

USPS 334-710 **3 Sections | 24 Pages**

White Out Conditions

Longtime superintendent takes position with Canadian Valley Technology Center

By Traci Chapman Managing Editor

As the Piedmont High School Class of 2023 crosses the stage to accept their diplomas, they will be the final students to graduate during the tenure of Superintendent Dr. James White, who has held that position for almost 13 years.

Canadian Valley Technology Center's Board of Education April 11 confirmed the hiring of White as an assistant superintendent. He confirmed Friday he would be starting in that new position effective July1.

Dr. White has worked 29 in education - before Piedmont, he began as a teacher/coach and a principal for seven years before serving for two years as assistant state superintendent for finance at the Department of Education.

Leaving Piedmont was a bittersweet decision - Dr. White's son graduated a few years ago; his daughter is a part of the Class of 2023. He became superintendent of Piedmont Public Schools on July 1, 2010.

"My family has been blessed to be in Piedmont," he said late Tuesday. "My wife and I couldn't have asked for a better experience for both of our children - they've had amazing teachers that cared about them and all of our students."

During White's tenure, the district has grown exponentially and seen a host of improvements, including bond proposals totaling more than \$126 million he said.

"We have grown by over 2,400 students, opened three new school sites, established a staff childcare center, won 10 academic state championships, have had 15 academic all-staters, won nine athletic state championships, four band state championships and

See White, Page 2A



Piedmont Superintendent Dr. James White is pictured on the first day of the 2022-23 school year with Charlotte Cooper at Piedmont Early Childhood Education Center. White will leave the district at the end of the school year after 13 years as superintendent after assuming a position as assistant superintendent at Canadian Valley Technology Center. (Photo by Traci Chapman)



VetsFest back in town May 6

PAVA-sponsored event entering its second year

> By Traci Chapman Managing Editor

The Piedmont School Board on Wednesday morning officially approved the promotion of Joe Crawford as the school's next girls basketball coach. (Photo courtesy)

Crawford named head girls basketball coach

By Blake Colston Sports Editor

Piedmont didn't have to look far to find its next girls basketball coach.

The Piedmont School Board on Wednesday morning approved the promotion of assistant Joe Crawford to head coach, effective immediately. Crawford replaces Eric Carr, who resigned following the season.

"We are thrilled to introduce Coach Crawford as our new women's basketball coach and are excited to see how he builds upon the program's success," said Matt Bilyeu, Director of Athletics and Activities. "Coach Crawford has a

proven track record of building positive relationships with student-athletes and is highly respected in the Oklahoma basketball community. Since joining Piedmont, he and his family have become involved in the school district and community. We are confident in the future of the program under his leadership."

Crawford had served as the top assistant for Carr since 2019 after he came to Piedmont following a stint as head girls coach at Oklahoma Christian Academy in Edmond, where he compiled a 75-40 record in four seasons. Crawford was

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Head Coaching Record at OCA Girls 2014-15 2-17 2015-16 18-7 2016-17 20-6 2017-18 19-10 **Overall** 75-40

Thousands of people are expected to converge on Piedmont May 6, as VetsFest shines a spotlight on the contributions and the needs of veterans.

The annual event sponsored by Piedmont Area Veterans Association, or PAVA, is set this year from noon to 5 p.m. VetsFest was conceived when a Piedmont high school student spoke to PAVA board member Josh Cain about doing something to celebrate veterans. With so many veteranthemed ceremonies held during the fall. Cain thought something held during the spring would be perfect.

That idea culminated in the inaugural May 2022 VetsFest. The event this year is expected to be even bigger and better than last year, Cain said.

"This is an opportunity to help veterans - from veteran business owners to those who want to come that day," Cain said. "This is all about helping, celebrating and honoring veterans."

For those business owners, it's a chance for PAVA to spread awareness of those veteranowned companies' products and services. There is no cost for military/veteran vendors, Cain said. It's assistance that's truly needed, especially now - data shows a

See VetsFest, Page 6A



Obituary

Testerman

Robert DuWayne Testerman, age 71, a longtime resident of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and formerly of Hollis, Oklahoma, passed away Saturday, April 15, 2023, at his home in Oklahoma City.

DuWayne was born in Hollis, Oklahoma, on Aug. 21, 1951, to his parents, Ray Elbert Testerman and Charlotte Mae Testerman. DuWayne was raised in Hollis, where he attended school and he went on to Oklahoma State Technology in Okmulgee, where he earned his degree in Commercial Art.

On Aug. 16, 1974, DuWayne married the love of his life, Danita Gay Hickerson of Gould, Oklahoma, at the Gould First Baptist Church, and they have enjoyed over 48 years of marriage together. As a young married couple they resided in Stillwater, Bethany and Oklahoma City.

In his early teens, DuWayne worked the wheat harvest with his family. With his commercial art career he worked for Heritage Press in Stillwater and later he worked in sales for Save Auto Stores in Oklahoma City and wound up managing the store until he went to work as the Warehouse Manager for the Distribut-

Testerman

Preceding DuWayne in death were his parents, Ray Elbert Testerman and Charlottie Mae Testerman; his brother, Dudley Ray Testerman; his sister, Karen Sue Snitker; and his great nephew, Keeton Owens.

DuWayne is survived by his wife, Danita Testerman of their home in Oklahoma City; his daughter, Jessica Booth and her husband Matt of El Reno, Oklahoma; three brothers, Charles Douglas Testerman and wife Nancy of Hollis, Stephen Snitker and wife Linda of Sunrise Beach, Missouri, and Clifford Dwight Testerman and wife Joetta of Mangum, Oklahoma;

two sisters, Cheryl Denise Lewis of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Karen Testerman of Hollis; six grandchildren, Kaley Testerman of Oklahoma City, Brailyn, Hayden and Timberly Booth, all of El Reno, Oklahoma, Mikaylyn Minyen and Jameson McEndree; 10 nieces; four nephews; and lots of cousins, great nieces and nephews, as well as many other family members and friends.

Memorials may be made in honor of Robert DuWayne Testerman to the American Lung Association.

The family will greet friends at Visitation from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, April 20, 2023, at Harmon County Funeral Home in Hollis, Oklahoma.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023, at the Hollis First Baptist Church, with Pastor Tim Tutton officiating.

Interment will follow at McKnight Cemetery north of Hollis, Oklahoma, under the direction of Harmon County Funeral Home, Hollis, Oklahoma.

To sign the online guest book and share memories with the family, please visit the funeral home website at https://www.Harmon-CountyFuneral.com.

White

From Page 1A

most recently an esports state championship in our first year," the superintendent said. "With help from our community, we have also been able to reestablish an active education foundation and agricultural program; working collectively, we have accomplished a great deal and hopefully made a lasting impact on Piedmont Public Schools."

As of press time, Piedmont Board of Education was holding a special April 19 meeting to determine, in part, the district's path forward. As part of that process, the board was expected to accept the resignation of not only Dr. White, but also executive assistant/board clerk Summer Humphries and Trinity Johnson, the district's secondary education executive director.

Humphries, like White, has been hired by CV Tech; in fact, she had already departed the district as of press time. It was unclear as of Wednesday the reasons for Johnson's departure.

For White the next few weeks will be a time to reflect on the past and look toward the future.

"Overall, I'm just hoping for a positive finish to the school year - we have outstanding teachers, administrators and support staff who work extremely hard each and every day to provide the best possible education to our students," the superintendent said. "I'm looking forward to my new position as assistant superintendent of Canadian Valley Technology Center. "CV Tech has provided great opportunities for many of our students over the years - I will have the opportunity to work alongside the directors at all three campuses, El Reno, Yukon and Chickasha," he said. "It will certainly be an adjustment after so many years in Piedmont, but it is exciting to start a new chapter in my career."

Board to hold second special meeting to begin new superintendent search

By Traci Chapman Managing Editor

In the wake of the news that longtime Piedmont Superintendent Dr. James White would be vacating that post at the end of the 2022-23 school year, the district Board of Education held a Wednesday special meeting to discuss its options.

The board met in executive session before returning to discuss their search for a new superintendent.

Obviously, we have some different options that we can look at," Jones said. "We can inhouse the search process, we could also use the Oklahoma Secondary School Board Association (OSSBA) as a resource, as well, and we can do a mix of that - the options are ours, so we can make that choice."

There would be a fee if the district utilizes OSSBA, Jones said. Member Katie Cornman

said she also received an email from the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center (OP-SRC).

"To me we need to move quickly on getting the process approved," Cornman said, suggesting the possible scheduling of a special meeting before the board's regularly scheduled May meeting, set for May 8.

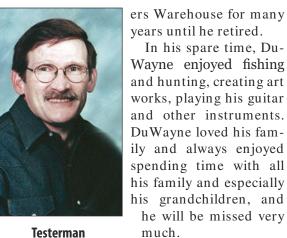
That suggestion appeared to garner unanimous approval, with members discussing meeting with representatives of both OSSBA and OPSRC.

