



# HEADS UP

Eufaula Public Schools

*"Expect the Best"*

VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 1 - AUGUST, 2002

## I DECLARE THIS BUILDING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



*From left to right: Congressman J.C. Watts, Principal Linda Tharp, State Superintendent Sandy Garrett, Principal Jerry Farmer, Superintendent Bill Wilson, Board Members Dian Dawson, Col. Harold Pinney, Mr. Charles Perry, Historian Marshall Foley, Congressman Brad Carson, and Board Member Mike Dew*

As Eufaula band members tuned their instruments and last minute preparations were being made for the dedication of Eufaula's new elementary school, thunder began rumbling to the north and west. As guests began arriving, reports of heavy rain as near as Stidham to the west and the highway 69 bridge to the north raised the concern that the dedication may have to move indoors. But, the storms did not dampen the ceremony, *nor could they have dampened the spirit of the day.*

Opening this historic ceremony, Superintendent Bill Wilson introduced *The Pride of Eufaula* and their band director, Glen Sizemore. As guests stood while the band played, "*Oklahoma*" there were more than a few tears in the eyes of the audience from those who realized the significance and importance of what was about to take place.

Guests continued to stand while VFW members of Post 8798, and members of its Ladies Auxiliary, marched in formation to the podium where Commander Harold Haltom presented the American Flag to principals Linda Tharp and Jerry Farmer.

The American Flag was then presented to Boy Scouts Devon Oxford, Bill Kent IV, and Kevin Masters. As these scouts began to raise the flag, the band played our nation's anthem. As the flag unfurled above the new educational facility, the air of a new beginning could be felt along with that special pride that comes from a job well done.

The District's Board of Education whose dedication and commitment to improve Eufaula Schools has been the foundation for this new facility, were asked to stand as we recognized the members; Ms. Dian Dawson, Col. Harold Pinney, Dr. Mike Dew, Mr. Charles Perry, and Mr. Chuck Boss.

Mike Owen of TAO contractors, Mike Scifres, Randy Peterson, Supt. Dan Edwards of Henryetta and Supt. Danny Williams of Stidham were among the special guests.

Mr. Bill Kaighn, the architect for the elementary building, was more than thrilled at seeing the completion of this construction project, as it has been almost a decade since he sketched the first rough draft. Mr. Kaighn made a special trip from Norman, OK, to attend the ceremony and to bring the updated schematic for display to show the public how the building will look in the future if further construction builds the district's new middle school facility.

Member and Past President, 2001, James Pratt of Eufaula Masonic Lodge # 1 offered our district the opportunity for the Masonic Grand Lodge of Guthrie, OK, to conduct the Corner Stone Ceremony to properly dedicate the new building.

Another very special guest was Randy Beebee, the construction superintendent, who managed the construction site hour-by-hour and day-by-day for the past two years. He and his team are truly professional craftsmen and were committed to having the building completed by the expected August deadline.

Mayor Bill Day and City Council Members Clarence Pierce, Don Wilkerson, Ruby Swadley, Dean Smith, Greg Anderson, Kenneth Willmon, Jannetta Carr, and Janet Bumgarner were special guests, as were County Commissioners, Bill Shackelford, J.D. Williams, and Glen Coleman. Without the joint effort of our city government and county government working hand-in-hand with school officials, the project would not have been ready for the opening day of school.

Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative CEO, George Hand, took the time to be a part of this historic day and was a special guest of the Board of Education. CVEC is in the process of replacing the wooden electric poles that line the highway in front of the new elementary building with new steel electric poles. CVEC provided the faculty and staff with a Back to School Barbecue Luncheon, and they have offered to host an *Elementary Student of the Month* this year.

As Superintendent Wilson introduced Congressman Brad Carson and Congressman J.C. Watts, he emphasized that it was through their effort in Washington, DC that our school district received \$250,000 in reclaimed federal money. He asked that as our guests tour the school building following the dedication ceremony, they find the time to thank the congressmen as the furniture and school supplies they will see are the direct result of their effort.

