

press and Senate and as Tennessee's governor.

Houston resigned as governor and served fellow East Tennesseans in the Texas Independence effort in their war with Mexico. After becoming a Texas military leader he was chosen twice as president of the Republic of Texas.

So, in a sense, Sam Houston was a president.

The unique history of Houston, Texas, many East Tennesseans will understand, is complicated and fascinating. Many people don't realize that the map used today enough to not only serve in the early Tennessee militia but also to serve as Texas' governor where he directed the state's effort to join the Confederacy. His efforts failed and he soon served in the rebel army. Houston died in 1863 as that war was still underway.

"Sam Houston's Quasi" will be presented by Dr.

Dr. Jay Armstrong as governor to Free County. Governor Dr. Jay Armstrong discussed expanding access to vocational technical and agricultural career/college technical education (CTE) programs for high school students throughout the state at a roundtable discussion held at South State High School last

month in the Home Education (HTE) initiative. Gov. Jay wants to increase state-funded dual-enrollment credits to benefit students enrolled in vocational, technical, agricultural courses, and launch new CTE programs in 20 school districts.

Prior to meeting with Mayor Gene Jacobs, Superintendent

Pat Terberry, Nashville Mayor of Tennessee Gov. V.P. Rhonda Ross, Free County School CTE Director Dr. Mark Wilson, and other industry leaders at the roundtable, the governor toured three CTE classrooms. He congratulated South State High for its vocational career programs after talking with students in the

class and business and market programs.

"We need to be reminded that we are here for the children, for the future of these kids. That's why we are engaged in this," Gov. Jay said with passion.

Other topics discussed during

Continued on page 2

## New special education teachers may get \$7,000 bonus



By Mike Gandy  
mkgandy@freecounty.com

The Free County Board of Education passed through everything on their agenda during the regular monthly meeting Wednesday afternoon until it came to the approval of a three-year bonus plan for new special education teachers.

The "First Recruitment Incentive Plan" discussion saw some serious questions. Currently new special education teachers get a one-year

bonus of \$3,000 during the first year and \$2,000 for year two and year three.

BOE member Mike Anzures asked what would happen if the new incentive plan is not adopted and the reply was that outside contractors would need to be hired. Those could cost \$400 to \$100 per hour.

He also said the system might be looking to "draw money" in reducing the problem.

BOE members Jennifer Owen and