

# Surveys seek community response

## OSU students tap into residents' thoughts

By Dianna F. Dandridge-Rystrom  
Staff Writer

Community improvements and organization have to start somewhere. Recently, the National Park Service and the Southern Oklahoma Development Association have visited Marietta hoping to get input from residents to set plans in place to meet the outdoor recreational needs of the community.

Along with the state and federal organizations are two OSU engineering students working on research and surveys searching for ways of improving life in rural towns

in general, but specifically in Marietta.

Jonas Sample is researching storm water infrastructure and its impact on rural communities. Hayden Dayley is studying rural health and wellness and what is needed for improvement.

Both students have surveys, which when completed will be shared with other agencies to bring about some of the changes discussed in the community input meeting held June 2.

"My research is so OSU can understand the struggles rural communities have, compared to other counties in relation to the health and fitness needs of

an area," Dayley said.

Dayley will be studying concerns such as the difficulty of residents obtaining fresh fruits and vegetables and the necessity of fitness programs for all age levels.

Sample's work is more related to the actual infrastructure which includes flooding in rural towns and how simple changes can improve the overall structure.

"Once we see how a town is affected by the flooding, we can use the surveys to find ways of improving the drainage and limiting the effects of storm runoff."

Sample will be presenting ideas, such as green infrastruc-

ture like converting a few parking spaces in downtown areas to lots with grass and trees.

"This helps clean the air, absorb some of the runoff from storms and improves the looks of the area," Sample said.

Both students will be seen in the area for the next several weeks, talking with townspeople and business owners for their input.

At the end of their internships, the information gathered will be combined with other information to be used to help begin the process to determine what would work best for Marietta, what those projects would look like and how to go about arranging funding.

Later all this information will be presented at a symposium in October. Anyone wanting to provide information can scan the QR code and fill out surveys online.



Staff photo by Dianna F. Dandridge-Rystrom  
OSU students Jonas Sample and Hayden Dayley are collecting surveys on what the residents need and want to make Marietta a better place to live. Surveys are accessible through the QR code.

# Local family roofs courthouse with pride

By Joani Hartin  
Staff Writer

When the Board of Love County Commissioners solicited bids for a new courthouse roof, the winning bidders turned out to be longtime county residents. They would have a really short drive to get the job done.

The company that won the bid was Cooke County Roofing, and the owners have lived in Love County for years.

In 1992, Aubrey Pugh owned CCR.

"Aubrey was my father-in-law, and he said he was ready to retire," said Gregory Newman, Sr., who worked at CCR.

"We made a deal and I took over the business. Not too long after that, he decided he didn't want to be retired and started another business, but I've kept this one."

Also employed at CCR are Greg Sr.'s son, Greg Jr., and Sr.'s nephew, Keeton Manuel. For identification purposes, the family calls them Greg (Sr.) and Gregory (Jr.). Gregory and Keeton are MHS graduates who lived and raised families in Love County.

"We've lived here since 1991," said Greg. "We moved here when Gregory was in

elementary school. He's done a few other things but mostly worked for Cooke County Roofing. Now Keeton, he's lived here his whole life. He was the last baby delivered in the hospital at Marietta."

That's been a hot minute, because they quit delivering babies in Marietta several years ago. Keeton has worked for CCR for the last 10 years or so. Gregory has four kids and Keeton has three. All of them went to school at either Marietta or Turner, and two of Gregory's are still at Turner.

"I live in Marietta, Gregory lives in Jimtown, and Keeton lives north of town off Lou King Road," Greg reported. "My wife Patty and I have owned several businesses in the county."

Patty owns a hair salon in Marietta. They also owned and operated the Chicken Run restaurant for a time and had an antique place downtown, along with a furniture store.

This family may own a business across the river, but they have deep, deep roots in Love County. That's why when the courthouse roof was up for bid, Greg jumped at the chance. The project isn't just any old job to him.

"When we knew that the



Photo provided  
Local roofers Greg Newman Sr., Gregory Newman and Keeton Manuel stand in front of the Love County Courthouse after completing its new roofing project.

courthouse roofing was up for bids, we gave them the best price and best materials we could," he explained.

"We did that because we live here and we have an investment in the community, and it was important for us to have the opportunity to preserve our local history."

For the CCR team, there's a sense of accountability, for sure – especially since Greg estimates he has at least 60 family members who are living in the county and driving by the courthouse. But more importantly, there's a sense of pride.

The job was started and completed in just a couple of days last week.

"We really wanted to complete it over a weekend so

we wouldn't interfere with anything at the courthouse," stated Greg, "but we had to dodge rain and early voting and Frontier Days, so the commissioners agreed to let us do it during the week. We got in and out as fast as we could."

According to Greg, barring a hailstorm, or – heaven forbid – another tornado, she should be good to go for several more years. And although the company that did it technically came from across the river, they're Love Countians where it matters.

