



HEADS UP

EUFALA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Volume 4, Issue 2, February 2004

COLONEL HAROLD D. PINNEY

NOVEMBER 21, 1924 ~ JANUARY 5, 2004



Board of Education
Colonel Harold Pinney
Remembered

January 9, 2004, the "Fighting Men of the 2nd Brigade" with a tribute by VFW Post 8798 laid to rest one of their most beloved and most honored comrades, Colonel Harold Pinney.

Honest, Courageous, Tender, and Strong, this born leader, this father and husband, this patriot, will forever remain in the hearts of those who loved him and whose lives were changed by his life-long service to our country, our flag, and our community.

In 1969, a number of men in the 2nd Brigade under the command of Colonel Pinney wrote the following words about their commander. The words were inspired by their leader's actions in bringing them to safety during heavy combat. As his men made their way across the agent orange contaminated ground below, Colonel Pinney flew his helicopter above, directing them away from the enemy while, at the same time, meeting the enemy with artillery fire from his "Blackjack 445."

"The Phantom of Black Jack 445" a Tribute to Colonel Pinney
Six months ago on a bright sunny day, A tall, lean man came to the 2nd brigade. There were few on the scene that will forget his name. He came all the way from the Oklahoma Plains. He's now a great leader in South Viet-Nam feared by NVA and Viet Cong. He's Known throughout the highlands - You can see him in the skies, *The Phantom of Black Jack 445*.

He flies through storms, through clouds and fog. He never worries or never frets. He lands with a smile to greet his men as his pilots sit in a nervous sweat. He likes to give guidance over the radio to insure the elements won't be late - but when he's all rushing and commo all blushing, he calls for Black Jack 458. Phantom, when you leave it will be a sorry day for the fighting men of the 2nd Brigade. We will see you in the skies flying around watching little ruff puffs on the ground. He's Over Plei-Op and Over Plei-O - He observes the dozers down below and can't understand, they're not pushing loads. It's because they need gas - Gas to Go. He requests artillery through channels he knows to support the dozers down below - by the time they rush and get their guns set, the battle was over an hour ago.

This story will be told and remembered in each man's soul. The battles where men have fought and men have died. It's been a Great Pleasure to Serve by your side, *Phantom of Black Jack 445*.

VO-TECH BOARD DENIES DEANNEXATION REQUEST

At the request of Eufaula school district residents, a de-annexation request was submitted to the Kiamichi Vo-Tech Board. The request to de-annex Eufaula School District from the Kiamichi Vo-Tech District was centered on an objection to \$330,000 in taxes being paid to Kiamichi for ten (10) students who are attending.

The Vo-Tech board opposed the de-annexation and consequently prevented residents of the Eufaula School District the right to redirect the \$330,000 in taxes. Until we get the de-annexation question on the ballot, taxes will continue to be assessed to the voters of Eufaula, North Fork, Texanna, Stidham, Brush Hill, and Vivian.

Now the Vo-tech argument has escalated into a much larger debate. We are now debating the issue of the public's right to determine their taxes. When Kiamichi Vo-Tech took steps to deny our right to vote, they violated the basic principles of a democracy. We can't let this pass without a challenge.

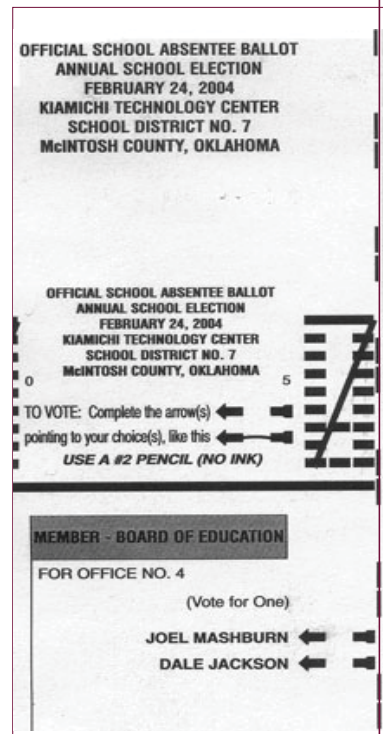
As Americans who believe in a democracy, we must voice our opinions to every public official who supports the Vo-tech's actions and remove every public official who attempts to limit our right to vote.