As the band played the OU fight song, former OU quarterback & Eufaula alumnus, Congressman J.C. Watts, made his way to the podium. Congressman Watts made a special effort to be a part of this historic day. Even with prior obligations, Congressman Watts made the time to be the keynote speaker and spent the entire day inside the school building visiting with friends and *enjoying the moment.*

*(Continued)*

Congressman Watts' address was directed specifically to our young people. "Our graduating seniors won't be competing simply against others seeking jobs in Eufaula, Oklahoma. They won't simply be competing against others seeking jobs in the State of Oklahoma, they won't even be competing in the job market on a national level. They will be competing for jobs in a global economy where applicants will be from every corner of the world." Watts stressed the importance for students, parents, teachers, and administrators to realize that education must be taken seriously if today's graduates are to be successful in providing for their families in this ever-changing and ever-challenging job market.

State Superintendent, Sandy Garrett, spoke briefly complementing the school system and the community for coming together and for providing needed facilities for our students. She emphasized that reading, writing, arithmetic, and computer skills are basic fundamental skills every student must have if they are to be successful, contributing citizens. As Superintendent Garrett left the platform, she proudly donned her newly acquired Ironhead Football Cap.

The Grand Commandry Knights Templar of Oklahoma, dressed in 18th century uniforms with plumed hats and bronze swords, majestically escorted Officers from the Grand Lodge of Guthrie, OK, to the platform where the officers performed the traditional Corner Stone Ceremony. The tradition, set by George Washington in laying the corner stone of our nation's capital, was followed step by step as officers played their part in this historic tradition. With their help, the building was dedicated and blessed in a grand way for the students for years to come. The lodge also provided a bronze time capsule that contained, among other items, a program and picture of the dedication. The capsule will not be opened for one hundred years.

As the ceremony came to a close, the guests moved to the doorway where special guests joined Superintendent Bill Wilson as he cut the ribbon and declared the building open to the public.

On display in the lobby and one of the first things to see upon entering the building was a collage of pictures illustrating the construction project in its many phases over the past two years from the first dozer work to the final construction - and setting just across from that display was the architect's schematic showing the facility as it will look with the addition of a new middle school.

So, Eufaula, our work is not over, and that is the way it should be in education. *Vision without Action is merely a dream, Action without Vision is a Waste of Time, but Vision With Action Can Change the World, and that has been done in the lives of our students attending Eufaula Elementary School.*

*Bryce McKinney of Eufaula Flower Shoppe. donated the ribbon and bows for the ceremony. Nichols Food donated a Back to School Cake for the elementary faculty and staff. Geneva Farmer donated a beautiful plant for the office area of the new school, and Ruthie's on highway 9 west donated a decorated, antique student school desk for the lobby. THANK YOU!*



*"This experience is great for our athletes. The camp gives them a chance to see other talented girls compete with intensity, energy, dedication, discipline, and team spirit. All those ingredients transform average players & average teams into Competitive Players & Competitive Teams.."*

*Sherri Coal's Thoughts for the Day:*

*Tired? Sleep Tomorrow!*

*The Best Way OUT is Always THROUGH!*

*Find a Way to Make It Happen!*

Emily Coppick and Her Girls, Laryl Arnold, Misty Haley, Brooke Helms, Ashlee Harris, and Summer Cox attended Sherri Coal's Sixth Annual Sooner Sessions in Norman during the summer vacation. Teams from Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri and Arkansas made up more than 80 varsity and junior varsity teams participating in this year's camp.



*"Our girls played well," said Coppick, "scoring as high as 78 points in one of the contests. We made it to the finals, getting beat 8 points by Midwest City, Carl Albert."*

## Child Nutrition

The Horizon Software System is being implemented into Eufaula Schools to manage the Child Nutrition Program for the high school, middle school, and elementary cafeterias. This software will process and manage the free and reduced program. It will generate state required reports and notices to parents concerning their child's lunch accounts. The software has the components for tracking inventory, central order bidding & processing, menu planning and nutrition analysis.