That meeting was not scheduled during Wednesday's session.

Although there was an agenda item concerning an interim superintendent, there was no discussion or action taken in regular session concerning that matter.

White is scheduled to begin a new position as assistant superintendent at Canadian Valley Technology Center on July 1.

Piedmont drama travels 'Into the Woods'





By Traci Chapman Managing Editor

Piedmont High School's ever-growing drama department is counting down the days to its spring production, when they bring "Into the Woods, Jr." to the stage.

The musical is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 17, 28 and 29 at Piedmont Intermediate School.

"Into the Woods, Jr is a musical where several Grimm fairytales are mixed together - the baker and his wife are childless and

See Drama, Page 4A



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Piedmont High School's cast of Into the Woods, Jr. will present a musical that's a mesh of several Grimm fairytales. The production is scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 27, 28 and 29 on the Piedmont Intermediate School stage. (Photo courtesy)



National Prescription Take Back Day set for April 22

By Traci Chapman Managing Editor

Properly disposing of unused and outdated medications is the focus of an April 22 national day of awareness – awareness crucial to the health and safety of Canadian County residents young and old alike, experts say.

That's the point of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, set this year for Saturday, April 22, and the chance for everyone to make sure they have safely disposed of out-of-date medications and prescriptions no longer needed - rather than holding on to something that could end up in someone else's hands. While on the surface that might not seem like a pressing concern, even one misused drug can be deadly, Red Rock Behavioral Health Service Prevent Coordinator Brittani Brice said.

This take back event provides the community with a fast, convenient and anonymous place to dispose of any unwanted, unused and expired medications," Brice said. "This event is a great way to make sure that your medicine cabinets are safe and clean for friends and family members."

Red Rock is hosting an April 22 drop off between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Indian Health Service, located at 1801 Parkview Drive in El Reno. Prescription drop boxes are also located at law enforcement facilities throughout Canadian County, including:

• Yukon Police Department –



100 S. Ranchwood Blvd.

Mustang Police Department - 650 E. state Highway 152
Canadian County Sheriff's

Office - 304 N. Evans, El Reno • Piedmont Police Depart-

ment – 400 Edmond Road NW

Access to Mustang, Yukon and CCSO drop boxes is open at all times, every day of the year; anyone wishing to drop items at Piedmont Police Department may do so between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Several pharmacies across Canadian County also have drop boxes, officials said. Check with a particular pharmacy for details.

Expired medications can hold unseen dangers, officials said – but a larger issue is individuals who share their prescribed medication or hold on to it and someone else accessing that supply.

Even when the person who received the prescription doesn't share it, holding drugs past their needed use can be an invitation to trouble, Cochran said – leading to addiction, especially with opioids and other commonly prescribed medications; things like antibiotics, sleep aids and even prescription vitamins and supplements can be harmful to someone whose doctor didn't prescribe them, she said.

With prescription drug addiction becoming a major health hazard, legislators, law enforcement and public health advocates have worked to address the problem. According to Prescription for Change, more than 136 people across the United States die every day as a result of opioid drug overdose – five times more than in 1990. Five years ago that average number was 115 deaths, federal statistics showed.

Oklahoma has been particularly hard-hit, statistics show, with the state now at the top of a dubious list as the worst in the country for nonmedical pain medication use. With that distinction came strengthening of legal ramifications for prescription drug sharing and use – including possible felonies for first-time offenses. The issue also became something directly put at the door of the medical community, in the form of a 2015 Oklahoma State Statute that requires doctors to monitor a state prescription monitoring database before prescribing addictive drugs, like opioids, to new patients. That move followed a reclassification of combination opioids in 2014, which required those medications to be included in the Schedule II controlled dangerous substance list.

The phenomena is why it is so important to properly dispose of medications, officials said. While an individual taking that step might seem minimal, it could make a significant in their life and those who know and love them, she said.

Some items – aerosol spray cans; illegal drugs; needles, syringes and other sharp objects; alcohol or hydrogen peroxide; medical devices; mercury thermometers; chemicals; batteries and liquid in excess of 4 ounces – may not be disposed of at county drop boxes, Brice said.

Red Rock, funded through Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, works to keep those numbers down, focusing its drug prevention efforts on all ages, from the youngest to the oldest in the community. Those efforts include education and a partnership with area law enforcement to promote safe disposal of unused or expired medications at those law enforcement-sponsored drop boxes.



Esports event visiting Canadian County Expo Center April 22-23

By Traci Chapman Managing Editor

Esports comes to Canadian County Expo Center this weekend, as Yukon-based OATH presents its Spring Finals and Open Tournament April 22-23.

The event is a culmination of months of weekly online matches to determine the finals' seeding, OATH Esports Director Patrick McClung said. Also featured will be an open tournament featuring collegiate, youth and pro-am teams, he said. Competitors include collegiate teams from University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University, Rogers State University and Independence Community College from Kansas.

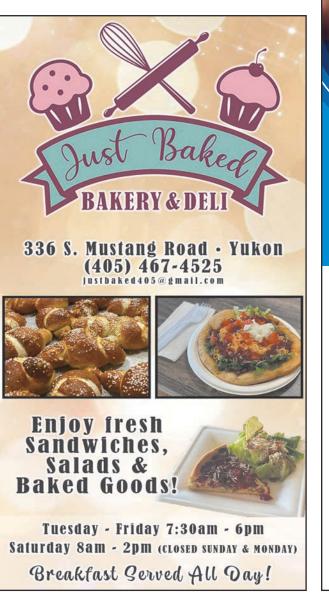
"We're excited to expand the OATH Esports Finals to be a weekend-long event and provide gamers and esports fans with an unforgettable experience," McClung said. "Our players have worked hard to get to this point, and we can't wait to see them compete at the highest level."

Yukon-based OATH fields

Esports claims first state title

Piedmont's Esports team claimed its first state title last week with a victory over Stillwater High School's Esports team. Team members pictured back row left to right are Toby Visser, Gyle Wise, Jackson Montgomery, Issac Womack, Troy Danielson, coach Anthony Mellendorf and Joshua Lennertz.

Front row left to right, Matthew Pham and Daniel Lindsay holding trophy. (Photo courtesy)





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teams of youth in sixth through 12th grades to competitions of Valorant and Overwatch. It's a chance to learn about teamwork and competition but is really much more, McClung said last year.

"It's very proactive, can be very intense – it's playing games but

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County trust incurs \$160M debt for Mustang Schools projects

Educational authority finances bonds to expedite construction project

Read The Piedmont-Surrey Gazette online at piedmontnewsonline.com

By Conrad Dudderar Staff Writer

EL RENO — A Canadian County public trust is backing \$160 million in bonds to help finance Mustang school projects — including a new school building.

Canadian County Educational Facilities Authority (CCEFA) trustees — the three county commissioners — approved a resolution April 17 to incur debt by issuing lease revenue bonds or notes "in the aggregate principal part amount not to exceed" \$160 million for Mustang Public Schools.

The resolution describes what items the funds may be used for — to complete the "acquisition, construction, equipping, renovating, and remodeling of school buildings, acquiring school furniture, fixtures and equipment and acquiring and improving school sites."

MPS officials and their financial/bond advisors attended Monday morning's CCEFA and commissioners' meetings when the resolution was approved by a 3-0 vote.

The \$160 million will be used toward funding Mustang's ninth (and maybe 10th) elementary school, a high school expansion, other school upgrades, new buses, technology equipment, textbooks and other instructional materials.

MPS voters passed a \$180.9 million bond issue package at a Feb. 14 election.



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"That's required before we can ever issue those bonds," Canadian County Commission/ Authority Chairman Dave Anderson said of voter approval.

CCEFA trustees, working with Canadian County school districts, will issue bonds and enter into lease arrangements so improvements may be expedited.

"The Educational Facilities Authority is constructing these improvements on behalf of the school all at once – as opposed to 'in pieces,'" Chairman Anderson explained.

"A school district can only be indebted up to 10%

of its net (property) valuation at one time." In Mustang's case, the \$160 million exceeds 10% of the district's assessed valuation.

Without the CCEFA's support, MPS would have to issue smaller bonds or notes – about \$20 million – at a time.

That would create problems when trying to hire contractors to build an entire new school, according to Anderson.

Issuing these lease-revenue bonds is a "legal way that the trust authority can help school districts construct projects as a whole, instead of in phases," he added.

In effect, the process allows Canadian County school districts to increase their credit limit. This provides a cost savings because one complete project can be built less costly than several pieces of that project, Anderson emphasized.

The Mustang school district now has just over 13,500 students and is projected to top 16,000 students before the 2026 school year and 19,000 students by 2031, according to Superintendent Charles Bradley.