On February 24, 2004, *Joel Mashburn* is running for re-election to the Kiamichi Vo-Tech Board, the same board that voted against Eufaula to de-annex, the same board that opposed your right to determine the use of your tax dollars.

Dale Jackson is opposing Mr. Mashburn in this election.

You may vote at your regular precinct on February 24th, at the Election Office on Friday, Feb 20th or on Monday, Feb. 23rd.

Remember To Vote. This election represents a referendum on your right to vote. Our voices must be heard loud and clear at the ballot box.





PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION
New Charter for Eufaula
Public Schools



Eufaula PTA

Executive Board

From left to right:

Elementary Principal, Linda Tharp
EES Representative, Jeanie Marlar
PTA President, Margaret Dobbs
Vice-President, Michelle Dalton
Secretary, Carol Cox
Treasurer, Ruthie Hawkins
Not Pictured
Vicky Caldwell EMS Site Representative
Kim Sanders EHS Site Representative

There are now more than Fifty (50) Members in the Newly Formed Eufaula *Parent Teacher Association* (PTA). The new charter was formed in November, 2003. Its members include parents, teachers, and administrators as well as members of the Eufaula Community who share a common interest in helping students succeed.

A local PTA is a self-governing unit of the National PTA, which, with more than six million members, is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States. Members of local PTA charters automatically become members of the National PTA, and OKPTA (State PTA). Local PTA's allow parents, teachers, and community members the opportunity to work together to improve the lives of children and youth. Affiliation with the State and National PTA provides each local charter with access to endless resources and a huge network of volunteers who are all striving for the common good of children.

The Eufaula PTA celebrated their formation by honoring Eufaula educators during *American Education Week* in November. Members hosted a teacher appreciation breakfast at each school site. Elementary students helped decorate banners with paint handprints to show 'thanks' to their teachers. Volunteers recruited by the PTA assisted Library Media Specialist, Robyn Burris, in making the Elementary School Book Fair run smoothly and successfully.

PTA members were asked at the January meeting to indicate their thoughts and ideas on future projects and needs. Surveys were sent to all Eufaula teachers and administrators for their opinions as well. *"The PTA hopes to gain knowledge on how to coordinate and organize ways we will best be helpful to the school district through the information given to us,"* said Eufaula PTA President, Margaret Dobbs. *"Already, several volunteers have committed to help tutor at the elementary level and committees have formed to work on parent education opportunities, entertainment at meetings, and to ensure the association continues to grow in strength and in numbers."* Site representatives for each school have been appointed to ensure a continuous flow of information and communication between the PTA and the schools.

Membership in the Eufaula PTA is open to anyone concerned with the education, health, safety and welfare of the children and youth in the community. Eufaula PTA Vice-President, Michelle Dalton states, *"We are so excited about the positive response we have had and the number of people who have committed to the PTA. It says alot about how much we love our children and the kind of future we want to be able to provide for them. We want to see the Eufaula PTA continue to grow in numbers and to stay active and productive within the school district. Although PTA's have a tendency to be stronger at the elementary level, we truly hope to find ways that we are able to build partnerships at the middle and high school levels."*

The Eufaula PTA is scheduled to meet again on *Monday, March 1st* at 7:00 PM in the High School cafeteria and on **Monday, April 26th** at 7:00 PM in the Elementary cafeteria.

For more information about the Eufaula PTA or to become a member, please contact Membership Chairperson, Vicky Caldwell at 689-7597. Becoming a member means you are adding your voice to those working to make a difference in the lives of children.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX

API COMPARATIVE REPORT 2002-2003

1

| FORT GIBSON | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| FORT GIBSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | K-12* | 1201 |
| FORT GIBSON EARLY LRNING CTR | Elementary School | 1296 |
| FORT GIBSON IES | Elementary School | 1244 |
| FORT GIBSON MS | Middle/Junior High School | 1260 |
| FORT GIBSON HS | High School* | 1088 |

Eufaula students are proving they are *Up to the Challenge* in yet another competitive arena.

2

| EUFAULA | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| EUFAULA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | K-12* | 1118 |
| EUFAULA ES | Elementary School | 1139 |
| EUFAULA MS | Middle/Junior High School | 1163 |
| EUFAULA HS | High School* | 1039 |

Eufaula has a long outstanding athletic history, producing some of the state's most competitive athletes. That competitive spirit is spilling over into classroom performance as our parents, teachers, and administrators focus on the importance of achievement test scores and the State Department of Education's Comparative Analysis of school districts and their academic strengths.