Automating the food service department will allow our site registrars a faster way to gather information and track student information, while providing parents an accurate record on the status of their child's lunch account.

## LUNCH PAYMENT GUIDELINES

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications are available at each site, and will soon be available on our district's web page. Questions about the Federal Lunch Program may be directed to Phyllis Bedford, Director of Child Nutrition, 918-689-1065.

- All students with outstanding cafeteria debt will be Cash Customers Only until the debt has been paid or until an application for Free & Reduced meals has been completed and approved.
- Notices will be mailed to parent or guardian when charges of \$35.00 have been reached.
- Lunches will not be served to those students who exceed \$35.00;
- Lunches will not resume until the debt has been paid.

# SCHOOL CALENDAR - 2002-2003

August 09	Reporting Day/Professional Day
August 12	Building Meetings/Professional Day
August 13	Enrollment Day
August 14	Classes Begin
September 02	Labor Day Holiday
September 16	Parent-Teacher Conference Day
October 11	End of 1st Nine Weeks
1st Quarter	
October 17	State OEA Convention/Professional Day
October 18	Student/Faculty Holiday
Nov 25-29	Fall Break
December 20	End of 2nd Nine Weeks
Dec 23-Jan 03	Winter Break
2nd Quarter	
January 06	Classes Resume -3rd Quarter Begins
January 20	Professional Day
February 17	Parent/Teacher Conference Day
March 07	OEA Area B Professional Day
March 07	End of 3rd Nine Weeks
3rd Quarter	
March 17-21	Spring Break
April 18-21	Optional Snow Days/School Holidays
May 21	Last Day of School
May 22	Teacher Workday Parent Teacher Conference
May 23	Report Card Day
4th Quarter	
Calendar Reflects 175 Days Taught + 5 Professional Days = 180 Days	

## 8th, 9th and 10th grade students Could Earn Free College Tuition

The Oklahoma Legislature has set up a unique program for 8th, 9th, & 10th grade students that will help pay for their college education if their family's income is \$50,000 or less. The program is called the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP). By signing up for OHLAP, students may earn free college tuition by meeting a few, but essential, requirements such as taking the 17 unit core curriculum, maintaining a 2.5 grade point average and staying away from trouble like gangs, drugs, and alcohol. For students who fulfill the requirements, the state will pay their tuition at a public college or university or cover a portion of their tuition at a private institution. In addition, OHLAP may be used for select courses from public career-technology centers. Applications are available from school counselors, on the OHLAP Web site at [www.okhighered.org/ohlap](http://www.okhighered.org/ohlap) or call 1-800-858-1840.



## Ironhead Athletic Ability, Intensity, Determination, and a No-Quit Attitude made quite an impression on coaches at the summer OBU Basketball Camp

Basketball is a Season Away, but head boys basketball coach, Larry Callison, knows that preparation is the key to a team's success. The Ironheads spent a week at OBU Basketball Camp this summer, competing against 5-A & 6-A schools from Oklahoma & Texas. For four days, the boys would play games at 12:00 - 5:00 - and 9:00, losing only twice. The Heads lost the first game, then won ten straight games against teams from districts four times larger than ours.

During the Finals, the teams would play, rest an hour or two, then go back out to face another Basketball Powerhouse. The Ironheads lost in the final day of competition. Ardmore, the 5-A State

Runner Up, beat the Ironheads by just six points. Coach Callison said that, "Game after game, our boys didn't even think about quitting, and would find a way to win. Against 6-A Edmond Santa Fe, we were behind 7 points with just a few minutes left in the game, but our players didn't quit and found that play to win by 1 point. We had a good time at the camp. The boys played well during competition, and they had a chance to spend time together off the court. That camaraderie and friendships they form are essential for a successful team."