The district's student population was 9,204 in 2012. Every school district in Canadian County has used the educational facilities authority – with Mustang leading the way.

Next week, Yukon Public Schools is expected to ask CCEFA to incur debt for district bond projects.

THIS AND THAT...

In other business at its April 17 meeting, Canadian County commissioners approved:

• An agreement for EST, Inc. to provide ondemand engineering services for all three commissioners.

• Annual agreements with El Reno Public Schools to provide educational services at the Canadian County Juvenile Detention Center and Fort Reno Adolescent Center and to serve as "lead education agency" at the county's Children's Justice Center.

• Annual agreements with 10 school districts that use the county juvenile center's alternative education services: Banner, Calumet, Darlington, El Reno, Maple, Minco, Mustang, Riverside, Union City and Yukon.

• Agreements with Firetrol Protection Systems for annual inspection of the fire system and monitoring of the fire sprinkler system at the new Canadian County Health Department building.

• A resolution to declare county-owned vehicles as surplus for the Canadian County Sheriff's Office: 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe, 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe, 2013 Ford F350 4X4 and two 2013 Dodge Chargers.

Undersheriff Kevin Ward also presented the weekly Canadian County Jail report showing 217 inmates in custody, with 180 prisoners held at the El Reno detention center and 37 others housed in outside contracted counties.

Drama

From Page 2A

find out their next door neighbor (the witch) put a spell on them," said drama sponsor and teacher Stacy Johnstonbaugh. "In order to break the spell, they have to go into the woods to find four items; on their way to finding these items, they come across Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk and many more characters." theatre, some student written one act plays, and then a spring musical next April."

The department has also expanded to younger students. Piedmont Middle School now also has a drama program led by Jami Karber.

"She is doing an excellent job helping to build



Anderson

4A

DEADLINES

For consideration for the next issue, news items should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Display ad reservation deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Monday prior to publication. Classified ad deadline is 5pm on Tuesday before publication.

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The play is based on a book by James Lapine and features music by Stephen Sondheim. It was originally produced by the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Calif.

The production is a big change from last fall's "The Outsiders," but one the cast and crew have embraced, Johnstonbaugh said. The enthusiasm for Into the Woods, Jr. illustrates the impact the program has had – and how it has grown in the last two years.

"We had over 45 students audition for the musical this year," she said. "Next season, we are looking to put on a murder mystery dinner



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We're your Shield. We're your Shelter. the theatre program," Johnstonbaugh said.

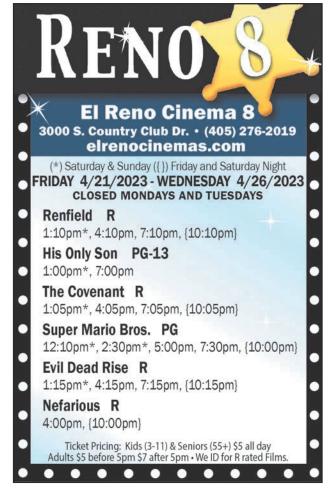
The heart and soul of the drama program is the students, however, Johnstonbaugh said.

"These students have so much natural talent - over half of the cast is new to the program and have been amazing additions and a joy to work with," she said. "They have taken on this production with enthusiasm and dedication. All of the students have taken ownership in the musical and it shows in the final product.

Into the Woods, Jr. was also a chance for another drama department first – a student director, Johnstonbaugh said.

"Landon Chisolm is a senior at Piedmont High School and he has taken on the role of student director," she said. "He has been a vital component in this show and has grown over the years as an invaluable member of the theatre department."

Ticket cost for Into the Woods, Jr. is \$8 for students and \$10 for adults and tickets can be purchased at the door.



Canadian County District Court Records

Canadian County District Court Records (April 10-14):

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Kevin Scott Taylor II and Joscelyn Adrianna Cash. Jimmy Lee Deleonypena and Ashley Renee Collins.

Devin Brady Savage and Chelese Dawn Harrison. Perry Olonzo Grate Jr. and Page Lynn Pierce-Butler.

Jose Nicholas Arellano Munoz and Selene Lizette Acosta Chavez.

Samuel Ryan Webb and Lauren Grace Stoll. Dylan Ryan Garrison and Tailyn Nicole Hailee-Shepherd.

John Albert Ryan and Merlynn A. Nelson. Lawrence Ryan Corley and Crystal Dawn Shackelford.

Alston Rylan Purvis and Mikelle Wilcox. Jarrod Louis Halphen and Landri Brooke Bennett.

Claude Jay Salmon and Marcia Sue Handley. Christian Kade Edward Watkins and Mary Elizabeth Moon.

Jonathan James Palazzolo and Brianna Elizabeth Carol Goin.

William Howard Newman and Riann Nicole Swift.

Nathan Emmanuel Martinez and Leyla Elena Avila.

Jack David Pruitt and Carolyn Lee Pruitt. John David Ewing Jr. and Jasmine Dawn Marie Ross.

DIVORCES FILED

Mae Y. Raymond-Brown and Kenji C. Raymond-Brown.

David Alan Kellar and Tamara Jo Kellar. James Jeffrey Harris and Yen T. To. Sofia T. Gomez and Rumaldo M. Gomez Jr. Virginia Ann Morton and David Leo Morton. Krystal M. Cain and Michael A. Cain. Ashley Galusha and Paul Rule. Andrew Schiedenmantel and Rachel Schiedenmantel.

Heather Gillean and Joshua Gillean. Johnny Alvin Frady III and Charity Joy Frady. Edidiong Ekpo and Ebukubong Okonna. Tracy Sondag and Sam Goldsberry. Leann Robison and Michael Wheeler. Trisha Parker and Darren Parker.

Sabrina Driver and Loy Eugene Driver. Debbie Courtney and Stanley Symes. Starla Rose Sacks and Angel Chatina M. Mead-OWS.

Elizabeth Card and Kyle Dane Card.

FELONIES FILED

Yukon's Jacob Isaiah Quint, kidnapping and disrupting/preventing emergency telephone call. Oklahoma City's Valantay Ray Perkins, assault and battery on police officer. Lawrenceburg, Tenn.'s Yunita Latice Cedeno, aggravated trafficking in illegal drugs. Lawrenceburg, Tenn.'s Sharon Kumesha Hodge, aggravated trafficking in illegal drugs and acquiring proceeds from drug activity. Guthrie's Jason Robert Hightower, unauthorized use of a vehicle and possession of controlled dangerous substance (marijuana). El Reno's Antonio Luis Rivera Sr., domestic assault and battery by strangulation. Norman's Michael Christopher Skeen, lewd or indecent proposals to child under 16.

MISDEMEANORS FILED

El Reno's Devante Desmond Deshean McKinney, obstructing an officer and driving with suspended/revoked license. El Reno's Aaron Devone James McKinney,

obstructing an officer. Yukon's Steven Kyle Ennis, possession of controlled dangerous substance (methamphetamine).

El Reno's Jeremiah Don Crain, possession of controlled dangerous substance (methamphetamine) and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Chickasha's Makayla Luanna Fields, larceny of merchandise from retailer.

El Reno's Graham Ethan Powell, breaking and entering without permission.

El Reno's Paris Marissa Goodbear, domestic assault and battery in presence of minor and

malicious injury to property. Oklahoma City's Austin Andrew Lavender, driv-

ing under the influence of alcohol. Mustang's Leobardo Espinoza-Gonzalez, actual physical control of vehicle under the influence. Oklahoma City's Paul David Aveson, driving with revoked/suspended license and failure to





maintain insurance of security. Oklahoma City's Taylor Gail Sears, obstructing an officer, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and larceny of merchandise from retailer. Oklahoma City's Jeffrey Earl Goodson, driving with license suspended.

Tulsa's Scott Frank Hugh Sanchez, possession of medical marijuana without a license, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, driving with suspended/revoked license, and speeding.

El Reno's Nathaniel Edward Shelton, possession of controlled dangerous substance (hydrocodone and marijuana) and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

El Reno's Stanley Rodan Plentybears, reckless conduct with firearm.

El Reno's Haylon Roy Manygoats, public intoxication.

El Reno's Armando Nava-Merino, driving without valid license and failure to stop/yield at proper place.

Mustang's Samuel Lee Craft, carrying firearm while under the influence and obstructing an officer.

El Reno's Anessa Jean Madbull, public intoxication.

El Reno's Logan Tanner Mowery, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Yukon's Bobby Wayne Case, false reporting of crime.

Woodward's Ronnie Eugene Seal, obstructing an officer.

Bethany's Melinda Jane Frogge, threatening to perform violent act.

Mustang's Chantica Denise Penn, defrauding an



innkeeper/restaurateur. Blanchard's Shannon Roshawn Ware, larceny of merchandise from retailer. Fairview's Joseph Wayne Collins Jr., petty larceny. Raylisha N. Williams, neglect or refusal to compel child to attend school.

