

JR Head Appointed to Lead Bulldog Baseball Program

Jon Chidester
Assistant AD/Media Relations

SWOSU Athletic
Director Todd Helton

announced 10-year SWOSU Baseball assistant coach JR Head has been named new leader of the program.

Head becomes the fifth head baseball coach in SWOSU's NCAA era and the eighth all-time.

"I am very pleased to announce JR Head as our next head baseball coach," said Helton. "Coach Head has a proven record of leadership, recruitment, and skill as a baseball coach. He has earned his chance to be a head coach and we are excited to see him display the vision and passion that we know will bring Bulldog baseball future success."

Head has spent the last decade as an assistant for the Bulldogs working alongside former head coach Zack Saunders, who recently stepped down after 13 seasons. He's held many titles as a SWOSU baseball coach, beginning as a volunteer in the fall of 2014 before becoming a graduate assistant from 2016-19. After obtaining his master's degree as a GA, he stayed on with the program as the lead assistant from 2019 through the conclusion of the 2024 season.

In total, including his two seasons as a student-athlete at SWOSU prior to coaching, he's called Weatherford his home for the last 12 years.

"I am very excited for this opportunity," exclaimed Head. "SWOSU is such a special place with so many great people and I'm very grateful to get to continue being a Bulldog. I look forward to building on the foundation of the program and competing in the Great American Conference – one of the best conferences in Division II."

As the lead assistant with a heavy role in the offense, Head has commanded a Bulldog lineup that has consistently landed at the top of the GAC in multiple areas. The Bulldogs have finished inside the top-three in team batting average in four of the past six seasons.

This year, the Dawgs ranked second in the league with a .304 average led by three All-GAC selections. Two of those three led the conference in



an individual category, doubles and stolen bases, while the other was second on the doubles list just behind a SWOSU leader. All three finished inside the top-15 in individual batting average.

In 2021, Head helped tutor the program's first GAC Player of the Year, outfielder Alex Bedard, who went on to become an All-American – one of two Head has coached while at SWOSU.

In 2016, Head assisted with the Bulldogs as they reached new heights by winning the Great American Conference regular season championship and advanced to the NCAA Division II Central Region Championships. SWOSU won an NCAA era record 34 games and had eight players earn All-GAC recognition.

As a student-athlete, he played for SWOSU from 2013-14, starting 74 games in centerfield. He helped lead SWOSU to back-to-back conference tournament appearances and a second-place finish

in the GAC in 2013. As a senior, Head was named an Honorable Mention All-GAC selection. He was also a two-time member on the GAC All-Academic team.

Before joining the Bulldogs, Head played two seasons at Northern Oklahoma College – Enid, where he was an All-Region and All-American selection in 2012 and a two-time National Gold Glove winner.

A native of Midwest City, Okla., Head earned his bachelor's degree in Parks & Recreation Management in 2014 and obtained a master's degree in Sports Management in 2018 – each from SWOSU. He is married to Chelsea (Bates) Head, a former member of the Lady Bulldog Basketball program. The two reside in Weatherford and have a two-year-old daughter, Halle.

"I would like to thank Dr. Lovell, Coach Helton, and the entire hiring committee for believing in

(See Baseball, page 3)

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Jimmy Pitzer

Jimmy Duane Pitzer was born February 15, 1947, to Frank Duane and Nova Dean “Mickey” (Cart) Pitzer and passed away Saturday, May 25, 2024, at Weatherford Regional Hospital in Weatherford. Jimmy was raised north of Weatherford on the family farm and attended school in Weatherford, graduating from Weatherford High School with the Class of 1965. After graduation, Jimmy was drafted into the Army where he served in Vietnam in the 1st Infantry Division (“the Big Red One”) as a First Forward Observer. After being discharged from the Army in 1968, Jimmy returned to Oklahoma where he began working in construction. When Jimmy’s father Frank passed away in 1974, he returned home to the family farm where he made his home for many years. After a blind date at the Deckboat Steak house and dancing at Rodeo Joe’s, Jimmy started dating Katherine Cane in 1995, who he happily married in 1999 in Wichita Falls, Texas. They combined their families and lived in Weatherford.

Jimmy enjoyed visiting his “girls” (his cows) out at the farm, watching sports—especially OU. He was very active in the Weatherford VFW Post 6143 and had served in every office and as a Commander for many years. Jimmy will be most remembered for the love he had for all his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father Frank Pitzer; mother Nova Dean “Mickey” Brown; step-father Jack Brown; and Nephew Dale Pitzer.

