RECOGNIZED

Mrs. Karen Walter received "Honorable Mention" recognition in the selection process for the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation "Teacher of the Year." **Mrs. Walter** teaches fourth-grade at Liberty Union Elementary School. Congratulations, **Mrs. Walter** for the well-deserved recognition, and thanks for the great work you do with our students!



2010 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Barry Blackstone, Larry Blackstone, George Shreyer, Matthew Mullins and John Varney were inducted into the LUHS Athletic Hall of Fame on January 22nd at a special recognition held before the varsity boys game vs Millersport.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Any graduate of Liberty Union High School or Thurston High School may obtain more information or an application for future Athletic Hall of Fame induction by contacting **Mr. Scott Williamson**, Athletic Director, at 500 Washington Street, Baltimore, Ohio 43105, or by phone at (740) 862 - 4107.

SIGN LANGUAGE

First-grade students of **Mrs. Beery** and **Miss Linscott**, along with **Mrs. Savage's** third-grade students sang and "signed" the National Anthem for the girls' varsity basketball audience on Friday, January 29th. The students did an outstanding job, which the crowd certainly appreciated! The students will perform again at the boy's varsity game on Saturday, February 13th. Great job, students, and a special thanks to their teachers!



2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Feb. 15	Presidents Day - No School
April 2-5	Spring Break - No School
May 28	Student Last Day
May 31	Memorial Day - No School
May 30	3:15 p.m. - Graduation
<p>Note: If an energy, weather, or other crisis occurs, make-up days will be added to the calendar as an adjustment for school closings according to the following priority: April 5; after that, days will be added to the end of the school year.</p>	

February, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8 5:00 Jr Hi B BB @ Millersport 7:00 Brd of Ed Mtg	9 <i>B BB @ Berne Union</i> 4:30 Fresh 6:00 JV 7:30 Var	10 <i>Wrest @ Westfall</i> 5:30 Var 6:00 Jr Hi	11	12 6 BB 6:00 JV vs Grove City Christian 7:30 Var vs Millersport (Senior Night)	13 <i>HS Solo & Ensemble @ Pickerington North</i> <i>TBA 7th & 8th Gr G BB @ W Jeff</i> <i>TBA 7th Gr B BB Tourn @ Harvest Prep</i> <i>TBA 8th Gr B BB Tourn @ St Mary</i> <i>9:00 am Var & JrHi</i> <i>Wrest MSL Duals</i> <i>9:30 Swim Sect Meet @ Columbus Academy</i> B BB vs Harvest Prep 6:00 JV & 7:30 Var
14 Band Booster Market Day Orders Due	15 Presidents Day No School 9:00 am HS Lib Balt Village Press Conference	16 B BB vs Licking Hghts 6:00 JV 7:30 Var (Sr Recognition)	17	18	19 <i>11:00 am Dist Swim Meet @ OSU</i> <i>5:30 Sect Wrest Tour</i> <i>B BB @ Millersport</i> 6:00 Var ONLY	20 9:00 am Band Booster Market Day Pick-Up @ MS Cafe <i>TBA 7th & 8th Gr B BB Championships @ Fisher</i> <i>10:00 Sect Wrest Tourn</i> 5:00 BINGO
21	22	23	24	25 Science Fair	26 <i>5:30 Dist Wrest Tourn</i> <i>8:00 pm Swim State Meet @ Canton</i>	27 10am-5pm Read-a-Thon @ Baltimore Library <i>7:30 am Swim State Meet @ Canton</i> <i>10:00 am Dist Wrest Tourn</i>
28	1	2 Music Boosters	3 Athletic Boosters	4 <i>TBA State Wrest @ Schottenstein Ctr</i> 7:00 HS Band & Choir Concert	5 <i>TBA State Wrest @ Schottenstein Ctr</i>	6 <i>TBA State Wrest @ Schottenstein Ctr</i> 5:00 BINGO