Moore's James Michael Delheimer, larceny of merchandise from retailer.

LAWSUITS FILED

Dustin Byron Hartman vs. Union City Police Department, Union City Board of Trustees and Union City police officer Chris McGuire, negligence.

Linda J. Howard vs. Drayven Wyatt, auto negligence.

Guild Mortgage Company vs. Robert D. Trawick and Theresa E. Trawick, foreclosure.

Farm Bureau Bank vs. Michelle Kennedy, breach of contract.

Velocity Investments vs. Hillary C. Lamar, debt. BancFirst vs. Debbie C. Castaneda and Saul

Hernandez-Farjardo, foreclosure.

Wells Fargo Bank vs. Toby A. Wampler and Jennifer C. Wampler, foreclosure.

Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing vs. Giovanni Alexander Olmedo Lopez and Candice Olmeda, foreclosure.

Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing vs. Sharon D. Barlett, foreclosure.

U.S. Bank Trust vs. Dave W. Kimbell and Linda M. Kimbell, foreclosure.

Select Portfolio Servicing vs. Mike D. Byrd, foreclosure.

American Express National Bank vs. Don Dillon, debt.

Chance and Annie Nestell vs. Dustin Bane and Lindsay Bane, negligence.

LVNV Funding vs. Dustin M. Houston, debt.

David H. Ratliff and Tammie L. Stevens vs. John Evans, foreclosure.

Oklahoma Educators Credit Union vs. Jeanlola Green-Young.

U.S. Bank vs. Kelsey Ballhorn, debt.

M&T Bank vs. Contessa Clapper, foreclosure. Carrington Mortgage Services vs. Gary Cline,

foreclosure.

Nationstar Mortgage vs. Karl Holdcraft II, foreclosure.



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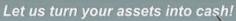


For more information please call: Garrett Carpenter @ 405-761-6634

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PIEDMONT-SURREY GAZETTE

VetsFest

From Page 1A

differsignificant ence in veterans' post-service entrepreneurship levels. After World War I, 49.7% of veterans returning home began businesses; since 9/11, that number is less than 5%, according to reports from the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

"Our goal is to bring a crowd to them," Cain said. "We want to help change those statistics."

That goal will also be at the forefront a few days before

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Cali Mitchell runs down an aisle PAVA's inaugural VetsFest held last year. This year's event is set for May 6 adjacent to the veteran's association building. *(File photo)*

the actual VetsFest event, when PAVA partners with the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs for a session designed to better equip veterans for business ownership and success.

The big event, of course, is Saturday, when VetsFest is expected to play host to a large crowd of veterans, their families and members of the public. The event will be held from noon to 5 p.m. in the field adjacent to the Piedmont Area Veterans Association hall, located at 240 Edmond Road NW. In addition to of-

fering a chance to explore the offerings from veteran-owned entities, VetsFest is also a chance for military active service and veterans to have some fun with their families. The May 6 event will feature food trucks, children's activities and music.

Piedmont Public Schools is getting into the spirit for the event, with some students preparing artwork with patriotic themes that will be showcased that day. Piedmont High School's color guard will also participate with a "Top Gun" themed performance.

Music offerings will come courtesy of three bands – the '70s themed headliner, Atlantis Aquarius out of Dallas; the Tyler Wilhelm band, which hails from Elk City; and Levi Walker, a musician from Luther.

The military is

also expected to be at the forefront of VetsFest, with the United States Marine Corps giving a presentation and a hoped-for military flyover Cain said.

"We have several things in the works," he said.

No money goes to the Piedmont veterans association as a result of Vets-Fest but is used to maximize services to veterans, Cain said. The nonprofit is constantly working to provide more resources to those who need them, he said.

"We would really like to turn this into a statewide event – last year we had people from several places across the state and hope this year there's even more of that," Cain said. "We are really looking forward to making this bigger and better every year."

More information – including vendor registration – is available on the PAVA website, located at https:// www.pavavets.org/ or by emailing pavavets@outlook.com.

Crawford

From Page 1A

also the head boys coach at OCA from

2016-2018 and led the Eagles to a 33-24 mark.

"I am so blessed and excited to accept this job here at Piedmont High School. My wife and I have raised our 4 daughters within 15 minutes of Piedmont, for all but 2 years of their life. The hometown feel, the people of this community, and the up and coming young ladies who are dedicated to Piedmont basketball, makes this job one of the best in the state," Crawford told The Piedmont-Surrey Gazette. "We have a strong, talented group of very young ladies coming back, and we have great numbers and talented young players in our junior high getting ready. The future is bright

and I can't

for October. If you

haven't been in our

new Wildcat Ath-

letic Center (WAC),

please make plans to

come out and watch

an exciting group of

role with the wom-

In addition to his

Lady Wildcats."

en's basketball team, Crawford also serves as the head coach of the men's and women's golf programs and teaches Outdoor Lifestyles at Piedmont Intermediate.

Crawford began his coaching career at Summit Middle

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Esports

From Page 3A

it offers so much more," he said. "It's about making new friends, building skills and doing all of it with honor, integrity and respect."

Esports is basically a competition around video games.

"It's training for what would take them to a higher level in esports – there's college, competitive, PC-based," McClung said. "One of the beautiful things is it's open to anybody and everything is coed."

The organization began in 2019 with a state program called Oklahoma Esports League. It was a great league, Mc-Clung said, but was restrictive – only students who were members of school teams were allowed to participate.

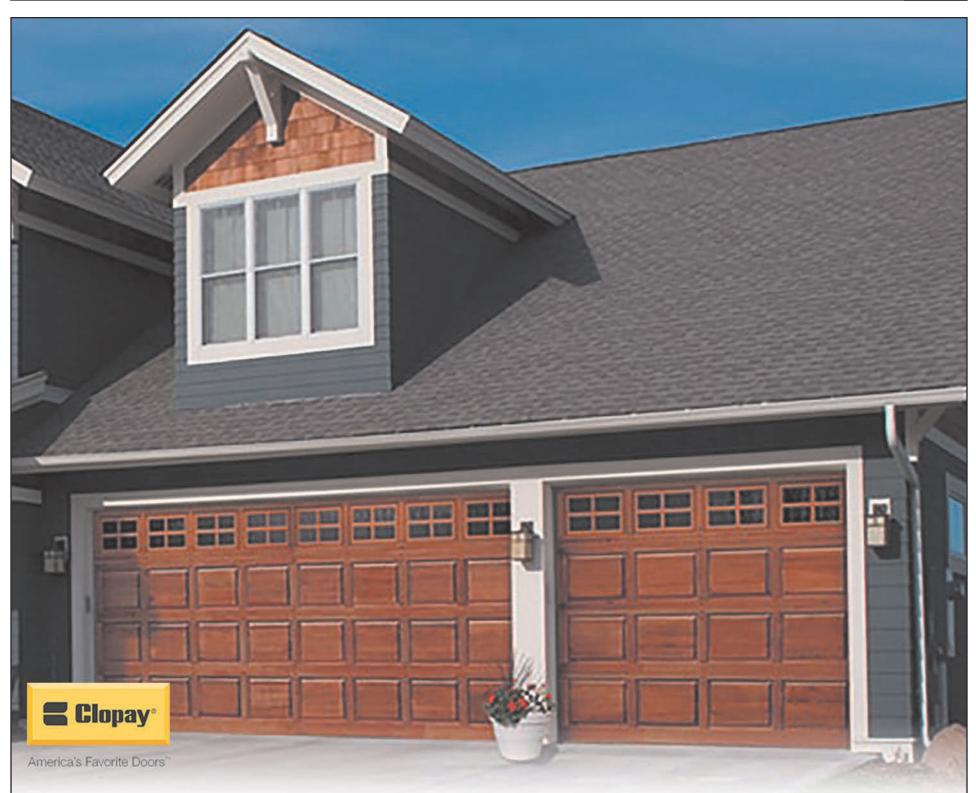
With OATH Mc-Clung hoped to appeal to a wider group of players, School in Edmond in 1992, where he coached basketball, football and baseball.

He later went on to coach basketball and football at Edmond Santa Fe High School.

individuals who weren't necessarily interested in playing through a school team - or who didn't have such a team available. Starting in Canadian County, local interest quickly grew – but it didn't stop there. OATH now has players hailing from California, Colorado and Missouri and coaches from Arizona and Nevada involved with the team.

OATH has made a difference for the individuals who have joined the organization. In some cases, the impact has gone far beyond the games, the competitions or even the thrill of victory, Mc-Clung said.

"After one of the first seasons, a mom called and was in tears just thanking us," he said.