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| HILLDALE | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| HILLDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | K-12* | 1094 |
| HILLDALE LOWER ES | Elementary School | 1088 |
| HILLDALE UPPER ES | Elementary School | 1084 |
| HILLDALE MS | Middle/Junior High School | 1067 |
| HILLDALE HS | High School* | 1085 |

Eufaula students are showing the state that being ranked among the best is something Eufaula students understand.

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| STIGLER | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| STIGLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | K-12* | 981 |
| STIGLER ES | Elementary School | 922 |
| STIGLER MS | Middle/Junior High School | 1030 |
| STIGLER HS | High School* | 1012 |

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| CHECOTAH | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| CHECOTAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS | K-12* | 979 |
| CHECOTAH IES | Elementary School | 995 |
| MARSHALL ES | Elementary School | 1104 |
| CHECOTAH MS | Middle/Junior High School | 968 |
| CHECOTAH HS | High School* | 926 |

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| WILBURTON | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| WILBURTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | K-12* | 891 |
| WILBURTON ES | Elementary School | 834 |
| WILBURTON JHS | Middle/Junior High School | 835 |
| WILBURTON HS | High School* | 944 |

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| HARTSHORNE | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| HARTSHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | K-12* | 846 |
| HARTSHORNE ES | Elementary School | 898 |
| HARTSHORNE JHS | Middle/Junior High School | 905 |
| HARTSHORNE HS | High School* | 797 |

Congratulations to each and every student who took the time to do their best on each section of the achievement test, sparking the beginning of a new tradition of *Ironhead Excellence*.

Achievement Tests Scheduled for April!

API and Student Achievement

Academic Performance Indicator (API) is a score developed by the *State Department of Education* to rank schools in the state based upon student performance. The API Score is primarily a reflection of student attendance and academic performance as measured by academic tests that include achievement test scores, advanced placement test scores, and end of instruction tests.

Eufaula teachers use the Oklahoma PASS objectives (Priority Academic Student Skills) as a guide in writing daily lesson plans. By using the PASS objectives as their foundation for instruction, the teachers are ensuring that our students will have the opportunity to be proficient in the kinds of skills tested by the API test.

The PASS objectives are required by law and defined by the Oklahoma State Board. Individual sections of PASS may be found at the State Department of Education web site at www.sde.state.ok.us.

Our students performance ranking among area schools has risen from ranking fifth place in 2001-2002 among similar school districts to ranking 2nd among the area 3-A school districts in 2002-03

To say the very least, I am thrilled at our student performance. I am proud of those teachers who are committed to educating our students. I am proud of our administrators who are making sure the PASS objectives are key components in the lessons being taught in our classrooms.

And, I am proud of those of you who make sure your children attend classes regularly and who emphasize doing well in school is their key to becoming successful, contributing adults.

Construction Projects and Vo-Tech Update

The Eufaula Board of Education has delayed plans to call for a bond election for future construction projects while our district strives to gain our freedom from the 12 mill tax burden currently designated for Kiamichi Vo-Tech.

A recent petition with over eight hundred signatures of local tax payers calling for de-annexation has fallen on deaf ears as the Vo-Tech board continues to deny Eufaula's request. The de-annexation of Eufaula School District from Kiamichi Vo-Tech would create an offset in the taxes needed to proceed with the construction of a new middle school and our local taxes would remain unchanged.

I remain confident that in the end we will begin construction on the middle school project and eventually see the completion of the west campus. Current middle school plans include fourteen (14) classrooms, two (2) computer labs, two (2) science labs, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, music and art classrooms, and administrative office space. It will be an exceptional addition to the existing elementary building. The middle school project is an essential component of our plan to satisfy the state fire marshal's order to provide a safe environment for our middle school students.

Included in the construction plan is an addition to the elementary wing to accommodate kindergarten and preschool programs. My excitement to complete this project remains harnessed only by the Vo-Tech's opposition to our de-annexation request.

It remains my intention that the de-annexation and the middle school construction plan is a single issue. Our patience is required if we are to be successful working with various governmental bureaucracies.

Bill Wilson, Superintendent of Schools

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Heads Up

Mr. Bill Wilson
Supt. of Schools

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