



HEADS UP

EXPECT THE BEST

Eufaula Public Schools

Vol 10 Issue 1 January 2010

FINANCIAL PICTURE FOR OKLAHOMA SCHOOLS - Dan, Edwards, Superintendent

As you know, the economy in Oklahoma is not good at this time. The unemployment rate is up and economic growth is nonexistent. These economic conditions have caused a hardship on everyone, and our public schools are no exception. Total revenue collections for the State this school year are down over 25% below the estimates on which this year's budgets were estimated. Cuts from the State have, depending on the purpose of the funding, varied from 5% to 19%. These cuts, depending on their size, will affect Eufaula Schools, as follows: a 5% cut in State Aid will constitute a \$227,500 loss in funding to our school; a 10% cut will create a \$455,000 shortfall; a 15% cut will cause a shortage of \$682,000; and a 20% cut would equal a loss in funding of \$910,000.

Another factor affecting schools' budgets is a rise in operational expenses, including employees' health insurance premiums. Eufaula School's portion of employee medical insurance premiums will increase the school's cost an additional \$43,110 for the remainder of this school year. Next year, even if the State does not increase insurance rates again, Eufaula Schools will have to come up with another \$74,665 just to meet Eufaula School's portion of the employees' health insurance premiums.

The administration and Board of Education of Eufaula Schools are going to make every effort to cut expenses in areas which will not affect the students' programs or classes. However, if the funding cuts are deep enough, educational programs may be affected.

Ciara Smelser - All-Regional Cheerleader

Ciara Smelser, the daughter of Kelly and Kim Smelser of Eufaula, is Eufaula High Schools first All-Regional Cheerleader. Ciara competed at Vertigras High School. There were 42 cheerleaders who tried out for the 16 slots. During the tryout, Ciara was judged on her cheer motions, her jumps, and her tumbling. Ciara has been a cheerleader for six years and has been named NCA All-American and UCA All-Star Cheerleader. She also traveled to Hawaii this past summer and participated in a week long cheerleader camp. Ciara plans to attend school at UCO next year, where she hopes to make the cheer squad so she can continue her love for cheering.

Undefeated Academic Team - Coaches Vicki Ridge and Keith Wood

We are pleased to announce that the Eufaula High School Varsity Academic Team remains *Undefeated* with a conference season of 27-0, and an overall record of 33-0. Congratulations go to senior team members Ashley Kapoor, Cody McGuire, Kolin Coats, and Shelby Franklin, as well as junior members Eric Breon, Aaron Edwards, Kristina Carrico, and freshman Tim Winner.

Two of the varsity members making the All-Conference team achieved All-Conference status based on questions answered per quarters played. The All-Conference members are Eric Breon, who was first overall, and Ashley Kapoor. In addition, three varsity members, Eric Breon, Ashley Kapoor, and Shelby Franklin traveled to Warner High School to compete in the first round of testing to qualify for one of eight spots on *Team Oklahoma*. The top eight players from Team Oklahoma are then selected to compete nationally.

The team is now excited to move on to the area tournament on January 16, 2010, and anticipates attending the state tournament for a second consecutive year and the third time ever in the history of Eufaula High School. The team believes that all the hours spent on buses traveling to and from their meets were worth it; and they hope to make our town and school proud this January.

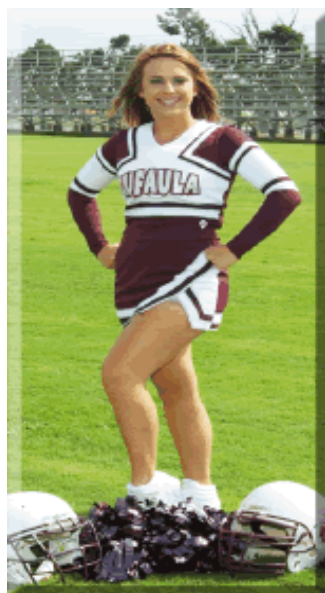
High School Speech Contest Winners - EHS English Teacher, Gale Applegate

Three Eufaula High School juniors have received recognition for their expertise in writing and speaking from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8798 and it's Ladies' Auxiliary. Each year the post sponsors the *Voice of Democracy* speech contest to help students gain poise and self-confidence in expressing their views about America.

