

Conway Chronicles is written and produced by Conway High School students in cooperation with the Laclede County Record

Conway FFA hosts blood drive at CHS

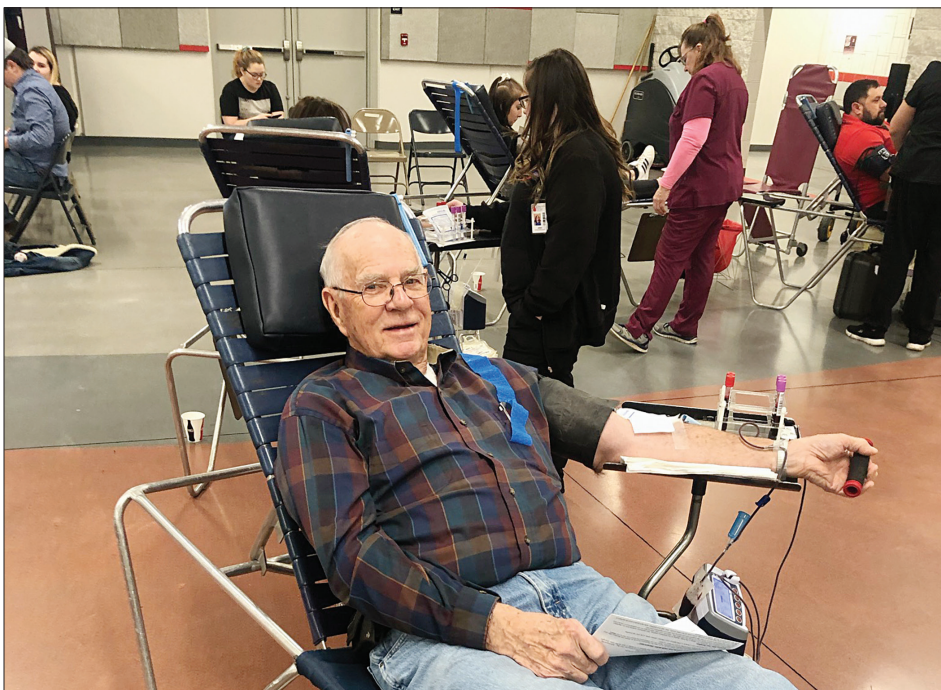
ALEXA HIGBEE
CONWAY CHRONICLES

Every year the Conway High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) host a blood drive. This is the second year the club has been able to hold the donations in the new FEMA building, which allows them a lot more room for the blood drive.

In order to get the word out about the blood drive, the FFA members hung posters, organized everything and recruited donors in the days prior. During and after the blood drive, the FFA members set up, cleaned up, and served all the donors snacks and drinks. Anna Mundt, Tater Hawkins and Abbie Ruble were the leaders when hosting this blood drive.

This year's FFA members and sponsors hoped for at least 25 donors. They ended up having an amazing turnout of 32 donations. Half the donors were students and staff and the other half were community members.

"We hold this blood drive every year because there is a major need for blood donations in the Ozarks during the winter," FFA sponsor Joseph



Conway Chronicles photo

The Conway FFA had 35 people donate blood during its annual blood drive at Conway High School.

Stratton said. "It is also just a great community service opportunity. We love providing an opportunity for students and FFA members to make a difference."

Although this blood drive was just like any other, it did have one major difference from the past drives Conway High School has hosted. This year Lakyn Shelton, Conway High School junior, put on her own bone marrow drive at the FFA blood drive. After going

through the struggle of trying to find a match for her father who was battling Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), Lakyn decided she wanted to spread the word about how you can make a difference in someone's life just by swabbing.

Lakyn's mom made pamphlets that explained the requirements to swab and the reason why it's important. Lakyn then handed them out to all the teachers. In the pamphlet, she also shared

Steven's struggle with finding a match and how just one person made a difference in his life. Lakyn then spoke in front of all the teachers to tell them more about it and the importance it had to her. This made a huge impact on the amount of donors they had.

