



“Expect the Best”

HEADS UP

Eufaula Public Schools

Volume 11 Issue 1 July 2011

Mrs. Ford, Eufaula Superintendent of Schools



Mrs. Rita Ford assumed the reins of the Eufaula Schools’ superintendency on January 1, 2011. Mrs. Ford has brought immediate change to the Eufaula school system. Her first act was the reinstatement of a moratorium on open transfers. This policy denies the request for new open transfers and will reduce the number of transfer students attending Eufaula Schools, thereby preserving available classroom space for students whose parents have chosen to reside in the Eufaula school district.

Mrs. Ford is also busy pursuing the unfinished projects on the ten-year building plan identified during the previous bond issues. The construction of a Middle School practice field for football is nearing completion and should be ready for fall practice. The availability of a field at the middle school campus will eliminate the need to bus students to the high school for practice, thereby increasing the amount of time for practice. This new field and the increase in practice time at the middle school should mean students are better prepared for high school football. Go Heads!!!

Mrs. Ford recently completed a surplus sale of the old school buses that would no longer run. These buses had been replaced and were no longer needed. Their removal from the campus is a significant step in the beautification of the high school campus.

Her no-nonsense approach to decision making defines her leadership style. Having served as principal of the elementary school and the high school gives her unequalled insight into the needs of the school district and the consequences of not meeting those needs. Well-prepared elementary students become successful high school students.

Mrs. Ford has a vision for the Eufaula School District that includes being competitive with all schools in the state, both academically and athletically. She has identified some immediate needs that she can address with the local Board of Education. The larger needs, of which we are all well aware, will have to be addressed through a district wide bond issue.

Mrs. Ford is a high school graduate of Okemah High School and earned her administrators certificate from East Central University. She is married to Mr. Don Ford, who serves as superintendent of the Holdenville School District. *This relationship should add an interesting twist to our upcoming football season.*

SUPERINTENDENT FORD ADVOCATES NEW CONSTRUCTION

In 2000 when the building process began, the board of education along with input from business and community patrons developed a strategic plan for modernizing the Eufaula School District. That plan included a list of items that were prioritized by greatest need. At this point, eleven years later, most items on that list have been completed and the district is now ready to address the need for a new music facility for band rehearsals and a concessions/restroom building at the football field.

The facilities at the football field have been on hold while the school district built the elementary and middle school campuses and the addition to the high school. The lack of adequate restroom facilities has long been a criticism voiced by those attending home football games. The two restrooms are no longer functioning and port-a-potties have been used in recent years. Not only is this an inconvenience and visually unattractive, it is not the way we want visitors and alumni to remember our school.

The proposed bond would include building a new restroom/concession facility to accommodate all football fans in a sanitary and clean environment. This facility would be centrally located and accessible to both home fans and visitors. It will also allow our patrons with mobility issues the opportunity to use the restroom without

climbing hills or the inconvenience of a port-a-potty. The new concession/restrooms building with fifteen toilets and four urinals will be located in the north endzone *east of the oak tree* with a concrete landing for those who wish to sit in lawn chairs.

The proposed band building is approximately 7000 square feet with elevated ceiling and acoustical treatments much like the music room at the middle school. The building will be more expansive than the middle school music room and include instrument storage and offices for the band directors. The building is to be located south of the stadium parking lot adjacent to the band practice area.

Mrs. Ford says now is the time to build. With the bond for the elementary school having been paid, a new bond of \$1,800,000 can be added with minimal cost to the district patrons. The costs associated with the bond issue would represent a 7.58% increase in local taxes. In other words, if you paid \$100 in 2011 taxes, you would pay \$107.58 in your 2012 taxes. For that personal sacrifice, Eufaula band students could have a new rehearsal hall and everyone attending football games would have a roomy more accessible concession stand and *restrooms aplenty*.

Eufaula High School Band

FIFTEENTH SWEEPSTAKES CHAMPION

Since 1992, the Eufaula Band program has consistently achieved statewide recognition. With numerous all-state musicians, first place marching awards, and **15 state sweepstakes trophies**, the band program has built a tradition that rivals any in the state. Most remarkably, the band students have achieved all this in a **“make-shift” rehearsal hall**.

When David Steidley arrived in Eufaula as the band director in 1988 no one could have imagined the success that was to follow. As a first year teacher, even Mr. Steidley was unsure of the future. Quickly, the band program started to see small successes and the number of students quickly grew. Soon the administration and Mr. Steidley recognized that the enrollment had exceeded the practice facilities. Those facilities were the present-day choir room designed to house twenty students and never designed for band rehearsal. Seeing a need, the administration at the time decided to renovate the old shop/bus garage to house the



Eufaula Band. This building is located directly south of the football field and still has the appearance of an old shop/bus garage. That move was considered a temporary fix.

Two Decades Later, Director Glen Sizemore and the band are still rehearsing there. Through four band directors, the band has rehearsed in the same temporary structure. This structure has acoustical flaws that limit its use as a rehearsal hall. The ceiling height is insufficient to create a proper acoustical environment.