Wilo Stravlo, contest coordinator, announced the local winners at the Veteran's Day assembly at the high school. Daniel Salters placed first and was awarded \$300. Brettlyn Bevenue placed second and received \$250. Eric Breon placed third and was awarded \$150 for his efforts. Salters' and Bevenue's recorded speeches will advance to the district level of competition

EHS English teacher Gale Applegate uses the contest to introduce specific writing techniques to her students. "The large cash awards offered by the local VFW post make motivating my students to write much easier. They also benefit from exploring a patriotic topic," commented Applegate.

The contest generates over three million dollars annually in scholarships nationwide. *Does America Still Have Heroes* is the theme of this year's contest.



Eufaula Elementary News - Victor Salcedo, Principal

Eufaula Elementary School received the Title One Academic Achievement Award for the 2008-2009 school year. This award is given to schools for excellence in closing the gap between subgroups in reading. As a result EES received \$45,000 to be used for classroom resources to further improve academic achievement.

Eufaula Elementary School has successfully departmentalized the 5th grade classes for the 2009-2010 school year. Students are now changing classes each period similar to students at the middle school. This change will enable 5th students at EES to make a more successful transition to 6th grade at the middle school.

First grade teacher, Diana Goodwin has written and received several grants for use in the classroom. Mrs. Goodwin, a National Board Certified Teacher, recently received the *ING Unsung Heroes Grant*. This \$2,000 grant has allowed Mrs. Goodwin to establish a science lab, the *Know Zone*, to be used by all EES grades.

Mrs. Goodwin was one of only 100 people out of 2000 applicants in the United States to receive this grant. She also received the OG& E Energy Corporation Teacher Grant for \$1,000 to fund science materials and supplies for the school science lab. Only one of 35 Oklahoma teachers received this grant. Two other grants awarded to Mrs. Goodwin were the OERB Harlan Krumme Energy Education Grant for \$1,000 (\$500 for classroom materials and \$500 for personal use) and the \$800 Target Field Trip Grant, which provided funding for the entire first grade to attend a theatrical production of Pinocchio. Mrs. Goodwin is also in the process of writing a grant to promote citizenship and character in our school.

Students have had great success with two new computer software programs, *Study Island* and *Alpha Plus*, purchased by Eufaula Public Schools to enrich and encourage student learning. Students can access Study Island from home via the Internet. The elementary school also implemented the online grade book. This is a useful tool for parents to view progress online and encourages communication between the school and parents. Grades can be accessed from any location with Internet access.

Eufaula Middle School News - Chris Whelan, Principal

In October, members of the middle school academic team traveled with the high school team to Buffalo Valley to compete in their first meet.

Team members attending were sixth graders Riley Martar, Eli Breon, Alex Curtis, Chris Oulds, Kira Carr, Jordan Pierce, Melissa Eldredge, Cleo Giraldo, Michael Compton, and seventh-graders Mason Gawf, and Kayla Carr. The team successfully put away 7th and 8th grade teams from Wilburton.

In November, a group of middle school students competed in a *Tournament of Champions* qualifier at Metro Christian Academy in Tulsa. These students, after putting in a hard day at school, traveled an hour and half to challenge themselves with a 100 questions tests in a variety of subjects.

The students, whose competition included large and private schools, scored well on the tests, and many placed in the top ten.

Those attending were Alex Curtis, Cleo Giraldo, Eli Breon, Melissa Eldredge, Kirstin Colbert, Luke VanCleave, Rachael Marlar, Cotton Walker, Devon Siers, Kurstyn Abreo, and Shelby Bevenue.