Jimmy was survived by his wife Katherine Pitzer of the home; one son Josh Pitzer and wife Darci of Weatherford and their children: Willow, Sage, and Violet; daughters: Jamae Fulton and husband, Robert of Norman and their children Finley and Daelyn; Casey Cole and wife Brittney of Yukon and their children Ava, Emmett, and Benjamin; one brother, Jack Pitzer and wife Becky of Hydro; and many other beloved family and friends.

Memorials may be made to the Weatherford VFW Post 6143.



Sharon Taylor

Funeral Services for Sharon Sylvetta Taylor, 72, former Clinton resident were held Saturday June 1, 2024, at 1:00 PM at Bethany Baptist Church, officiated by Minister Ruth Perry. Burial followed at the Clinton Cometary under the direction of Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

Sharon Sylvetta Taylor was born on January 31, 1952, to George Elmer Powers and Georgia Marie Taylor in Clinton, OK and passed away peacefully Monday, May 20, 2024, surrounded by loved ones at The Timbers Skilled Nursing and Therapy, Edmond, OK.

Sharon was reared in Clinton, OK where she attended Clinton Public Schools. She was baptized at Bethany Baptist Church where she sang in the choir and traveled to local churches to sing and was known to be one of the best contralto's this side of the Mississippi. Sharon relocated to Compton, CA, and then to Fresno, CA where she spent most of her formidable years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters: Cheryl Griffin-Gouldsby and Karen Griffin-Ross, several aunts, and uncles.

She is survived by four daughters: Antoinette "Toni" Taylor, Corona, CA, Leigh Taylor, Shalewa Royal, and Shantilly Lace Crenshaw, of OKC, OK. One son Roshe' Crenshaw, Las Vegas, NV. Five sisters: Davi Murphy and Irena Darty of OKC, OK, Wanda McNabb, Long Beach, CA, Shacole Powers, Rancho Cucamonga, CA and Tyra Harris, Dallas, TX. One brother James Howard Powers, Texas City, TX; Aunt Molly Handsome and Uncle Jerry Cook of Dallas, TX. Sixteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews, cousins, and host of friends.



Margaret Howlingwolf

Funeral Services for Margaret Ann Howlingwolf, 82, Arapaho resident were held 11:00 AM, Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at the Hammon Indian Emergency Response Center, officiated by Pastor Mona Bearshield and Pastor Gerald Panana.

The burial followed in the Hammon Indian Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

There will be a traditional wake service 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM, Monday, May 27, 2024, in the Clinton Indian Baptist Church.

Margaret Ann (Hayes) Howlingwolf (Magpie Woman) was born April 20, 1942, to Lewis Littleman and Cootsie (Hayes) Littleman in Hammon, OK and passed away Thursday, May 23, 2024, in the Bellevue Nursing Home in Elk City, OK.

Margaret Ann was raised in Hammon, OK and graduated from Hammon High School in 1960. She married Wesley Dean Howlingwolf in March of 1963, in Cordell, OK. They made Arapaho, OK, their home.

She worked at the Clinton Elderly Nutrition Center for the Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. She cooked for several years before she retired.

She was a member of the Hammon First Baptist Church; she enjoyed going to the Casino, playing BINGO and cooking. She was well known for making good Fry Bread.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Wesley Howlingwolf, Sr, daughter Jana Howlingwolf, sister-in-law Leona Hair and grandson Isaiah Blevins.

She is survived by three daughters: Rhonda Howlingwolf, Clinton, OK, Anita Spradlin, OK, OK, and Dena Howlingwolf, Clinton, OK, son Wesley Howlingwolf, Jr., Eufaula, OK and Byron Howlingwolf, Arapaho, OK, and sister Irene Hayes, Hammon, OK.

She is also survived by several grandchildren and three great grandchildren nieces, nephews, and other relatives.



Cheevers Heap of Birds

Graveside Service for Cheevers Heap of Birds, 66-year-old El Reno resident, were held Thursday, May 30, 2024, at Chief Black Shortnose Allotment Cemetery with Gerald Panana officiating, under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.

Cheevers Heap of Birds was born May 19, 1958, to Alfrich Heap of Birds and Joyce Standingwater and passed away Sunday, May 26, 2024, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City. Cheevers was raised and attended school in Weatherford, graduating from Weatherford High School in 1976. He married Ramona Tall Bear and later made their home in Oklahoma City where they raised their three children.

He was preceded in death by his father Alfrich Heap of Birds; mother Joyce Standingwater; and one brother in infancy Daniel Heap of Birds.