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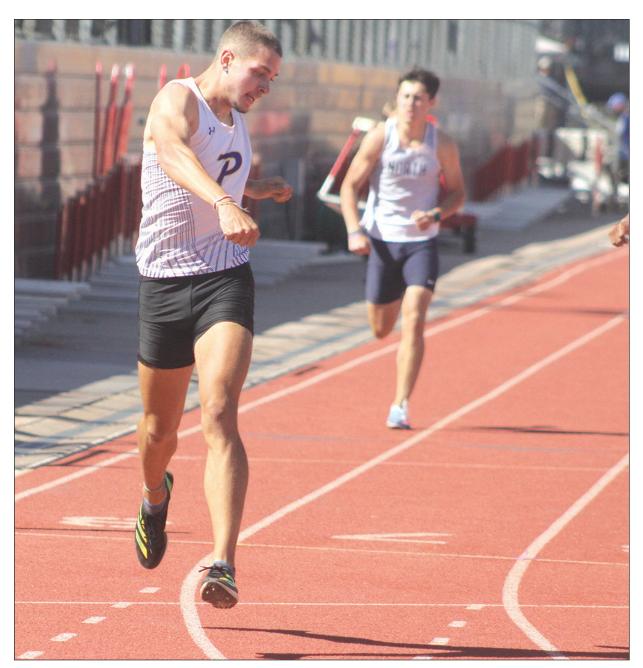
SPORTS



Inside: Read about a pair of Piedmont High School seniors taking their fishing skills to the next level. **See more on**

Page 6B.

Thursday, April 20, 2023



Piedmont runner Kanyon Cobbs fist pumps as he crosses the finish line in the 400-meter run last week at the Yukon Invitational. Cobbs placed second in a field of 61 runners while setting a new school record time. (Photo by Blake Colston)

The Grand Kanyon

Cobbs sets school record in the 400-meter run; sets sights on winning a state championship

"I've kind of been building off the legacy of Johnnie (Jones)," Cobbs said of the previous 400-meter record-holder at PHS, who finished fourth at state in 2022. "All week in practice that was what my mind was on. I couldn't let it not happen. Forty-eight (seconds) is the next goal." Cobbs beat not only the school record, but also topped last season's Class 5A 400-meter state champion, Max Clark of Coweta. Now, Cobbs is adding an individual state championship to his wish list. "That would mean a lot," he said. "You can't take your eyes off that goal." Though Cobbs' best event may be the 400, it's far from his only contribution to the team. He also set a personal-best time on the opening leg of Piedmont's 4-by-800 relay team, which is the fastest in Class 5A. Two weeks ago at Carl Albert, he ran the

Piedmont sweeps McGuinness, seals spot as regional host

By Blake Colston Sports Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY – Piedmont's baseball team put its full arsenal on display Tuesday night at Bishop McGuinness.

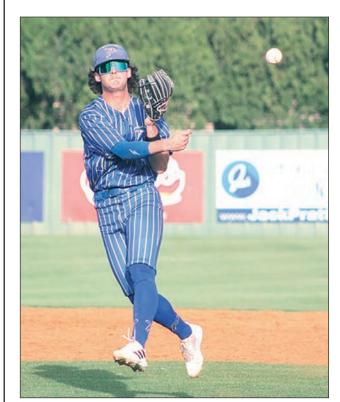
The Wildcats got a quality start from Jackson Califano, a dominant relief effort from Noah Aller and showed a blend of small ball and power hitting during a 6-0 win over the Irish at Joe Cook Field.

Noah Smith, Reid Smith, Luke Hill, Weston Thomas and Jakeb Koop each drove in runs as Piedmont totaled seven hits off McGuinness starting pitcher Brett Jacobs, but it was the 'Cats' versatility up and down the lineup that made the difference on a day that a howling south wind blowing in from right field forced Piedmont to play small ball.

"We're well-rounded offensively. Our whole lineup pretty much top to bottom can all run, and they can all bunt," head coach Adam Skokowski said. "But we can all bash, too. These guys are willing to do what it takes."

Piedmont's small ball attack ultimately

See Wildcats, Page 6B



e i i

By Blake Colston Sports Editor

Piedmont track and field star Kanyon Cobbs has stayed humble yet hungry this season, and the approach is paying off.

Cobbs has made a point to stay off social media as much as possible and has kept his accomplishments this season mostly to himself, he said, but last Thursday, Cobbs accomplished something that he was willing to celebrate.

Cobbs set the school record (49.79) in the 400-meter run at the Yukon Invitational and the Oklahoma City University signee swung a fist pump through the air as he crossed the finish line.

See Kanyon, Page 4B

Kellett named offensive coordinator at PHS

By Blake Colston Sports Editor

Piedmont head coach Jeff Hall didn't have to go too far to find the Wildcats' next offensive coordinator.

Hall and Piedmont went down Highway 4 to nab Yukon High School offensive coordinator Keenan Kellett. Kellett, who has served as an offensive assistant at YHS since 2017, replaces Aaron Dillard, who left Piedmont to be head coach at Purcell.



"This hire will make for a seamless transition," Hall said.

Kellett confirmed the move via his Twitter account.

"I've always been a firm believer in the saying everything happens for a reason. When my wife and I first came to Yukon, we were ecstatic for a new adventure of living in a different place and working at the same school district,"



See Kellett, Page 2B

Piedmont second baseman Jakeb Koop throws out a runner at first base on Tuesday afternoon during the Wildcats' 6-0 win over Bishop McGuinness. (*Photo by Blake Colston*)

Hahn does it again



Lady Wildcat Jordan Hahn, above, secured her third hat trick in four games as Piedmont beat Guthrie 10-0 Tuesday evening. The boys team lost to the 'Jays in penalty kicks. *(Photo by Rhonda Stovall)*



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Lady Wildcats lose grudge match at Bishop McGuinness

By Blake Colston Sports Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Piedmont peppered Bishop McGuinness's goal with shots in the final minutes Friday night.

The Lady Wildcats missed one potential game-tying salvo just wide and another barely skipped over the crossbar as Piedmont's furious comeback attempt fell short in a 2-1 loss at Connelly Field in Oklahoma City.

"We told the girls that if you'll play with the same intensity you played with the last eight minutes for 80 minutes or even 70 or 60, you'll have every right to win that game," Piedmont head coach Brad Brucker said. "But, tonight, we waited a little too long and got unfortunate on some calls, honestly."

Irish forward Katie Johnston put home a pair of second-half goals to rally the Fighting Irish from a 1-0 halftime deficit as McGuinness (8-0, 5-0) earned its seventh consecutive win over the Lady Wildcats.

"Katie is really special. We knew how to defend her and we did an excellent job of that in the first half," Brucker said. "She got loose twice in the second half and that's really all it takes."

Piedmont (6-5, 4-1) led for a majority of the first half after Jordan Hahn deflected a ball





Ali Daugherty works the ball down the field during the first half of Piedmont's 2-1 loss at Bishop McGuinness. (*Photo by Blake Colston*)

over the head of the Irish goalkeeper in the 11th minute. It was Hahn's seventh goal in her last three games and the junior forward's 20th this season.

"She's such a competitor. I wish I had 12 or 14 of her," Brucker said of Hahn. "She's talented but it's really her competitive nature that separates her."

A howling south wind that gusted as high as 35 MPH played a major factor in determining which side controlled possession time.

When PHS played with the wind at its back in the first half, the Lady Wildcats took advantage and applied pressure to the McGuinness defense for a majority of the half, but PHS couldn't extend its lead.

"We knew it was going to be that way and we had a couple more chances in the first half that we wish we could've put away to get a little more of a cushion," Brucker said.

The teams flipped sides to begin the second half and McGuinness wasted little time going on the attack. Johnston curled home her first goal eight minutes out of intermission then scored the game-winner with just less than 20 minutes remaining in regulation.

The game between two bitter rivals didn't come without some controversy.

Brucker took issue with the physicality of the McGuinness defense and late in the second half earned a yellow card for arguing the lead official's management of the game clock following an injury to Braxtyn Turner.

"That team will do whatever it takes to win a game and when an official allows whatever it takes, it gets really nasty," Brucker said. "Our girls responded really well and we were happy about that."

With the win, McGuinness has the inside track to the district crown, but the Irish will likely have to beat Piedmont again in the playoffs to defend its state championship.

The Lady Wildcats have work to do to make that rematch a reality, but Brucker is confident in his team's ability.

"We'll be ready when that time comes," he said.

Kellett

From Page 1B

Kellett wrote. "After six years, I can honestly say I have grown immensely as a teacher and coach. I am forever grateful for the opportunity, colleagues, students and players I have met during my time at Yukon Public Schools.

"With that being said, I have accepted the offensive coordinator position at Piedmont High School and look forward to being a part of an amazing culture and program. Go Wildcats!"

With quarterback Josh Mars and running

backs Cannon Wood and Israel Robles returning next season, Piedmont is gearing up for a big season following a trip to the Class 5A quarterfinals in 2022.

