



2025 PHS All-School Reunion

By Mandy (Rogers) Fellman, Class of 1980

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for **August 29 & 30, 2025** for the next PHS All-School Reunion!!

If you graduated from or attended Poteau High School, we hope you will join the fun and catch up with your friends and classmates.



Below are the events we have scheduled so far. If your class holds an event, email the details to mfellman49@gmail.com and we will post it on Facebook and our website.

Friday, August 29

11:00am, Lunch at The Coffee Cup, 401 N. Broadway, then decorate the Reynolds Center. **ALL Volunteers are welcome!!**

6:00 – 9:00pm, Pirate Party at Shop Dog Brewing, 315 Dewey Ave., **Everybody's Invited**



Saturday, August 30, Reynolds Center

4:00 – 6:00pm, Sign-in & Visitation

6:00 – 7:00pm, Dinner, Games & Tall Tales

7:00 – 10:00pm, Dance to Billy Ray Hoffman & Sierra Bravo

Our very own PHS Alumnus, Billy Ray Hoffman (class of 1979) and his band, Sierra Bravo, will provide entertainment for the dance on Saturday evening. He even threatened to reunite some old bandmates from our high school days!

Due to the number of no-shows at the last reunion and rising costs, the Alumni Association cannot cover the entire cost of this year's reunion. We made the difficult decision to charge a fee of **\$35/person** which covers the cost of the meal, non-alcoholic drinks, decorations and entertainment. Besides the cash bar, other expenses will be covered by the Alumni Association and by generous donations.



When you pre-register, you can purchase an **Alumni T-shirt for \$20 each** (\$25 if we mail it.)



There will be a cash bar open all evening. Because alcohol will be served, we are sorry, but minors cannot attend the festivities.

So that we have an accurate headcount for the dinner on Saturday, you **must pre-register and pay in advance**. If you haven't pre-registered, you are welcome to visit with friends during the meal. But we will not have same day meal tickets available.

Pre-registration opens June 15 – the form is in this edition of The Static.



Don't Miss the Fun!!

PHS Scholarship Winners

By Patricia Eidschun

Each year the PHS Alumni Association presents scholarships to two high school seniors. This provides \$500 each for each of the first two semesters. Students are selected not only for their grades but also for extracurricular activities and community involvement.

The 2024 recipients were Grant Thomas and Alicia Brono. Grant plans to attend the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith and major in Instrumental Music Education with the hope to be able to teach band upon graduation from college. He believes in the importance of hard work, dedication, trust, kindness, and empathy. Alicia has been active in FCCLA, FFA, basketball, track, and soccer. She loves working with children and reads to little kids during Hispanic Heritage month and volunteers for Bible school, Sunday school, and church camp. She plans to attend CASC where she knows God is watching over her shoulder.

The 2025 recipients were Hudson Burdick who plans to attend CASC. Hudson wants to make a difference in college and beyond. Zane Harrison will attend the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith where he has been accepted into the music program.



Teacher of the Year

by Patricia Eidschun

Poteau's teacher of the year begins with a teacher being selected from each school. This is done by their peers. This year's included:

- PK-1st grade: Amy Snapp who teaches reading intervention. She wishes to build confidence and to instill a life-long love for learning.
- 2nd-4th grade: Jennifer Phillips who teaches 4th grade language arts. She wants her students to always feel that they are more than merely a seat in her room.
- 5th-6th grade: Ken Braden who teaches 5th grade science and who wants his students to feel valued.
- 7th-8th grade: Katie Stubbs who wishes to create an atmosphere where students feel free to ask questions and make mistakes.
- PHS: Robbin Stockton who teaches math.

A committee decides the overall winner and this year's **Teacher of the Year is Robbin Stockton**. She teaches Algebra 11. Before coming to Poteau, she taught for 27 years at the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith. She feels she has a calling to service.

Bob Lee Kidd Jr. Performing Arts Center

by Bill Scott, Class of 1988

What began as a community center more than 50 years ago is now a shining jewel among Poteau Public Schools' multiple school facilities. The Poteau Community Center opened as the 1960s drew to a close and was later retitled the Bob Lee Kidd Jr. Community Center. Mr. Kidd was a member of the center's Building Committee, along with Neville Brehm and William D. Mobley. The center was designed by Tulsa architectural firm Hudgins, Thompson, Ball & Associates, and built by contractor Ray Construction.



Poteau High School Alumni Obituaries

The alumni Association sends our heartfelt condolences to our classmates and their families.