Cheevers was survived by his son Robert Heap of Birds of El Reno, Oklahoma; two daughters: Rachael Heap of Birds of El Reno, Oklahoma, and Janet Heap of Birds of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; one brother Kinsley Heap of Birds and wife Margaret of Thomas, Oklahoma; three sisters: Cleo Heap of Birds of Thomas, Oklahoma, Celeste Heap of Birds of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Roberta Heap of Birds of Arlington, Texas; and nine grandchildren.





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Zella Gifford-Brown

Zella Marie Gifford Brown was born October 22, 1935, in Thomas, to Eddie and Julia (Corn) Powers and passed away Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Oxford Springs in Weatherford, at the age of 88 years, 6 months and 27 days.

Zella was raised in Thomas and attended school at Independence School, graduating from Independence High School in 1953. On January 17, 1954, she married Lealon Dean Gifford in Clinton. They made their home in Cactus, Texas; Stratford, Texas; and later to Guymon, Oklahoma. They lived in Guymon for 30 years where she worked at GTE as a phone operator and then at First National Bank as a bank clerk, but her favorite job was her last job working for the City of Guymon part time as a records clerk. In 1996, after retiring, they moved to Weatherford to be closer to Zella's family. After Dean's death, Zella married Loy Brown on January 20, 2017, in Oklahoma City, and they made their home in Weatherford.

Zella enjoyed spending her days in her flower garden, volunteering with her church, the community, the Heartland Museum, PEO, bird watching and watching local sports. She loved being able to teach kids how to read in Early Bird Reader at Burcham Elementary, visiting with her neighbors, and spending time with family and friends especially around the holiday times.



Zella is survived by her husband of seven years Loy Brown; her three sons and their families: Mike, Mark and Shawn, Brent and Heather; Loy's children and their families: Mike and Debbie, Travis and Heidi, Paula and Dale; eleven grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; sister Judy, and sister in-laws Jean and Ella.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Dean; and three brothers: Eugene, Bill, and Duane.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lung Cancer Research Foundation, 501 7th Ave., Suite 230, New York, NY 10018 or Heartland of America Museum, 1600 S Frontage Rd., Weatherford, OK 73096.

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SWOSU Reach Higher Program Awards over \$59,000 in Scholarships

J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Media Relations

The Reach Higher degree-finishing program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) awarded over \$59,000 in scholarships to 20 SWOSU students during the 2023-2024 academic year, including the 2024 summer semester. Over \$54,000 came from a Finish Line scholarship funded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The remaining \$5,000 came from Reach Higher Scholarships funded by the SWOSU Foundation.

- The following students received scholarships:
- Leanne Hileman—Altus
 - Rhonda Bennett—Anadarko
 - Laurie Crawford—El Reno
 - Kenneth Wilkins—Elk City
 - Erin Wagner—Harrah
 - Jamie Mundt—Hammon
 - Carley Carney—Hydro
 - Diana Juarez—Oklahoma City
 - Amelia Maxwell—Oklahoma City
 - Carly Nguyen—Oklahoma City
 - Jessika Johnstone Miller—Ponca City
 - Joshua Gossman—Moore
 - Brad Jones—Mustang
 - Michael Dropps—Mustang
 - Bobbi Jo Rowland—Piedmont
 - Kimbra Thomas—Weatherford
 - Michael Nguyen—Weatherford
 - Marissa Llamas—Wichita
 - Christopher Hurtt—Yukon
 - Josh Knight—Yukon

The Finish Line scholarship program provides funds for state system colleges and universities participating in the adult degree completion programs, targeting scholarships for adult students nearing degree completion. Reach Higher Flex Finish is designed for adults that have successfully completed some college coursework but have not yet finished a degree. The program results in a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership with a focus in one of four areas: business, education, psychology, or technology.

“This program has already made a big impact that has been noticed at work and reflected positively in my recent yearly evaluation,” stated Leanne Hileman.



Recent graduates in the Reach Higher Organizational Leadership program (left to right), Christopher Hurtt, Diana Juarez, and Jamie Mundt, with Dr. Todd Wiggen, Coordinator of the program at SWOSU.

“It is also helping me start up the small business my family has encouraged me to start once I finally finish school. This program and degree will help me to become not only a better leader but a better person for my family.”

Not completing a degree the first time was a major disappointment for Brad Jones. “I was disappointed in myself and had a sense of unfulfillment in not completing a degree,” he expressed. “I’m gaining confidence in the skills I am learning in the courses and, hopefully, will earn a promotion in my workplace. I’m going to be able to show my son what can be accomplished with patience, perseverance, and hard work.”