"We live here and drive by that courthouse several times every week," Greg said, "and now when we drive by, we can look at it and say, 'We did that,' and that's a big deal to us."

## Public Notice

NOTICE TO SELL COUNTY PROPERTY (ACQUIRED AT RESALE)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the receipt of bid, that I, Karla Smith, County Treasurer of Love County, Oklahoma, will on the 14th day of July, 2026, beginning at 9 a.m. at my office in the Courthouse at Marietta, Oklahoma, sell separately the hereinafter described tracts, parcels, or lots of land, all situated in Love County, Oklahoma and heretofore acquired by said county at the resale authorized by 68 O.S. § 3125. Following the description of each property separately offered for sale is the name of the bidder and the amount bid as follows:

Description	Bidder	Amount Bid
PH 2 UN 10 BLK 2 LOT 29 FALCONHEAD	JOHN OLIVER	\$160.78

The said properties will be separately sold to the highest competitive bidder, for cash in hand, or to the original bidder at the amount bid if there be no higher bid offered, subject to the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. The apportioned cost of advertisement and other expense incident to the said sale shall be paid by the purchaser, in addition to the amount bid upon said properties.

Witness my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2026

(seal) /s/ Karla Smith  
County Treasurer

Published in the Marietta Monitor on June 19 and 26 and July 3, 2026.

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Description	Bidder	Amount Bid
PH 2 UN 10 BLK 7 LOT 2 FALCONHEAD	TONY RATKE	\$279.52

The said properties will be separately sold to the highest competitive bidder, for cash in hand, or to the original bidder at the amount bid if there be no higher bid offered, subject to the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. The apportioned cost of advertisement and other expense incident to the said sale shall be paid by the purchaser, in addition to the amount bid upon said properties.

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## Public Notice

DOCUMENT 00 1200  
SOLICITATION FOR RE-BID

Package #8A Doors Frames and Hardware Material

NOTICE TO BIDDERS:

Separate Sealed Proposals from Suppliers for the Love County, HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACILITY, Marietta, Oklahoma will be received at the Love County Clerk's Office, 405 West Main, Suite 203 Marietta, OK 73448 until 9:00AM, July 6th, 2026. All Bid Package #8A bids are to be addressed to the Owner with the name of the project and the bid package number 8A noted on the exterior of the envelope and the words "SEALED BID ENCLOSED" on the face thereof. If the bids are sent via UPS send to Love County Clerks Office, 405 West Main, Suite 203 Marietta, OK 73448. Be sure to have delivered by Thursday July 2, as the County Clerks office will be closed Friday July 3rd. Bids will also be received at the Fenix office until July 2nd, 2026 and can be hand delivered or shipped to Fenix Constructors, Inc., 215 Drew St. S.W., Ardmore, OK 73401. All bids delivered to Fenix will be hand carried to the 9:00AM bid opening on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, immediately following the time stated above at the Love County Clerk's Office (room to be determined later). Bids received after this time or more than ninety-six hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays, before this time will not be accepted.

Contract Documents will be on file at support@construction.com, planroom@swcnews.com, content@constructconnect.com, or PlanHub. Bidders may obtain the Plans and Specifications through the Fenix Main Office in Ardmore, OK, www.fenixci.com or contact Jerrod Carpenter/Grant Owen with Fenix at (580) 223-4313.

A cashier's check, certified check or surety bond in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid from each subcontractor and material supplier, who's bid exceeds \$50,000 shall accompany the submitted proposal.

All bidders for this project are required to meet all qualification requirements as established in these bid documents. Furthermore, each Bidder may not withdraw his bid within 30 days after the actual date of the opening of bids.

There will be no Pre-Bid Conference for this Bid Package #8A Rebid.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality, or to reject any or all bids.

Published in the Marietta Monitor on June 12 and 19, 2026.

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Description	Bidder	Amount Bid
PH 2 UN 8 BLK 12 LOT 8 FALCONHEAD	DAVID & ROBIN CHERRYHOLMES	\$272.12

The said properties will be separately sold to the highest competitive bidder, for cash in hand, or to the original bidder at the amount bid if there be no higher bid offered, subject to the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. The apportioned cost of advertisement and other expense incident to the said sale shall be paid by the purchaser, in addition to the amount bid upon said properties.

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County Treasurer

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LPXLP

**Well-spring Assembly of God**

9021 Aztec Rd.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.

You are never a stranger in your Father's house.

**STORTS**  
FAMILY DENTISTRY

Jesse D. Storts, Jr. Owner/D.D.S.  
Travis M. Storts D.D.S.  
Lauren E. Storts D.D.S.  
Mohammed Kayyali D.D.S.

ARDMORE DENTISTRY: 1220 Merrick Dr. Ardmore, OK 73401 580-223-6720

MADILL DENTISTRY: 804 S 1st St. Madill, OK 73446 580-795-3360

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