Carol Lynn (Tubby) Stroud, Class of 1987, died November 16, 2024.

Luana Gilstrap, 67, Class of 1975, died December 25, 2024.

Johnathan Thomas Stokes died January 6, 2025. Son of Cody & Hanna Stokes, Grandson of Joyce (Tanner) and Brad Hall, and Pete & Misty Crandell.

Dr. Phillip Ray Chitwood, 77, Class of 1965, died January 17, 2025

Grace L. (Sears) Daniel, 91, Class of 1951, died January 18, 2025.

Tim McBride, 63, Class of 1980, died January 26, 2025

George Bernard Shaw died February 9, 2025.

Everett Partain, 86, Class of 1956, died December 26, 2024.

Dennis Dugan, 72, Class of 1971, died November 2024.

Hilda McDonald Langlois, Class of 1955, died in Canada in 2006.

Michael Wayne Stanely, 60, Class of 1982, died February 8, 2025.

Pete Hopkins, 86, Class of 1956, died February 22, 2025.

Ken Tobler, 85, Class of 1957, died March 2, 2025.

Janna Greene Owens, 61, Class of 1982, died March 3, 2025.

Ted Dale Kilgore, 87, Class of 1956, died March 6, 2025.

Judith “Judy” Lynn (Bain) Hall, 78, died March 18, 2025. 1st grade teacher and school counselor at Poteau Schools for 37 years.

Robert Wayne Stewart, 83, Class of 1959, died March 22, 2025.

Jerry Oliver Kemp, 79, Class of 1963, died March 22, 2025.

John Albert Wright, Class of 1964.

Jeweldeen Richardson Perry, 91, Class of 1951, died April 11, 2025.

Phillip Dale Gilstrap, 87, Class of 1957, died April 13, 2025.

Bob Dorey, 89, Class of 1953, died April 7, 2025.

James Dameron, 83, Class of 1960, died May 1, 2025.

Jerry Lee Holton, 62, Class of 1981, died May 5, 2025.

Margaret Baughman Mohr, 74, Class of 1968, died May 11, 2025.

Judy Tanner, Class of 1980, died May 12, 2025.

David Eric Callaway, 64, son of Mary Lou Callaway, Class of 1956, died May 21, 2025.

Henry Gordon Manning, Jr., 78, Class of 1965, died May 22, 2025.



Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate

Alumni Financial News

by Linda Holton, Class of 1956

The Alumni Association would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to several PHS classmates who made generous donations over the past few months.

Charging a minimal fee to attend this year’s All-School Reunion will help us to remain financially sound, while still offering scholarships and providing caps and gowns to some of our graduating seniors.

Donate and claim your Pete’s Dream mug! Your donation will help us defray the cost of the reunion, award scholarships, and provide caps and gowns to graduating seniors, among other worthy endeavors.

Donations can be mailed to PHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 803, Poteau, OK 74953.

Treasurer’s Report	
March 31, 2025 bank statement	
Association Account:	\$ 1,523.80
Static Account:	\$ 6,454.60
Scholarship Account:	\$ 1,629.06
Total:	\$ 9,607.46

Bob Lee Kidd Jr. Performing Arts Center

Continued from page 2

A potentially devastating water line failure in the building led to a grand opportunity for the district a few years ago. During a particularly bitter cold snap in 2021, the venue flooded after a water line froze and ruptured. School was out of session because of the frigid, snowy conditions and the break wasn't discovered for a few days. Devin Cochran, Poteau Public Schools Director of Operations, said the incident and new funding opportunities prompted the district to look beyond just repairs.

Renovation planning began in 2021, and construction began that summer. The bulk of the work was completed in 2022. However, the center didn't open until spring 2023 after its fire safety system was ready. The majority of funding for the project came from three Covid-19 recovery grant programs, Cochran said. The total cost of construction and renovation was approximately \$2.5 million.



Those familiar with the building will find many of its original features intact, though improved. The venue seats about 700 and features a large video screen. Classrooms are still located along the perimeter, including space for special classes such as aviation training, video production, etc. The center is home to choir performances, drama productions and other performance arts. The cafeteria plus dining area remains available for use as well, Cochran said. Some upgrades to the kitchen were made and modern dining furniture was added as part of the renovations.



The **Bob Lee Kidd Jr. Performing Arts Center** now features a luxurious and sophisticated performance area while also meeting the needs of the school district's students.

Poteau High School Alumni Association
 P.O. Box 803
 Poteau, OK 74953

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