Dr. Todd Wiggen, Coordinator of SWOSU’s Organizational Leadership program, said that the Reach Higher adult-friendly degree completion options through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education encourage adults who have earned some college credit to complete their degrees successfully. “This program really works for those

adults who, for whatever reason, did not finish their degree the first time around. We offer flexible enrollment and online coursework. Students can set their own pace in completing their degree,” Wiggen said.

As the program coordinator and advisor, Wiggen provides personalized advising to ensure students finish in the most efficient way possible. In addition, the Reach Higher program is projected to have even greater scholarship funding for the 2024-2025 academic year. “I fully expect to be able to provide many more scholarships for both existing and new students in the program,” stated Wiggen.

The Reach Higher/Organizational Leadership program is currently accepting students for the 2024 fall semester at SWOSU. A Reconnect event on June 15 at the Stafford Air & Space Museum, providing an opportunity to speak with Reach Higher graduates, admissions personnel, and advisors. Additional information is available by contacting Wiggen at todd.wiggen@swosu.edu or at leadership@swosu.edu.

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HIGHER GROUND

Summer to Remember

Jim Morrison

It’s summer time: mission trips, church camps, retreats, schools out! It’s a good time for kids and parents alike. But with the fun and games there are challenging moments for growth and maturity. Adults are exhorted to pray for the many events as they have great potential. The first question when planning to pray is to ask the question: what does God want to see happen in the lives of the participants? We need to be thoughtful in prayer, refraining from the usual clichés and platitudes. Maybe the following format will be of some help. One of the greatest needs in the development of our young people is that they have a strong foundation to stand firm against the culture of the day. They need power, not the kind of power that runs over people but the power to meet the

challenges of their world. So, I made an acrostic of the word POWER to help me think Biblically in my prayer life. Perhaps this might be of help. Certainly, we don’t want weak young people but those who will know and serve the God of all power.

P.. Lord, I’m praying that the young people on mission or at camps will sense the power of the Holy Spirit in their conversations and responsibilities. You have promised to be with them but help them to sense your powerful presence. Protect them, not only from physically harm, but also from the spiritual attacks that the evil one can cause in producing disunity, tension, or attitude problems. Remind them that your power is made perfect in their weakness.

O..Father, open their eyes to the great needs of our world. Give them an obedient spirit and great openness to new opportunities. I pray for the leaders that they will be overcomers to work through any obstacles that might hinder.

W.. Lord, give them wisdom to make good decisions, to act wisely when confronted with difficult situations. May they walk before the people they serve in such a way that they would be drawn to the Savior. Above

all may your will be done through their actions, responsibilities, and relationships. May they worship you through their actions as well as in services of worship.

E.. Lord, would you equip them with the energy and enthusiasm needed for each day. Equip them, Lord with your patience, your courage, your endurance and love to be used as instruments of righteousness in the midst of a troubled world. Enlarge their vision of the needs of the world and help them to see their place in this world to make a difference.

R.. Lord, reveal yourself to them in a fresh way. Revive hearts that may have grown cold. Give them an understanding of God’s call on their lives no matter what vocation they may choose. May they develop the strength to resist the call of the world on their lives. Give each of them a sense of responsibility to be agents of reconciliation in a divided world.

Finally, as an add-on pray that Giod in Christ will become real to them. Lord, give them a teachable heart and a willingness to listen and obey.

In Jesus name, amen. To comment: 1580-302-1142 or jhm82@outlook.com

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Mike Smith
News Director

GPRMC Announces Lauren Celsor as 2024 Nurse of the Year

Great Plains Regional Medical Center (GPRMC) is proud to announce Lauren Celsor, CCRN, BSN, as the recipient of the 2024 Nurse of the Year Award. This prestigious recognition celebrates Lauren's outstanding contributions, unwavering dedication, and exceptional care in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Lauren's peers have praised her extensive knowledge and commitment to educating new nurses. Her empathy and caring nature have made a significant impact on patients and their families, as well as her colleagues. Comments from nominees highlighted her ability to handle the most critical patients while taking time to teach others new skills, making the unit less daunting for newcomers.

"Lauren embodies excellence in nursing 1000%. She is the go-to person for starting IVs and is always confident and ambitious," said one of her colleagues. "Her patients receive 100% of her attention and care, and her smile and willingness to help are always present."