"We had 19 people swab, which is really good! I would love to do it again because the more people who swab, the better the chances of

having a match," Lakyn Shelton said. "Also, next year, hopefully, we can get more kids who will have turned 18 by then to swab."

Lakyn's aunt, Sarah Foster, had hosted a bone marrow drive for Lakyn's family in the past and a few family friends also held their own drives when the Sheltons were in need of a match. Lakyn and her mom went through the process of learning all the ins and outs in order to have their own drive.

"It was pretty easy. My mom and I had to contact DKMS. They send us swabs and things

to set up with. Then she learned from a coordinator on how to swab," Lakyn stated.

Conway High School's FFA was very pleased with the turn out they had for their blood drive. The Shelton family is also thrilled about the amount of people who were willing to swab and potentially save a life. As always, both FFA and the Shelton family will be looking for ways to spread the word even more next year in hopes to raise more awareness and bring in more donors. Be sure to stay up to date on when the next drive will be.

Jeffrey Graves is a first year algebra teacher

ABBIE RUBLE
CONWAY CHRONICLES

Conway High School loves to see its students succeed and one way to accomplish this is to ensure students have the best teachers.

Starting fresh for the Conway High School this year is Conway native Jeffrey Graves, who teaches algebra. Graves graduated from Drury University with an Associate in Business Administration and a Bachelor in Elementary Education. He also attended William Woods University and received a Masters Degree in School Administration.

"The educators at Drury made sure that we were well rounded as individuals, not just as teachers," Graves said.

Graves is married with two kids. His family has

two pets: a dog, Max, and a cat, Fin.

Graves enjoys collecting baseball cards, cheering for the St. Louis Cardinals and watching his sons in all their activities. He also enjoys watching and coaching basketball.

"Growing up in Conway, I always wanted to prove to others that I could be a success. I married a girl who also graduated from Conway. We have two unique young men. One, Hayden, is now serving our country in the US Navy. Two, Caleb, is a freshman this year at Conway High School. Both boys have gone to school at Conway for their entire education," stated Mr. Graves.

Graves did his student teaching at Republic. He has taught at two different schools: Marionville R-1 and Marshfield R-1.

Graves teaches Fun-



Graves

damentals of Algebra, Intermediate Algebra and Algebra 1.

"I chose to come to Conway High School so I could give back to the school that gave me everything I needed to know to become successful at whatever career I chose," Graves said.

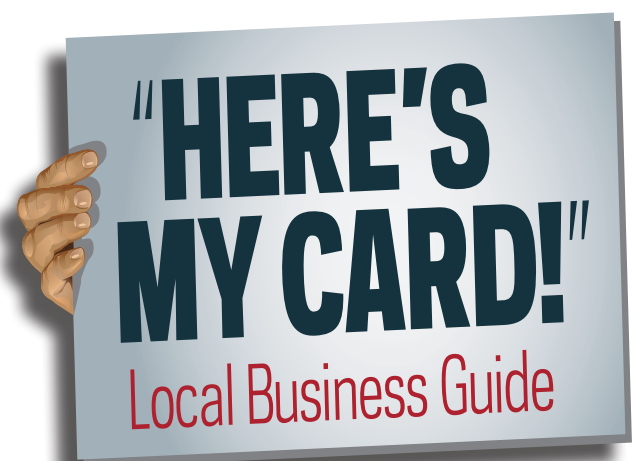
For Graves, the most rewarding part of teaching is when the "light bulb comes on" for the students. When

students understand what you are teaching them, it is rewarding for not only them, but the teacher as well.

"I am most excited about teaching the students and seeing them become energetic about math," Graves said.

Graves' goal for this year is to show kids how to do math, but more importantly that math can be fun. Graves believes that if a teacher builds a relationship with their students, they can relate to how they can learn and why they learn that way.

"I am so thankful that I have been given the opportunity to teach here at Conway High School. My hope for this school year is that I can be the best teacher I can be and that I may impact the students here just like the teachers I had did for me," Graves said.



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