Eli Breon rose above his competitors, taking two first place medals in science and social studies. Students who placed first through third qualified to compete in the *Tournament of Champions*, which will be held in April in El Reno.

The Eufaula Middle School faculty and staff would like to thank the PTA for the effort and help they contributed toward making our Red Ribbon Week such a success. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The Eufaula Middle School will be hosting its First Annual Valentine Carnival this school year. The carnival is scheduled for February 28, 2010. Everyone is welcome to join EMS for a Night of Fun.

EHS Marching Band 2-A State Champions.. Again! Directors Glenn Sizemore and Michael Palmer

Another Great Season for the Eufaula High School Marching Band has come and gone. This season's accomplishments have continued to set the bar higher and have prolonged the great tradition of our Eufaula Band program. The students once again have worked diligently to carry on the torch and plan to take the momentum gained in marching band on into concert season. The marching season competition started in Morris at the Morris Invitational Marching Contest where the band received awards for Outstanding Drumline, 1st in class 3A, and 2nd overall in classes 2A- 4A.

The Marching Band was awarded the High Music and High General Effect captions for their preliminary performance at the OBA State Marching Championships in Bixby. They were also awarded 1st in Class 2A making them the ***Three-Time Consecutive 2A State Champion***, the *third year in a row* that Eufaula High School Marching Band has held that distinction. Their preliminary performance would also earn them a spot in the Finals competition that same evening competing against the top 12 bands in classes 1A through 3A. The overall standing after Finals would award Eufaula Marching Band with 2nd place overall in classes 1A through 3A! Their success continued at the Konawa Band Day Marching Contest where the band received awards for High Music, Outstanding Drumline, 1st in class Large 3A, and Outstanding Band in class 3A.

At the final competition at the OSSAA Regional Marching Contest competition the EPS band competed for a Divisional Rating. Ratings range 1, which is superior, through 5, which is poor. This is the first phase of a *Sweepstakes Award* given to high school bands in all classes that earn a Superior rating in marching and in concert band seasons. The three judges at the competition all agreed and each one awarded a Superior rating to the EHS Marching Band.

Marching Band, continued

This year there were 4 students who earned All-District honors. All-District honorees include 7th grader Morgan Dockray 6th Chair Flute, junior Eric Breon 1st Chair French Horn, junior Kodi Evans 3rd Chair Tuba, and senior Ashley Kapoor 1st Chair Bass Clarinet. Three students made the Oklahoma Small-School All-State Band. These students are junior Eric Breon 3rd Chair on French Horn, junior Kodi Evans 1st alternate on Tuba and Ashley Kapoor 1st alternate on Bass Clarinet. We wish luck to Eric Breon, Kodi Evans, and Ashley Kapoor for passing on to the 2nd round of OMEA All-State Tryouts.

The Eufaula Band program directors and students would like to thank all of the administrators, staff, and parents for all of their support and hard work this marching season. Without your support and assistance, the task would be next to impossible. Congratulations Eufaula Bands for your Continued Standard of Excellence!

Our Outstanding Eufaula Choir - Cryse Burns and Glenn Sizemore

The Choir has had a productive semester as well. In September, selected choir students auditioned for the Eastern District Honor Choir, a choir made from various schools in our district.

After auditions on September 19th, reports came back that six students from the Middle School were selected as well as every student who auditioned from the High School. Selected students included Kenzie Daniel, Ashley Maxwell, Kayla Montgomery, Kayla Carr, Mackenzie Dalton, Karlee Reynolds, Teresa Dominic, Hannah Gulley, Eric Breon, Russell Henry, Chance Chambers, Ashley Kapoor, Ashley McGuire, Kolin Coats, Cody McGuire, Christina Clendening, and Avree Yearton.

The All-State Choir auditions are held in two rounds, first round being at one of the four quadrant levels and second round which consists of the top 30 voices in each part from the four quadrants. Second round for the High School All-State Choir, 10th - 12th grade was held at UCO on Nov. 14th while second round for the Junior High School All-State Choir, 7th through 9th grades was held at Southern Hills Baptist Church on Nov. 17th.

