

District judge will be featured at fifth 'PAVE' Conference

By Alicia Monroe
Staff Writer

The fifth annual Public Awareness of Victims Experience (PAVE) conference is set Tuesday and Wednesday, April 23-24, at the Clarion Hotel in Oklahoma City.

"We have always done this the third week of April because that is National Crime Victims Awareness Week," said Canadian County District Judge Ed Cunningham. "It just happens to fall right after the anniversary of the bombing."

The PAVE conference is sponsored by the Oklahoma Crime Victims Center, a statewide organization based in Shawnee for victims and survivors of crimes.

Topics to be addressed include "Profiling Murderers From Crime Scene Analysis," "Post Traumatic Stress and the Crisis Responder," "Juvenile Crime," "Rage and Forgiveness: Getting Through the Anger," "Community Trauma," "Developing Police-Based Victim Services," and "Looking at Solutions to Violence Against Women."

There will be a panel discussion, various speakers, a candlelight memorial ceremony and 11 different workshops offered during the course of the two-day conference.

Participants include crime victims and survivors, judges, attorneys, FBI and OSBI officials, police officers and representatives from organizations such as Project Heartland and the National Victim Center.

Cunningham will moderate the panel discussion on "Effecting Change." Panel members include experts on community violence, spiritual solutions to community violence, truth in sentencing, solutions to creating change in the Oklahoma judicial system, habeus corpus reform and the federal judicial system.

"It's a general airing of feelings," Cunningham said. "We hope to make more people aware of victims experiences so they will know better how to avoid becoming victims themselves."

One of the many people who helped organize the event was Judy Busch of Yukon. Busch, whose six-year-old daughter was raped and murdered, heads the Homicide Survivors Group of Oklahoma City.

The registration fee is \$25 for victims, survivors and students, and \$40 for professionals. For more information, call the Oklahoma Crime Victims Center at 273-6609.