Another acoustical issue comes from noise pollution outside the building. Since the facility is made of sheet metal, any noise from outside easily penetrates the ceiling and walls making it hard to hear the band. Rain is among the worst of these disturbances. It is similar to being inside a barn during a rainstorm. The noise makes band rehearsal all but impossible.

The building's location is also a problem. Being located below the level of the football field, water drainage is a major issue. Every soaking rain causes water to flood into the band room. This happens time and again every year. The resulting smell is unbearable. The odor is so bad that the band is relocated to the auditorium interrupting rehearsal. This relocation can last for weeks while outside weather conditions dictate the cleaning and drying of the rehearsal hall.

The HS band's enrollment has consistently been ninety or so students. This facility much like the choir room has inadequate space for the current band enrollment and is unsuitable for the preparation of Eufaula students. This facility was never designed to accommodate music rehearsals and has outlived its usefulness. While the band under the direction of Mr. Sizemore and Mr. Palmer has certainly attained some lofty achievements while rehearsing in these facilities, it leaves one to ponder what might be possible with modern practice facilities.

Eufaula High Gets New Principal



The Eufaula Board of Education recently named Mr. Garrett Davis as Eufaula High School Principal. Mr. Davis is leaving Wewoka Public Schools to assume similar responsibilities here.

Mr. Davis graduated from Carl Albert High School in 1991. Having played on the 1989 state championship football team, he continued to play football at Southwestern OK State University, graduating in 1996. He earned his Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University in 2002.

For the past five years, Mr. Davis has served as Wewoka high school principal. Prior to his assignment at Wewoka he was a teacher-coach at Glenpool, Cushing, and Stilwell Public Schools.

Mr. Davis is married and has two children, a three-year old daughter, Hadleigh and a three-month old son, Baxter. His wife, Lyndie is a National Board certified teacher who will be teaching second grade at Eufaula Elementary School.

2010 - 2011 Eufaula School District's Teacher of the Year Mr. Jared Efurd

Mr. Efurd is the District's Technology Director and has been the innovator behind the Middle School's Student Web-Cast Program. *Congratulations, Mr. Efurd*



2010 - 2011 Eufaula School District's Support Person of the Year Ms. Laura Charles

Ms. Charles is our Support Person of the Year. She was nominated as being someone who gives 100 percent all of the time, is a team player, and has a caring attitude toward the students, faculty and staff. *Congratulations, Ms. Charles*

Retiring Faculty and Support Personnel

Sherrye Satterfield, Susan Miskovsky, Emma McConnell Wayne Proe, Leonard Luna

With the close of every school year we say goodbye to those who choose to begin a new journey away from EPS. While we will miss them and the energy and talent they brought to our district, we know they will enjoy their new life away from school. We Thank All of You for the years you have given to our district.



August 11 First day of Class

October 14 First nine weeks ends

October 17 Second nine weeks begins

Dece 20 Second nine weeks ends

January 04 Third nine weeks begins

March 09 Third nine weeks ends

March 12 Fourth nine weeks begins

May 24 Last day of school

SCHOOL CALENDAR SNAPSHOT

School is Closed on the Following Dates

September 05

October 20-21

November 21-25

December 21-31

January 16

February 20

March 19-23

April 06-09

2011 Varsity Football Schedule

AUG. 19 MORRIS SCRIMMAGE HOME 7:00

AUG. 25 HARTSHORNE SCRIMMAGE AWAY 7:00

SEPT. 2 KEYS HOME 7:30

SEPT. 9 CHECOTAH AWAY 7:30

SEPT. 16 VIAN AWAY 7:30

SEPT. 23 ATOKA (HOMECOMING) HOME 7:30

SEPT. 30 SPIRO AWAY 7:30

OCT. 7 VALLIANT HOME 7:30

OCT. 14 STIGLER AWAY 7:30

OCT. 20 HUGO HOME 7:30

OCT. 28 IDABEL AWAY 7:30

NOV. 4 SEMINOLE HOME 7:30

NOV. 13 STATE PLAYOFFS TBA

2011 JV-JH Football Schedule

AUG 19 MORRIS 9TH SCRIMMAGE) HOME 6:00

AUG. 25 HARTSHORNE 9TH SCRIMMAGE AWAY 6:00

SEPT 06 HOLDENVILLE (7-8-9) AWAY 6:00

SEPT 12 CHECOTAH (JV) HOME 6:00

SEPT 13 STIGLER (7-8-9) HOME 5:30

SEPT 19 MORRIS (JV-9TH) AWAY 6:00

SEPT 20 MORRIS (7-8) HOME 6:00

SEPT 26 HOLDENVILLE (JV) HOME 6:00

OCT 03 HENRYETTA (JV) HOME 6:00

OCT 04 HENRYETTA (7-8-9) AWAY 5:00

OCT 11 BEGGS (7-8-9) HOME 6:00

OCT 18 CHECOTAH (7-8-9) AWAY 5:00

OCT 25 HASKELL (7-8-9) AWAY 5:00

HEADS UP

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