A 2010 graduate of Harlem High School in Machesney Park, Ill., Kellett holds the Northern Illinois Conference records for passing yards and passing touchdowns and also holds the Harlem High School records for total passing yards, single-game passing yards, career passing yards (2,419) and career touchdown passes (31.)

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PIEDMONT-SURREY GAZETTE

From Page 1B

200-meter dash for the first time and recorded the sixth-fastest time in 5A.

"He's just kind of reaching his potential and his confidence is way up," head coach Kelly Beck said. "He's a guy you can put on the track and he can do just about anything."

Cobbs said he credits his parents for his natural athletic ability. His dad, Chris, was a football star who had scholarship offers from OU and OSU. His mom, Kristin, was a track star in high school.

COLLINS FINDING HER GROOVE

Lady Wildcat freshman Claire Collins could be the next in a long line of prolific distance runners from Piedmont, and she's catching fire at the right time.

Collins continued her strong varsity debut with a third place finish in the 3200-meter run while placing seventh in the 1600-meter run at the Yukon Invitational last week.

Collins' early success is no surprise to Beck, who also coached her on Piedmont's state championship cross country team last fall.

"She probably works as hard as anybody and she's built perfectly for distance running," Beck said.

Collins has found that if she keeps pace with sophomore teammate Lily Scheck, a three-time state medalist, she will be in contention almost every race. At Yukon, Collins was able to do that, finishing one spot behind Scheck in the 3200 and 1600.

"That's given Claire a lot of confidence knowing that she can hang with (Lily)," Beck said. "I think that will help us, especially at regionals and state because we're going to need all the points we can get out of those distance girls."

Collins said her top goal this season is to place at state and she also wants to break the school record in the mile run before her career is over.

"It'll be hard but I think I can do it," she said.

There are more Collins rising through the ranks in Piedmont, too. Collins' younger sisters Brooke, Kathryn and Scarlett are also runners.

OTHER NOTABLES

Reese Fricke and Dade Humes continue to deliver for PHS. Fricke was second in the 800-meter run and Humes placed first in the 3200... Jacob Cardwell set a new personal-best throw in the discus and finished eighth overall.....Rachel Caldwell finished sixth in the 3200-meter run.



Lady Wildcats place second at Suburban Conference Tournament

Led by Haley Whittern's tournament-best round of 74, Piedmont's girls golf team took second in the Suburban Conference Tournament held Monday at John Conrad Golf Course in Oklahoma City. Senior Amanda Lane fired an 85, good for second on the team. Mayli Whetter carded a 96, Lilly Thompson shot a 99 and Presley Alsip was in with a 103 as PHS totaled a team score of 354. *(Photo courtesy)*

That's a lot of bass...



Piedmont seniors John Whetter and Zach Thompson made waves at Lake Eufala last weekend. The Wildcat duo took first place in a high school fishing tournament held there by catching five largemouth bass that tipped the scales at just under 15 pounds. DTM Construction sponsors the team and Thompson's dad, Jason, serves as the boat captain. Thompson and Whetter will attend Oklahoma State University in the fall as engineering majors and plan to compete on OSU's bass fishing team. (Photo Provided)

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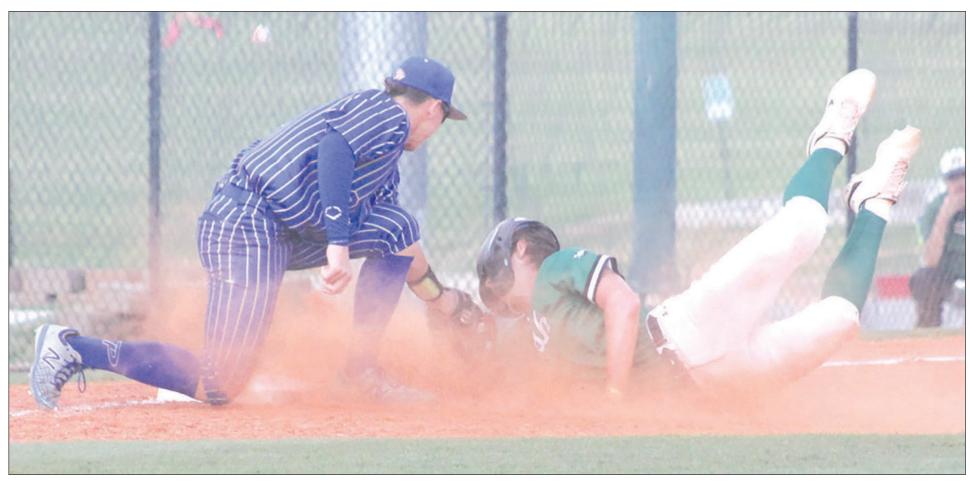
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Cole Girard of PHS tags out a McGuinness runner as part of a double play Piedmont used to end a potential rally for the Irish. (Photo by Blake Colston)

Wildcats

From Page 1B

forced McGuinness into seven costly errors. The Wildcats put the game away with three runs in the top of the seventh with a single and two extra-base hits.

"When we started putting pressure on them with the bunt, with the wind the ball starts moving and tailing and they threw it away a couple of times that led to some early runs," Skokowski said, "then we started sticking it late."

Califano pitched 5.1 innings of shutout baseball with seven strikeouts and five walks before giving way to Aller, who slammed the door on a McGuinness (17-12, 9-3) rally in the sixth with a pair of strikeouts. He then worked a scoreless seventh to earn the save, one day after he picked up the win as Piedmont beat the Irish 8-7 in extra innings on Monday.

"Jackson will scare you, but he always seems to get the job done," Skokowski said. "Noah has been tough two days in a row. He's a lefty that pounds the zone and dares them to hit it."

With the win, Piedmont (20-6, 12-0) secured a spot as a regional host and will battle Carl Albert (22-5, 11-1) for the district title in a twogame series that begins on Monday in Midwest City.

"We always have that expectation. Every year since I've been here," Skokowski said about competing for district championships and beyond. "We're going to go battle (Carl Albert) and see what we've got."

UP NEXT

Piedmont on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will host some of Class 5A's top teams for a three-day festival in Piedmont with a field that includes five state tournament qualifiers from 2022.

Claremore, Duncan, Elgin, Carl Albert, Midwest City, Shawnee, Lawton MacArthur, Collinsville and Noble round out the festival lineup.

"It's really cool this time of year to see some of the teams you might see at state," Skokowski said. "It's also a great way to kind of scout everyone, too."

Below is the full schedule.

Thursday, April 20

10 a.m. —Noble vs. Carl Albert 12:30 p.m. —Midwest City vs. Elgin 3 p.m. – Lawton Mac vs. Shawnee 5:30 p.m. — Lawton Mac vs. Collinsville 8 p.m. —Piedmont vs. Duncan

Friday, April 21

10 a.m. —Shawnee vs. Elgin 12:30 p.m. —Carl Albert vs. Elgin 3 p.m. — Duncan vs. Collinsville 5:30 p.m. —Noble vs. Midwest City 8 p.m. —Noble vs. Claremore

Saturday, April 22nd

10 a.m. —Collinsville vs. Midwest City 12:30 p.m. — Duncan vs. Carl Albert 3 p.m. —Piedmont vs. Shawnee 5:30 p.m. —Claremore vs. Piedmont



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COUNTY

Thursday, April 20, 2023



Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum's empty chairs serve as a tribute to the victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building. The terrorist attacked killed 168 people, among them children in the America's Kids Day Care run by Melva Noakes. (Photo Courtesy of Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum)

Memories that linger

Woman remembers darkness that enveloped a sunny spring day 28 years ago

By Traci Chapman Managing Editor

It's been 28 years, but the memory of that morning – a day that started like any other and ended with loss and destruction – is as brilliant, as vibrant as it was then for those who had any kind of connection with the Alfred P. Murrah building in downtown Oklahoma City.

"It's still almost impossible to believe that a day like that could start out so normally – I mean there was no premonition, no feeling, no inkling of what was going to happen," Melva Noakes said. "That was something that always surprised me." It was April 19, 1995. The perfect sunny day didn't last long; at 9:01 a.m., a truck packed with fertilizer would explode just yards from the America's Kids Day Care, housed on the second floor of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. It was a daycare center taken over by Noakes and her staff less than a month before the bombing.

"It was just so surreal, really – we had gotten the contract in the federal building, and we were so excited to have the opportunity," Noakes said. "Then, it was just gone – just like that."

as a foster parent with her husband, Warren, and then as a daycare operator, beginning in about 1978 with the opening of Noakes' Christian Day Care. By 1995, the couple owned and operated six centers.

"It was just always what I felt I was meant to do, it was something I loved so much," Noakes said. "I loved knowing that I could make a difference in the lives of these little ones."

