

# Bond items near completion



Harrah School officials, Boldt Construction representatives and community members gather for the opening of the new Harrah High School Stadium.  
PHOTO BY JASON TURNER

## Harrah Schools strive for excellence

By John Martin  
Staff Writer

Harrah schools have begun the new school year with increased enrollment, facility expansion and improvements and "...we have been blessed with the greatest students and staff ever assembled," according to Supt. Paul Blessington.

More than 2,300 students are currently attending classes at the district's five school sites.

Four of those sites, Harrah High School, Harrah Middle School, Virginia Smith (Pre-K through first, and Clara Reynolds (2-3 grades) have already welcomed additional space or will soon, in the case of the high school and middle school.

### Harrah Public Schools

**Virginia Smith Elementary**  
454-3638

**Clara Reynolds Elementary**  
454-6201

**Russell Babb Elementary**  
454-6213

**Harrah Middle School**  
347-2700

**Harrah High School**  
347-2100

The fifth and newest school in the district, Russell Babb, is in the process of HVAC and roof improvements.

The No. 1 priority of the 2015 bond election was the provide safe rooms for every school in the Harrah district and with the completion of classroom additions to the high school and middle schools this month, that goal will become a reality.

### BOND ELECTION PROJECTS

Blessington had an update on the status of the bond election projects.

"We are reaching the final stage of our 2015 successful bond election projects. The construction projects are being done in four phases.

"Phase One included a safe room/

physical education/general assembly space for the entire school population at both Clara Reynolds Elementary and Virginia Smith Elementary. With the potential of Oklahoma weather turning severe, it's a sigh of relief to know that every students has a safe place to go when tornados occur. This space also allows for a more flexible lunch period and a great place for school-wide programs," Blessington said.

"Phase Two includes a complete renovation at Evans Field, 10 classroom addition at the middle school, and eight classroom addition at the high school. Both additions have classrooms that protect students as safe rooms in the case of a tornado.

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