

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**



**PIRATES DEFEATED**  
Texas team flexes its muscle as ICC football squad drops season opener.  
See page 12

**TAX CONCERN AIRED**  
Property taxes becoming too oppressive in Montgomery County, rural Coffeyville resident tells county board.  
See page 7

**TAX HIKE PROPOSED**  
City of Caney's 2026 budget proposal calls for nearly 20 percent hike in property tax rate.  
See page 6



**OPEN HOUSE SET**  
Public to get view of newly renovated Dick Foster Sports Complex on Sept. 6.  
See page 14

**PROPERTY BOUGHT**  
Coffeyville Community College acquires more property for art display, expanded class areas  
See page 2



**HEARING CONCERNS**  
Congressman Derek Schmidt visits local farm to hear concerns from immigrant laborers.  
See page 16

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Sports.....12-14
- Public notices.....8-11
- Classified ads.....15
- Obituaries.....2
- Opinions.....4
- Datebook.....5
- Subscription order.....16

*The timeless humor of Will Rogers*

**"I love dogs. They do nothing for political reasons."**

*From the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma*



## New city clerk hired in Caney

BY RUDY TAYLOR  
rudy@taylornews.org

CANEY — An Illinois native holding two degrees from Missouri State University was hired Monday night to be Caney city clerk.

Adam Lanter will begin his duties in 30 days, and in the meantime will stay in contact with City Administrator Andrea Sibley via video calls.

The council met for a 10-minute executive session to discuss the candidate then vote in open session unanimously to approve a one-year contract with a salary of \$53,000 per year plus benefits.

Lanter graduated from MSU in Springfield with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Masters in Public Administration. He grew up in Belleville, Illinois.

He is currently living in Wichita and plans to move to Caney as quickly as housing can be arranged.

"I like everything I've seen in Caney," said Lanter who was one of 100 applicants for the city position. A total of 15 interviews were held, according to Sibley.

Following graduation in May

• see CITY CLERK, page 2



Adam Lanter

## Fast feet, lasting feats

Independence's Danny Williams is still recognized as one of the fastest sprinters in Kansas track and field history

INDEPENDENCE — It has been more than 40 years since Danny Williams stood at the top of a medal podium.

But, yesteryear's achievements came flooding back to the longtime Independence resident when friends and family saluted him on Aug. 16 for being among the fastest men in Kansas — and probably America — during his days as a high school and junior college track and field sprinter.

Here's the story . . .

During his days in an Independence High School uniform, Williams distinguished himself as the fastest man in Kansas. He won three consecutive gold medals in the 100 meter sprint in the class 5A state track and field championship. His time of 10.5 seconds in the 100 meter sprint during his senior year still stands as the class 5A state track and

field record.

And, that 10.5-second gold medal standard remained the fastest time among all classifications until it was eclipsed by Marion Ponds of Wichita Southeast High School in 1996. Ponds won his class 6A sprint in 10.36 seconds.

Williams still puts an asterisk on that 10.5-second record that was set in 1981. That's because he actually ran the sprint in 10.30 seconds in a preliminary heat at the 1981 state meet.

However, the state meet record is



Danny Williams of Independence holds the trophy that was presented to him by friends and family at a celebration on Aug. 16. This year marks the 44th anniversary of Williams' setting the fastest time in any classification in the boys' 100 meter sprint at a state track and field championship. The record (10.50 seconds) still stands as the fastest time recorded in class 5A.

ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRONICLE

only determined by the final round, not the preliminary heats.

"I can still say I ran the fastest sprint in Kansas track and field meet history," he said with a laugh. "But, they don't use the preliminary heats for the records."

Williams said the 10.5-second sprint remains his highest achievement during his years in track and

field. Ironically, that milestone eclipsed a previous record that was set by another Independence sprinter, Charlie Tidwell, in the 1950s.

He also competed in the 200 meter sprint and the 4x100 meter relay.

Medals were abundant in those races, too.

• see WILLIAMS, page 2

## Stadium still viable, but access, safety are lacking

Structural engineer gives assessment of Caney stadium at Monday's school board meeting

BY ANDY TAYLOR  
chronicle@taylornews.org

CANEY — The aging Caney Valley High School Football Stadium — which opened in 1939 as a federal works project — is still structurally viable despite decades of corrosive water intrusion on the homeside bleacher structure.

But . . . The facility lacks considerable handicapped access as well as bleacher safeguards that may make the iconic stadium to be deemed impractical and too costly to rehabilitate.

Those were the basic assessments of a structural engineer who presented a report to the USD 436 Board of Education regarding the CVHS Stadium.

The board requested the structural assessment after the stadium's condition because a prime issue of debate and discussion among voters who rejected a bond question earlier this year.

John Lucas, vice president of Wichita-based Dudley Williams and Associates, said he conducted a visual inspection of the stadium's main bleacher structure. His inspection



The Caney Valley High School Football Stadium, which will be 85 years old in September, is under scrutiny due to its aging condition and lack of handicapped access. The USD 436 Board of Education has been debating whether to rehabilitate the stadium (as seen in this panoramic photo) or relocate it to the grounds of Caney Valley Jr.-Sr. High School.

COUNTY CHRONICLE

looked at the exterior structure as well as underneath.

What caught Lucas' eye was the extent of cracking throughout the bleachers. As a result, water has infiltrated into the underneath portion, causing erosion and some spalling, which is when water creates rusting on the rebar. As a result of that rust reaction, the concrete busts away — leaving further rebar and reinforcements to be susceptible for additional rusting.

"It just compounds itself," Lucas said of the spalling.

He said the degree of moisture infiltration was his greatest concern of the structure. However, he did not think it was a safety issue — for now. "I certainly think it is usable

for this fall sports season, but you will want to start making plans to either rehabilitate or relocate after this season," he said. The underneath portion of the bleachers originally housed two concession stands and locker rooms. Those areas have now been vacated and are used solely for storage of chairs and desks within USD 436.

Door jams and lintel beams have shown considerable signs of erosion as a result of water infiltration, and peeling paint and mold are prevalent throughout the rooms underneath the bleachers, he said.

The original ticket booths at the main entrance, which is no longer usable, shows signs of wooden deteriora-

tion, he said.

The press box atop the stadium was rebuilt in the past 25 years, but the structural beams also are showing signs of water staining — indicating infiltration of moisture.

The supports for the bleacher seating, which span an east-west direction, are the exterior walls themselves, Lucas said. Those walls, despite the cracking and missing mortar, continue to support the bleachers without fail.

The most visual problem on the exterior portion of the stadium was the high degree of eroded concrete on the main walkway that spans the entire length of the bleachers. Because the walkway has

no drainage or slope, eroded concrete on the walkway surface has become more prevalent — stemming from decades of standing or pooled water, Lucas said.

The bleacher seats themselves are connected to the concrete structure by brackets that are built into the concrete. In almost all cases, the bracket connecting points have cracked the vertical and horizontal risers, causing water to infiltrate the structure.

Eroded concrete was also observed throughout the bleacher risers.

As for the safeguards and handicapped access within the stadium, the structure

• see STADIUM, page 2