## District's New Faculty & Staff



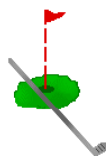
- *Jennifer Banfield* has been hired as high school secretary to assist Ms. Linnens, our high school registrar.
- *Jeremy Callison*, a recent graduate of UCO, has been hired to teach mathematics and help with the district's golf program.
- *Brenda Lewis*, former Jay Public Schools special education teacher, has been hired to teach Learning Disabled.
- *Susan Miskovsky*, a longtime art teacher for the Crowder School District, has been hired to teach elementary art.
- *Preston James* has been hired to teach mathematics and fill the vacancy in the junior varsity football program left by Coach Campbell.
- *Jan Votravis*, former counselor for Quinton Public Schools, has been hired as our middle school counselor.

## GIRLS, WE NEED YOU!

*Bill Bumgarner, Golf Instructor*

Last year, the school that took home the state Ladies Golf Championship could have

Easily Been US! So Girls, Let's Just See What Eufaula can Do This Year!! We Need some girls that want to enjoy the challenge of competition! If you haven't made up your mind about whether or not to go out for golf, talk to Sheryl Eldridge about her decision to play. She'd never touched a club until January, and she qualified for state last year and Almost Won! She had a Great Time at tournaments and had the opportunity to meet kids from across Oklahoma. "I always thought golf was just a strange sport, and teased some of my friends that played. After I decided to join the golf program last year, I began to understand why the entire world seems to be so fascinated with this game."



# 2002-2003 Football Schedule

## HIGH SCHOOL

September 06	Miami	Home
September 13	Beggs	Away
September 20	Muldrow	Away
September 27	Checotah	Home
October 04	Hilldale	Away
October 11	Roland	Homecoming
October 17	Vinita	Away (Thur)
October 25	Inola	Home
November 01	Stigler	Away
November 08	Locust Grove	Home

## JUNIOR VARSITY

September 05	Miami	Away
September 12	Beggs	Home
September 19	Muldrow	Home
September 26	Checotah	Away
October 03	Hilldale	Homecoming
October 10	Roland	Away (Thur)
October 16	Vinita	Home
October 24	Inola	Away
October 31	Stigler	Home
November 07	Locust Grove	Away

It's still a few weeks away from football season, but Coach Roberts has not been Far from the Game since the playoffs last year. He & his boys have kept busy in the weight room, Summer Running Camps, and all the physical and mental preparation necessary to compete in this year's tough gridiron schedule!



The Ironheads are *'Goin' to the The Ship'* - Come Support the Team and be a Part of the Excitement!

It takes tremendous effort from students, parents, teachers, directors, coaches, staff & administrators to get the kind of outstanding results we have grown so accustomed to in Eufaula. Whether it is that extra effort on the part of the maintenance crew to get the buildings ready for the 1st day of school, or a performance by our band, color guard, academic teams or athletic teams, our people rise to the occasion.

Their sacrifice and dedication continue to build our community into a better place for all of us to live & work.

### "On Transition"

I've always bought brown sugar in square boxes with the brown letters on the box. I saw the plastic bags of sugar in the grocery store yesterday, and I could tell by looking that this was a better way. The strong, airtight bags would keep the sugar soft and usable. But, I've always bought brown sugar in boxes, and I reached for the box. Now, back at home, I wonder why. Why am I so reluctant to change old ways? Some old ways are valid, but some need changing. And, I cling to square boxes with unthinking tenacity, just because I've always bought square boxes. That is not reason enough. Times have changed. I *am obligated* to face my days intentionally! The container that brown sugar comes in is no great thing. But, there are other, weightier matters that require rethinking-and perhaps revising. If I am going to live significantly, I must make my big decisions purposefully, intentionally, & comprehensively. "New occasions teach new duties; time makes *Ancient Good* uncouth. They must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth." Forgive my Square Boxes. *Author not known*

*In this, another year of transition and change for our school district, let us somehow find the courage and confidence to continue to move upward and onward in our search for educational excellence - and to be uplifting and positive in our actions and words as we face the changes and challenges of a new year..*

## EUFULA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Heads Up

Mr. Bill Wilson  
*Supt. of Schools*  
Joanna Wilson  
*Communications*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Dian Dawson, Pres.  
Col. Harold Pinney, Vice Pres.  
Dr. Mike Dew, Clerk  
Mr. Charles Perry, Member  
Mr. Chuck Boss, Member

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