Scores revealed Teresa Dominic made the Junior High Chorus and Cody McGuire made the High school Chorus. This is Cody's second year to be an All-OMEA All-State Chorus member. Cody will be attending rehearsals January 20th - 23rd, performance being held at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center on that Sat. afternoon. Teresa will be attending the All-OCDA All-State rehearsals and performance January 13 - 16th. Selected men from the choir were asked to attend the Men's Vocal Workshop at OU earlier in December. Students include Cody McGuire, Russell Henry, Chance Chambers and Kolin Coats.

OMEA's *Circle the State with Song Choir Festival* will be held on Jan. 7th. This choir includes 4th - 8th grade students in the surrounding counties. Students from Eufaula who will be participating are MacKenzie Dalton, Valerie Reynaga, Cheyenne Tanner, Karlee Reynolds, Ashley Maxwell, Kenzie Daniel, Kayla Carr, Kayla Montgomery, Libby Thomas, Brooke Butler, Taylor O'Brien, Bailee Dobbs, Makalya Manning, and Christian Rakow. Students will rehearse during the day with a performance held at the Tahlequah Performing Arts Center at 4 P.M.

FFA Chapter - David Turner, FFA Advisor - Megan Stuart Reporter

The Eufaula FFA Chapter kicked off the year with a highly successful Blue & Gold Meat Sale. With the help friends & family and the support of the community, the sale was a huge success. In case you happened to miss this sale, the chapter will be selling again in the spring.

The Eufaula FFA Chapter Officers attended *Chapter Officer Leadership Training*. Officers are Brooke Meeke, President, Rebekah Lal, Vice President, Kaylea Buie, Secretary, Dakota Powell, Treasurer, Megan Stuart, Reporter and Shanna Strickland, Sentinel. At this Northeast District conference, the officers listened to the Oklahoma State FFA Officers speak about becoming better leaders. Our officers were engaged in activities that focused on getting our members excited and involved in their local FFA Chapter. There were 510 chapter officers from 90 different chapters. Out of these many officers, six were chosen to participate in the opening ceremonies. One of these six officers was our very own Rebekah Lal, who was chosen to speak as the ceremonial reporter. Rebekah's presentation was excellent and she considered her participation in the opening ceremonies a privilege.

The Opening and Closing Ceremonies Teams attended two contests. Our 9th grade team placed 4th out of 32 teams at the Owasso FFA Jr. Leadership Contest and qualified for state level competition in Stillwater. Team members are Calaeb McQuay, President, Colton Tankersley, Vice-President, Kelsey Goodwin, Secretary, Trendon Chiles, Treasurer, Taylor Scott, Reporter and Cara Hicks, Sentinel.

Members from the Eufaula FFA Chapter attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The convention theme was *Leading Out Loud*, and the members heard speakers from across the nation speak on this subject.

Our 2009-2010 School Year Achievements (Focusing on Membership Involvement)

35 Members attended the OK FFA Alumni Leadership camp last summer - A Chapter Officer Retreat (COR) was conducted to enhance the leadership skills of the officer team - 90 plus members are enrolled in Ag Ed - 20 members of our chapter attended the National FFA Convention where our members cast votes that will forever change certain aspects of the National FFA Organization - Trained an Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team that were Area Champions and one of only 24 teams to qualify for the State Competition - Thirty Members are registered for the *Made for Excellence Conference* - The number of FFA Members exhibiting livestock this year is seventeen, up from nine members last year.

FFA Advisor, David Turner, has been asked to serve as the Assistant Camp Director of the OK FFA Alumni Council and one of three FFA Advisors selected to assist with the *Future Agricultural Education Teacher Academy*.