That was what led Noakes to the Murrah building and a contract with the General Services Administration, the federal agency that handles building maintenance and similar issues.

CV Tech to send \$75 million bond issue to voters

Read The Piedmont-Surrey Gazette online at **piedmontnewsonline.com**

Voters are expected to consider a \$75 million bond proposal for Canadian Valley Technology Center, after its Board of Education approved the plan.

The board voted unanimously during its April meeting to put forth the \$75 million bond issue, which would provide funding for safety and modernization updates to the technology center's Chickasha campus as well as the construction of a new public safety training facility at the El Reno campus.

"These changes will be transformational for Canadian Valley Technology Center and will help us better serve our K-12 and adult students and our industry partners," CV Tech Board President Jimmie Vickrey said. "We believe in setting our students up for success in life - whether their next step is to go to work, college, or the military - their training at CV Tech will help them achieve their goals.

"If it passes, the new bond issue would ensure we are keeping up with industry demands and providing our students with high quality training and education that will ultimately help them secure better jobs," he said.

Noakes' journey to that dark place was one that ironically, until that day, was full of joy and light. It was a life centered around caring for children, first

See Memories, Page 2C

Protecting The Investment

Canadian Co. District 3 adds equipment building to yard

By Conrad Dudderar Staff Writer

EL RENO – Work is underway on a large facility that will protect a major Canadian County investment from the elements.

A 15,750-square-foot equipment building is under construction at Canadian County District 3's yard, 1205 N. Calumet Road.

In February, Robinson Brothers Construction was awarded a \$203,500 contract to build the double-sided "lean-to" behind the District 3 shop. The El Reno

See Investment, Page 3C



Canadian County District 3 Commissioner Tracey Rider and District 3 foreman Dean Walker (right) visit with Tim and Bud Robinson of Robinson Brothers Construction at the District 3 yard, 1205 N. Calumet Road. Robinson Brothers is the contractor for District 3's equipment building ("lean-to") project. (*Photo by Conrad Dudderar*)

See CV Tech, Page 3C

Yukon teenager killed in accident on Kilpatrick

Peyton Sims a senior at Mustang High School

Read The Piedmont-Surrey Gazette online at **piedmontnewsonline.com**

An 18-year-old Yukon man died Tuesday, after a one-car accident on John Kilpatrick Turnpike.

Peyton Sims was a senior at Mustang High School, due to graduate in May. A Yukon resident, Sims was traveling at about 4:50 p.m. Monday on the John Kilpatrick Turnpike northbound to the Interstate 40 eastbound ramp when he departed when the 2021 Kia Forte he was driving departed the ramp and struck a bridge support head on.

He was not wearing a seatbelt,

See Accident, Page 3C

It's never too early to Start the conversation about marijuana use.

This program is funded by Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SWODA, and Canadian County Coalition for Youth and Family.

Memories

From Page 1C

The Murrah building's previous daycare operator had issues with the Department of Health. Facing numerous citations for a variety of problems, it closed – leaving an opening for someone who wanted to step in with a new facility. Noakes said the moment she and director Dana Cooper stepped into the center, they both knew it was the perfect opportunity.

"Dana was so excited, she had so many ideas, and she had made such an impact on our other centers that I knew it would be an excellent addition," Noakes said.

And it was everything they had wished for, Noakes said. The building catered to parents who worked nearby, many who came over to the center for lunch with their children. The daycare's large glass windows lining 5th Street were perfect for the babies' cribs, where they could look up at the clouds. All of the children loved standing at the windows looking at the world go by, she said.

Cooper, 24, had left her mark on all of Noakes' centers. The daughter of a teacher, Cooper planned to pursue that career herself, and had fallen naturally into the role of center director, as well and friend and confidante to her boss, Noakes said.

"She was just one of those people who had a sparkle about them – she was so positive, so joyful," she said.

The afternoon of the bombing, Noakes and Cooper were planning to fly to San Francisco for a conference. Noakes was in the Choctaw center a little before 9 a.m., when she spoke to Cooper for the last time. In addition to the center's director, Wanda Howell, 34, and 42-yearold Brenda Daniels were having a regular day with 21 of their young charges. Scott Williams, a Fleming Foods salesman, had just arrived with a delivery, Cooper told her.

"It was one of those regular, routine conversations," Noakes said. "I was preparing the payroll and having some printer issues, and we just chatted a bit about the day and how we were looking forward to the trip."

That trip would never happen, as it turned out. Just a few minutes after hanging up the phone, Noakes and her staff in Choctaw heard and felt the explosion. Although they could see smoke, it was unclear what had happened and exactly where – and the rumors and specula-



A total of 168 people were killed in the Murrah Building bombing, including 19 children; more than 500 were injured. The building was later razed, and a park was built on the site. The bombing remained the deadliest terrorist assault on U.S. soil until the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C., in 2001. (*Photo by Alan Chapman*)

tion immediately began to circulate.

"It was a gas leak, it was one of the federal buildings, there was just so much unknown," Noakes said. "I spoke to my daughter and said there were a lot of buildings downtown, it didn't mean it was ours – but we headed down there right away.

"The closer we got, the sicker I began to feel," she said.

It was pandemonium as emergency workers converged on the scene and injured people began to emerge, Noakes said. While she came across a group of children from the YMCA daycare center, the people she was looking for – Dana and the others – were nowhere to be found.

"I was frantic, I just couldn't believe I wouldn't be able to find any of them," she said. "I kept praying, I kept knowing there would be a miracle."

Eventually, Noakes was asked to identify a child – filled with hope they had finally been found, a worker took her not to a hospital room, but to the morgue. It was then she knew there would be no miracle. Cooper, Howell and Daniels did not survive, nor did Williams, only there for a food delivery. Perhaps worst of all, 15 of the 21 children in the daycare that morning – including Cooper's 2-year-old son, Christopher – were gone.

For the most part, the six who survived had a long road to recovery ahead of them - all of them alive because they were in a center room with Howell at the time of the blast. Howell died as she had lived, with a child on her lap, Noakes said.

After the shock of the bombing began to recede, Noakes said she tried to move forward – a losing proposition because of the blast's aftereffects. First came the news about the daycare's skyrocketing insurance premiums and then there were the lawsuits, brought by the children's parents.

"We were eventually vindicated, but it was so horrible, so exhausting," Noakes said. "Some people actually said I knew something was going to happen and that was the reason I wasn't there that morning.

"I understood the need to blame someone, but it certainly wasn't anything I ever could have known about or prevented," she said.

There was someone to blame, of course. It was Timothy McVeigh who parked that truck and walked away, knowing that those windows where the children stood to wave at passersby were just yards away, Noakes said.

"I always knew he was aware of them being there – nobody could have missed them, and when I was approached by the media and asked if I wanted to talk to him (McVeigh), I knew there was nothing I could say to him," she said. "It was between him and God now, I didn't have a thing to say to him, and he didn't need anything from me."

There was healing and compassion too. People from across the country reached out to Noakes and her family, and she said the work of the emergency personnel and those dedicated to preserving the site and building a memorial to those lost were an inspiration.

Noakes, encouraged by Warren and others, wrote a book about the daycare and the bombing. "April Mourning" was released by Tate Publishing and helped the healing process, she said.

"I remember them, I think about them – Dana, the children, the others – every single day, and I know what they lost, the lives they weren't able to have," Noakes said. "I don't want to ever forget them, or for anyone to forget them, and I want people to know that what God gives you man can never take away."

Editor's note: Reprinted with permission from the Mustang Times, which originally ran this story.



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Accident

From Page 1C

Oklahoma Highway Patrol reported.

Sims was pinned in his vehicle for about 35 minutes and extricated by Oklahoma City Fire Department personnel, then taken to University of Oklahoma Medical Center by ambulance.

He was pronounced deceased with head and internal injuries by OU Medical Center personnel, according to the OHP report.

Sims was a popular student and talented athlete, officials said. The loss was a shock not only to Sims' family and friends, but also to the larger Mustang



Sims

Bronco extended family, district officials said. Mustang Superintendent Charles Bradley offered resources to students and their families in a message sent Tuesday morning.

"If you feel that your student is having difficulty, we encourage you to discuss his/her thoughts and feelings

to help them work through the grieving process — this can be a difficult subject to broach with your children, and we want to provide you with this resource to help guide support for children of all ages," Bradley stated in that communication directed to Mustang families.

CVTech

From Page 1C

The issue was expected to go to voters in September, officials said.

The population that Canadian Valley Technology Center serves has grown exponentially in the past decade, particularly in Canadian County, which grew by 33.6% from 2010 to 2020 according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

The technology center received over 1,200 applications from students for the 2022-23 school year and had to turn away nearly half of the high school applicants.

"We simply don't have the capacity in our facilities to accommodate all of them," CV Tech Superintendent Dr. Gayla Lutts said. "To me, that is unacceptable.

