

# Perry Lions: Joe Williams wears many hats and his peers say he wears them well

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The Perry Lions Club welcomed Joe Williams, Noble County Fairgrounds supervisor, as the featured speaker at its Thursday 1/15/25 meeting, where members heard an in depth update on the growth, improvements, and future vision of the county fairgrounds.

Williams was introduced with warm remarks highlighting the dramatic changes seen at the fairgrounds in recent years. One Lions Club member shared a recent visit that included a tour of the facilities, noting the exceptional cleanliness and condition of the livestock buildings, something longtime fairgoers may not have experienced in decades. The speaker emphasized that after more than fifty years of attending events at the fairgrounds, he had never seen the buildings in better shape.

Williams, a lifelong Noble County resident, spoke about his many roles, including fairgrounds supervisor, Perry city councilman, husband, father, and grandfather. Born in Red Rock and raised throughout the county, Williams graduated from Frontier High School and later earned his degree from Oklahoma Christian University. He and his wife have four children and four grandchildren, a family dynamic he joked feels much like hosting a county fair of its own.

Williams congratulated the Perry Lions Club on reaching 100 years of service to the community, recognizing the organization's long standing commitment to local youth, civic groups, and county programs. He shared appreciation for the Lions Club's continued support of organizations that rely on community partnerships to thrive.

As fairgrounds supervisor for the past five years, Williams said his goal has been to ensure the Noble County Fairgrounds are not simply maintained, but actively thriving. He noted that the fairgrounds will celebrate their own centennial in 2028, and early planning

is already underway for a large community celebration. Volunteers will be needed, and Williams encouraged anyone interested to get involved early.

Williams outlined the structure of the fairgrounds leadership, which includes a nine member fair board consisting of Terry Harmon - President, Jeanie Ivy - Vice-President, Mary Deken - Treasurer, Jerry Cottom - Secretary, Madison Bolay, Jodi Paul, Travis Potter, Arleta Pulliam, and Cody Sullins. He explained that the fairgrounds operate primarily on a county sales tax that provides approximately \$160,000 annually, covering salaries, utilities, equipment, and operating expenses. Larger improvements depend heavily on grants and donations.

He then guided Lions members through the fairgrounds from west to east, describing the women's building, livestock building, Expo Arena, and equipment storage building. Over the years, improvements have included remodeled restrooms, new structures built after storm damage, and additional storage facilities. Since taking on the supervisor role, Williams has overseen fresh paint throughout the grounds, exterior upgrades to unify the appearance of all buildings, and the addition of decorative features to enhance curb appeal.

One of the most significant accomplishments Williams shared was the expansion of restroom facilities and the addition of a conference and concessions area at the Expo building. Originally estimated at \$600,000, the project became possible through pandemic relief funding, support from the county commissioners, the fair board, and Noble County OSU Extension. The project also created dedicated warehouse space for OSU Extension to store 4-H training materials used to support youth programs across the county.

Williams reported a sharp increase in fairgrounds usage. In the first half of 2021, prior to his start date in July of that year, the fairgrounds hosted 56 events. During the same six month period last year, that



Noble County Fairgrounds supervisor and City Council Member, Joe Williams, poses with his long time friend, Lion Robert Filtz.

number grew to 125. Events now range from birthday parties and craft shows to class reunions, holiday dinners, livestock sales, and civic meetings. Williams said his vision is for the fairgrounds to be the go to place for community fun, safety, and connection.

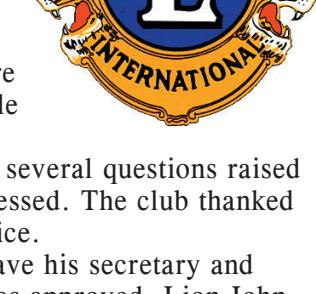
Upcoming events include the Noble County Livestock Show beginning February 9, with the swine show on Monday, sheep and goats on Tuesday, cattle on Wednesday, and a horse show Thursday morning, followed by a chuck wagon feed and premium sale that evening. Williams also announced that the fairgrounds now have a website at [NobleCountyFairgrounds.com](http://NobleCountyFairgrounds.com), along with an active Facebook page, to help keep the public informed.

Williams addressed questions from attendees regarding funding, rentals, and community use. He explained that while the fairgrounds generate revenue through rentals, fees remain intentionally affordable, particularly for civic groups and public service organizations, many of which are allowed to use the facilities at no cost. Rental income is reinvested into maintenance, equipment purchases, and future improvements, including recent investments in pipe and drape systems to enhance event spaces.

Several Lions Club members expressed appreciation for Williams' leadership, noting that many residents may not realize how many events and visitors the fairgrounds bring into Perry each year. From livestock sales to long running trade shows, these events generate significant economic activity for local restaurants, hotels, and businesses.

Williams closed by emphasizing the importance of youth programs such as 4-H and FFA, noting that volunteers remain crucial to their success. He said supporting these programs is an investment not just in the fairgrounds, but in the future of Noble County itself.

The meeting concluded with applause for Williams' dedication and the continued positive impact of the Noble County Fairgrounds on the community.



going forward to improve our state's overall school performance level. He further mentioned that since almost all state officials will be term limited, there will be several new people running as candidates for state offices. There were several questions raised by members that he addressed. The club thanked him for his years of service.

Lion John Bode then gave his secretary and treasurer report which was approved. Lion John was also presented with recognition from Lions International for sponsoring a total of 10 new members to the club. President JD gave updates on ongoing projects and reminded members that the next meeting will be on January 26th with a program presented by Lion Norman Filtz of the Stillwater Lions Club. His program will be on the history of currency.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

## LEGALS ○ LPXLP

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### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO USE STREAM WATER

Notice is hereby given that Patrick Curl whose address is 438 Terrace Drive, Wellington, KS 67152 has filed an application, #2025-027, with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (Board) for a regular permit to use no more than 146 acre-feet of stream water per year at a diversion rate not to exceed 800 gallons per minute from the Chikaskia River located in the SW NE SE of Section 2, T28N, R2WIM, Kay County. The water is proposed to be used for irrigation (wheat, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, and cotton) of 70 acres in the 52 NE of Section 10, T28N, R2WIM, Kay County, as more specifically described in the application, viewable at [oklahoma.gov/wrb](http://oklahoma.gov/wrb). Use of stream water is governed by Sections 105.1 and following of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes and rules of the Board, Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC), Title 785, Chapter 20.

Protests to the application must be in writing and received by the Board at the address listed below and by the applicant at the address listed above no later than February 23, 2026, and contain the following: (1) name, address, and telephone number of the interested person; (2) the particular application number to which the protest relates; (3) specific information to show how approval of the application proposed may directly and adversely affect legally protected interests of the person filing the protest; and (4) a statement of the relief sought by the interested person. A person who sends a letter containing only a general objection or comment will not be deemed to be a party, but the letter will be made part of the permanent record.

If a protest that meets the requirements listed in the paragraph above is filed with both the applicant and Board, a hearing on this application will be scheduled and the applicant and protestant(s) will be advised of the hearing date. Protestants

or their representatives must appear at the hearing and present the protest to be considered. Hearings are governed by Section 309 of Title 75 and Section 105.11 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and the rules of Board, OAC Title 785, chapters 4 and 20. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Robinson at (405)530-8800. Board mailing address: Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Water Rights Administration Division, 3800 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73118-2881. Board fax number: (405)530-8900. All stream water use permits issued by the Board contain the condition and limitation that the use of stream water shall not interfere with domestic uses or existing appropriative rights.

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