EHS Boys Basketball Camp - Coaches Bradley Campbell and Michael Campbell

The 2009 Summer camps went well and participation was very good at the Eufaula Summer Boys Basketball Camp. The team participated in the Ft. Gibson Basketball Camp for a week last June and participated in camps at Poteau, Heavener, Spiro and Stigler. The Eufaula Gymnasium was open two nights each week in June for the boys to practice. Our 2009-2010 Ironhead Basketball Team is a competitive group and includes four seniors: Tiandre Nichols, Jared Choat, A.J. Lewis, and David Brown.

Eufaula Cross Country Track - Coach Jared Smith

The Eufaula Cross Country team, under 2nd year coach Jared Smith, had a very successful season. Members of the 2009 Cross Country Track team included senior Lauren Belyeu, freshmen Ericka Nance and freshmen Katie Smith. The Middle School team members were 7th grader Rachel Marlar and 6th grader Austin Weeks. Lauren, Ericka, and Austin were all first year runners. The middle school team ran in six events with Austin Weeks medaling in four of the six events and Rachel Marlar earning one medal. The high school team participated in eight events. Lauren Belyeu earned three medals while Erika Nance earned two. Katie Smith medaled in all eight events with one 1st place win, one 2nd place, four third place, and two 8th place wins. Katie qualified for state with a third place finish at regionals and also placed third at state running the two-mile course in 12:22 seconds. Katie's third place finish also earned her a red and gold *All-Star* Jacket. Katie hopes to trade that jacket in for a blue and gold *All-State* jacket when she is a senior. With this year of success, Coach Smith hopes other athletes will join and continue to build the program.

EMS Basketball

The Eufaula Middle School 4th and 5th Grade Basketball teams are off to a great start. This is the 2nd year for the basketball program and we are proud of our coaches Rachael Harjo, Delicia White, Stephanie Fox, and Cassaundra Dan for the effort they are giving to make the program successful, and to the team members for their hard work in becoming competitive athletes. Check the Middle School Website for all Middle School Athletic Schedules.



4th grade girls: Angelina Fixico, Caitlin Lane, LeAndra Perkins, Kiauna Burns, Fairh Newkirk, Sabra Williams, Sydney Fitzer, Chrisma Collins, Marissa Notaro, Julia Hawkins, Sierra Robertson, Hannah Sullivan.



4th grade boys Jacob Lusk, Kenynan Brown, Joel Moore, Payton Combs, Jacob Jennings, Austin Ives, Noah Drake, Griffin Bradley, R'Montay Shine, Lance Holman, Brett Montgomery, Ezra Boster, Garrison Morgan, Josh Hunn, and Zaylen Pierce.



5th grade girls: Heather Braswell, Erin Gray, Kinley Flinn, De'Asia Chiles, Savannah Kerr, Brianna Crabtree, Emily Wiedel, Star Farris, Makayla Lawson, Alana Tackett, Lillie Drain, Mariah Williams, Emily Williams, Nicole Farrow, Hope Glover



5th grade boys: Dakota Adams, Bailey Lynn, Gunner Ford, Matt Whelan, Jimmy Mitchell, Tyler Anderson, Tracy Holmes, Cody Starnes, Devin Dewbre, Sean Aday, Cameron O'Dell, Forest Cleveand, Jesse Walker, Trey Fox, Ryan Newkirk.

EMS Football

The Copperheads 7th & 8th grade football

teams had another successful year. The Seventh grade team had four wins and two losses. The team scored a total of 124 points this season giving up only 76 points. They experienced wins over Checotah, Morris, Holdenville, and Haskell, with their only losses going to Henryetta and Vian. The five wins for the 8th grade football team were Checotah, Morris, Holdenville, Vian and Haskell. The only loss of the season was to Henryetta. They scored a total of 144 points and gave up only 66 points. Coach Nixon and Coach Luna would like to thank all of the football players and their families for their support this season.

Eufaula Public Schools

Mr. Dan Edwards, Superintendent
District I-001
215 North 6th Street
Eufaula, Oklahoma 74432-2428
918.689.2152 fax 918.689.1080
eufaula.k12.ok.us

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