"As the population has boomed and more businesses have expanded in our service area, we have done our best with what we have to meet the increase in demand for our services," she said. "But the population growth has substantially outpaced our efforts and our older facilities are now in desperate need of updates."

CV Tech's Chickasha campus was built in the 1960s - and, with the exception of minor superficial updates, it has not received any significant improvements in the last 50 years.

Lutts said updates to the Chickasha campus are now critically necessary to bring the facilities up to modern safety and technology standards and to ensure the tech center is equipped to offer high quality training to individuals in the area.

The most recent bond issue for CV Tech passed in 2014 to rebuild the El Reno campus after a tornado destroyed several buildings.

Investment

From Page 1C

company had the lower price of two vendors submitting bids.

The new equipment building is expected to be finished in four to six weeks, weather permitting.

"When I came on board, I noticed there wasn't a structure to protect the investment of all the equipment we have," District 3 Commissioner Tracey Rider said.

Rider, who took office in November 2022, knew she'd be buying new equipment that would be housed at the District 3 yard.

District 3 foreman Dean Walker and Rider agreed they "wanted to have a lean-to so we could protect the equipment," the first-year commissioner pointed out.

The new structure will be 70 feet by 225 feet, according to Walker.

"The bays are going to be 25 feet wide and 35 feet deep," Walker said.

Two will be drive-through bays with a metal wall.

A wash bay will be on the north end of the building.

This project includes installing a separator, which will separate oil and water when crews wash the equipment thus protecting nearby creeks.

Rider said the district's 15 full-time crew members really look forward to utilizing the equipment building.

"They're becoming proud of their yard," Commissioner Rider pointed out.

Robinson Brothers Construction personnel are hard at work getting the structure up, before the next steps, officials said.

"The concrete will have to cure for a period of time before they set the uprights," said Walker, who's been with Canadian County for five years. "Once they get that done, then they'll be able to just 'blow and go.'

"The rafters are built. ... We've got the equipment that they can borrow to help raise the heavy steel."

Along with installing this new facility, District 3 is making safety upgrades along gravel roads.

"We started bringing in some decomposed granite, which is less expensive than gravel," Rider added. "It cuts down on the dust by 85-90%.

"We started putting that in the front of the drives at some people's houses. And we're going to put it at a couple of intersections because those can be unsafe."

District 3 is the last of Canadian County's three districts to have its own equipment build-ing.

"We've even talked about building a new shop," Walker said. "The shop we have was built in 1956."

Once the equipment building is finished, Commissioner Rider will start the process of planning the new District 3 shop with an attached garage on-site.

"We have to be able to equip our people with what they need to do the best job," the first-year county commissioner said. "That's the goal."



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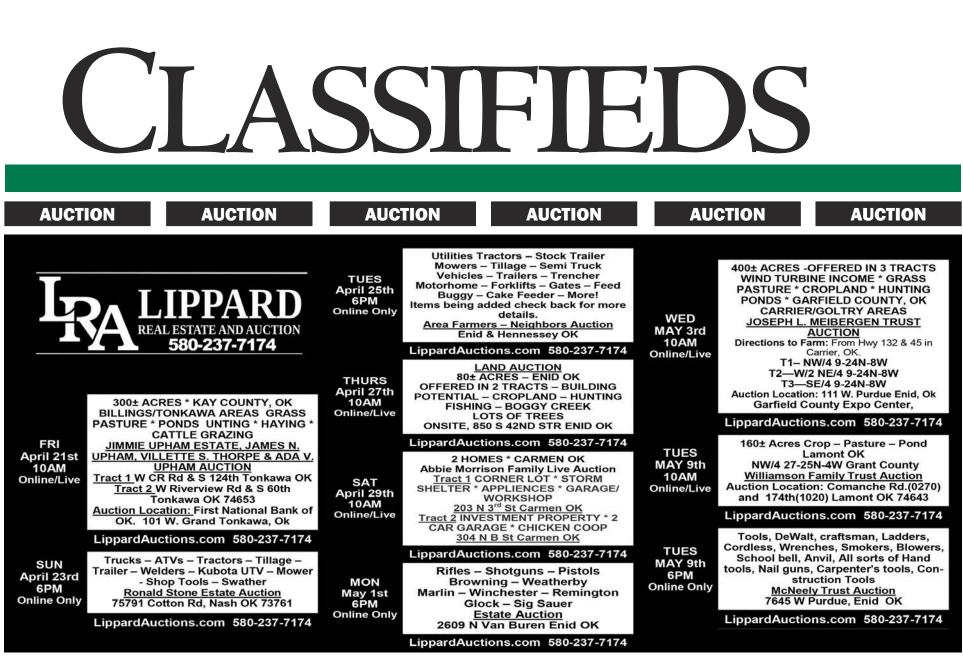


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IMPORTANT NOTICE

OKLAHOMA WHEAT COMMISSION **DISTRICT 3 ELECTION**

May 3, 2023-1:00 P.M. Old Canadian County Fairground Education Bldg. 220 N. Country Club Road El Reno, OK 73036

The purpose of this meeting is to nominate three people, one of who will be named by Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur to a 5-year term to fill the District 3 Oklahoma Wheat Commission board seat. The District is composed of Beckham, Blaine, Canadian, Custer, Dewey, Kingfisher, Roger Mills and Washita counties.

All wheat producers within District 3 boundaries who are actively engaged in wheat production, have marketed wheat, and have paid a check-off fee and left that fee with the Commission for the current year are eligible to vote. It will be the responsibility of the producer to prove their eligibility to vote by providing a dated grain elevator receipt including the producer's name and amount of wheat sold, and a driver's license or some other form of identification.

Candidates wishing to run in the election must be at least 25 years old, a resident of Oklahoma, engaged in growing wheat in their respective district in the state for at least five years and must derive a substantial portion of his/her income from growing wheat.

The Commission's vacancy meeting will feature a presentation by OSU Area Agronomist Josh Bushong, where producers will be eligible to pick up an ODAFF Applicator CEU credit. The course credit qualifies private applicators with one CEU and provides credits for those with commercial licenses. Lunch will be provided beginning at noon, by the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association, during the CEU course and prior to the election, which will begin promptly at 1 p.m.

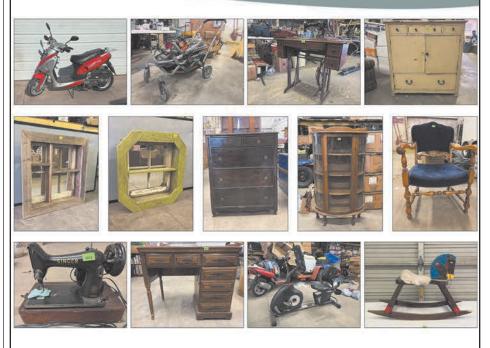
The commission is engaged in the promotion of market development, research, education and utilization of Oklahoma wheat. Every wheat farmer in the district is urged to participate in this important meeting. For further information, please RSVP to Kyle Worthington at OSU Canadian County Extension office, (405)-262-0155. *** The El Reno OSU Wheat Plot Tour also takes place on this day and will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Jerry Lingo's farm, located on Jensen Road, in between the miles of S. Radio Road, and S. Evans Road, on the mile line, South of I-40, Southeast of El Reno.



For more information, Call: 405-608-4350 Email: mschulte@okwheat.org

Now through 10 THURSDAY, MAY 4th

Preview Event: Monday, May 1, 2023 from 4:00pm - 6:00 pm



Gas Motorcycle, Coin Collection, Tools. Antique & Mid Century Furniture. Baby Furniture, Clothes & Accessories. Vintage Fisher Price Toys, Trains, Tonka Trucks, Fishing, Hunting & Camping Supplies Kitchen Appliances & Supplies, Collector Glassware, Vintage Pyrex & Fiesta, Milk Glass, Disney, Coca Cola, etc. Sewing machines, Sewing Tools, Fabric, Crafting Accessories & Supplies, Electronics, Vintage Record Albums, Books, VHS, DVD, CDs. Christmas Decorations and more.

For more information contact: Aaron Owens Phone: 405-229-2973 or Email: aarontodd16@gmail.com

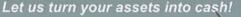
View all photos online www.kencarpenterauction.com

Ken

Carpenter

6750 Melrose Lane OKC, OK 73127

End Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 10:00 am • Pick Up Date & Time: Friday, May 5, 2023 9 am – 6 pm • Pick Up Location: 6750 Melrose Ln Oklahoma City, OK 73127 Items not picked up are considered abandoned and not refundable! • We are not responsible for items not picked up - Items will self "AS IS" Condition Seller can Reject any o • All information has been taken from Sources Believed Reliable. • Any Announcement Day of Sale Supersedes all Verbal and Print Advertising. or all Bids.



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