

# Construction wrapping up at Valley View

BY KELLIE BARDIS  
SUN STAFF WRITER

**JONESBORO** — Crews will be wrapping up a major construction project when classes begin Friday at the Valley View School District.

Work on the district's fine arts auditorium is nearing completion, according to Superintendent RADIUS BAKER.

"It's coming together a little more each day," Baker said. "It is going to be a state-of-the-art building. And it's going to be worth the wait."

The facility will feature an 831-seat auditorium, as well as classrooms for drama, band and choir. The fine arts auditorium is the final part of a more-than \$5 million project, which will include the construction of additional classrooms and a multipurpose building for the intermediate and elementary schools.

The project was funded by a property tax increase passed in 2003.

Baker said the classrooms will be ready for students when the new school year begins. The district's existing fine arts classrooms will be used for junior high classes.

"There are three additional classrooms that we did not have. ... And we needed those classrooms. Junior high and senior high has grown quite a bit," Baker said.

Once the project is completed, the district will host an open house for community members to tour the fine arts facility. Assistant Superintendent GAYLON TAYLOR said fine arts students and faculty are in the planning process.

## Administration and staff

Two administration and seven teaching positions have been added at the district.

"We have hired more additional teachers this year than we have any other year to meet the needs of our growth," Baker said. "There is a possibility that if our growth continues over the next week we will have to hire additional staff."

Earlier in the year, Sherry Moody was hired as the district's curriculum director.



David Stout | The Sun

Kenda Hackney, second-grade teacher at Valley View elementary school, puts the finishing touches on a bulletin board Friday morning in her classroom. The district will begin the 2005-06 school year Friday.

Moody will work with teachers and administrators in developing the curriculum across the campus. She will also be responsible for in-service training for teachers and administrators.

"One of the things that we feel like is of vital importance to this school district is to be progressive in the educational endeavors that we do, and one of the ways to do that is to have a person who is strictly involved in the curriculum aspect who knows curriculum in and out, who is responsible for seeing that all staff have the opportunity to have the in-service and training that they need to provide our kids a better instructional day," Baker said.

In addition, the district hired Pam Clark as assistant elementary school principal. Clark was a fifth-grade teacher with the district. Baker

said the assistant elementary position was added because of the district's growth.

The district will begin the 2005-06 school year with a new junior high school principal, Barry Jones. Bob McKeel, who had been VVJHS principal for a year, retired from the position in June.

Other administrators with the district include Cheryl Cain, elementary principal; Dr. Sharon Taylor, intermediate school principal; Rob Lindley, high school principal; and Richard Huggins, dean of students.

## Football

Valley View will begin its senior high football program this year, Baker said. The 10th, 11th and 12th grade program will start with a junior varsity schedule. The football team will play in the 3AA north con-

ference, which includes Westside, Hoxie, Pocahontas, Highland, Brookland and Corning.

"We might do that for two years and then [the] third year go up to a varsity competition," Baker said.

This will mark the second year the district's junior high football team will compete in conference play.

## Etc.

The district's board of directors meets at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the superintendent's office. Board members include Dr. Randy Woodruff, president; David Hartshorn, vice president; Chad Lynch, secretary; Wynndel King and Brian Gray. Woodruff's term expires in September. Ron Shelton is running for the position unopposed.

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# PUFFBALLS: Mant recipes are available for use with puffballs

FROM PAGE A8

The recipes for cooking puffballs are as varied as they are legendary. They include puffball parmesan, baked chicken and puffballs, and scallops with broccoli and puffballs. One of the most popular ways to prepare them however is for breakfast since they blend so well with eggs. Preparation can be as simple as slicing and frying these in butter.

Mushrooms are a good source of vitamin B, vitamin C, copper, selenium, and iron. A serving of 5 medium mushrooms contains more riboflavin (a form of vitamin B) than a Porterhouse steak, a hardboiled egg, a serving of cheddar cheese or a serving of pepperoni.

If the outer part of the puffball is covered by a thick rind, then this is not a "true" puffball but a "false" one, sometimes called earthballs. Earthballs are poisonous. Also, the immature stage of some gilled mushrooms may mimic the puffball in appearance. A puffball that is edible will have a white flesh that is homogeneous throughout. A poisonous lookalike will have hints of an immature gilled mushroom that forms a "T" shape on the inside of the round fruiting body. For this reason, puffballs should be cut in half to check them. Thus, no wild mushroom should ever be eaten unless it is correctly identified as being edible. Unlike many mushrooms, puffballs are virtually impossible to keep fresh and if frozen they

lose their taste.

All puffball species are edible, if prepared and eaten while they are white and solid. When puffballs mature, they contain a dust-like mass of spores. If they have become discolored and spores are present, they may produce a bad stomach reaction.

Besides being used as food, some people have found medicinal purposes for them. For example, among Native American, European and Asian cultures, mature dried puffballs were applied to wounds to stop bleeding and help blood clot. This method was used to treat wounded soldiers during the Civil War especially when bandages were in short supply.

When the puffball matures, an opening or multiple cracks develop on the surface of the ball through which the spores escape. The spewing of the spores can be initiated by raindrops, air currents or touch. The spores launched into the atmosphere eventually fall back to earth where some germinate to form new colonies that eventually produce a new generation of these intriguing fungi.

For more information contact the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State at: biology@astate.edu.

Dr. Romero is a Professor of Biology and Chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences at ASU. Dr. Huss is an Associate Professor of Botany in the Department of Biological Sciences at ASU.

## Greene justices have light agenda Monday

**PARAGOULD** — The only item of new business on the agenda for Monday's Greene County Quorum Court meeting is a resolution declaring a vacancy in the justice of the peace District 3 position.

The seat was filled by JP Claude Greer. Greer resigned recently noting he was moving out of state.

Prior to the Quorum Court meeting members of the court's Finance and Road Department committees will meet at 6 p.m. to discuss budgetary matters.

At 6:20 p.m. the Finance Committee will discuss budgetary matters pertaining to the Sheriff's Department/jail, health department and juvenile intake office. The committee will also discuss a \$1,000 grant the county received recently for civil defense.

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