

Empowering students goal of newest board member

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By Guen Tucker-Smith

Staff Writer

Tony Bryant won his bid for election to the Antlers Board of Education recently and said he hopes to bring an even higher level of opportunities to Antlers' students.

Bryant works for the Oklahoma Probation department. He and wife, Julie, have three children. Julie is a physician's assistant employed by Rowland, Ellis and Flatt Clinic.

Bryant said this is his first elected office and he chose to run for the school board not because he wanted to throw his hat in the political ring, but because he believes in becoming involved with kids and the community, and more importantly, their education.

"I wanted to have more of a voice," he said.

Byrant said his children have been enrolled in various school districts including Durant, Moore and Purcell. He was impressed by the honors classes offered to students in these districts and hopes to bring similar classes to Antlers' students, who he said are "just as smart" and deserving of educational opportunities and advantages.

Bryant and his wife also are interested in cultural opportunities for area youngsters. He said Julie worked with the Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition to bring the Missoula Children's Theatre to Push County, a program in which his children had previously been involved.

Bryant took the oath of office during the regular meeting of the Board of Education Monday, April 16.