Patients and their families frequently express gratitude for Lauren's dedicated care. Her professionalism is surpassed only by her compassionate approach to nursing. Many nurses across the hospital look up to Lauren for guidance and inspiration, especially during challenging times.

Lauren's journey in nursing began with her graduation from Western Oklahoma State College in 2019 with an Associate's Degree in Nursing. She has since earned her Bachelor of Science in



Nursing (BSN) and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Nursing Education. Lauren is a member of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) and recently achieved her Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) certification.

Lauren started her career as a Labor and Delivery nurse before transitioning to GPRMC in 2020 to train as an ICU nurse during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has since become the main preceptor in the ICU, PCC certified, and holds all

required certifications for her role, including leading the Medical Emergency Team (MET) and serving as House Supervisor when needed.

"Numerous nurses at GPRMC deserve this award; however, Lauren has been a shining star in a challenging year," said Corey Lively, CEO of GPRMC. "Her dedication to her patients, colleagues, and the field of nursing is truly exemplary. We are incredibly proud to honor her with the 2024 Nurse of the Year Award."



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WEATHERFORD CC/ WASTEWATER- The Weatherford City Commission approved a bid from Wynn Construction for improvements to the CDBG wastewater treatment plant. According to Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown, the bid from Wynn came in under budget. The approved bid amount is \$444,444 dollars.

WEATHERFORD SCHOOLS/ FREE MEAL-
Weatherford public schools will be offering free breakfast and lunch for children under the age of 18, beginning this week. Breakfast is served from 8:30 to 9:30 with lunch served from 11:30 to 12:30. Meals will be served and must be eaten at Tom Stafford Elementary. The program runs from June 5th through the 28th.

WEATHERFORD/ POOL DEMO- the Weatherford City Commission recently approved a bid for demolition of the Means Park pool. According to Mayor Mike Brown, the demolition will include the buildings on site as well as the concrete stage. The bid of just over \$76,000 was awarded to M&M wrecking.

WEATHERFORD/LEASE HL- Weatherford Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell said the western Oklahoma Development Workforce Board is leasing part of the former Weatherford Police Department building. Creswell says roughly 10 offices have been leased and painting and flooring upgrades are currently being done to those offices.

WEATHERFORD CC/ OKIE SAFETY HL- the Weatherford City Commission approved a renewal agreement between the city and Okie safety consulting for building plan, sprinkler suppression, and hood suppression plan review. According to Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin, nothing major has changed in the agreement and believes the company has been doing a good job. The approval passed unanimously.

ANGELA MARSEE/ VICTIM RIGHTS- Victims rights in the state of Oklahoma have been improving over the recent years. According to District Attorney Angela Marsee, one thing that has led to the change is a constitutional provision that ensured that victim's rights were on the same level as defendant's rights. Marsee also mentions that the time in-between death row executions in the state has been extended from 60 to 90 days after a request from attorney general Gentner Drummond.


THOMAS/ FD HELP - Many fire departments in western Oklahoma are staffed with volunteers. Thomas fire chief Kenny McGuire said that helping people out is a chief motivation for people, wanting to be firefighters. Area departments help each other in difficult situations as a part of a mutual aid agreement between departments in the area.

WEATHERFORD COACH RESIGNS- Weatherford girls' basketball coach Gregg Pratt resigned recently. He finished his first season coaching the Lady Eagles. Weatherford athletic director Kyle Null says the coaching search begins immediately for a successor to Pratt.

MIKE KARLIN/ STORM PREPARE- In times of severe weather and tornadic activity, there are things that one may not think of in the chaos of the moment. Making sure you are wearing shoes and have clothing suited for the elements are a few things that Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin suggests to be aware of. Chief Karlin also wants to stress keeping emergency lines of communication open so first responders can act as quickly as possible in times of need.

CLINTON/ PUTT PUTT- The Clinton Route 66 miniature golf course will have expanded hours this summer. According to President of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce Julie Caldwell once school is out, the course will be open Thursday through Sunday. Hours are 5-9pm Thursday through Saturday and 1-6pm on Sunday. Rounds are \$2 to play.

DARCY JECH/ DISTRICT POPULATION- Senator Darcy Jech represents District 26 in the State Senate up at the Capitol. According to the senator, the population of the district is roughly 84,000 people. District 26 includes all or parts of the following counties: Caddo, Blaine, Custer, Kingfisher, and Canadian.



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Happy Birthday Wishes for June 5th- Leonard Abrahams, Caren Edwards, Richard Ratcliffe, Sue Ringler, Luke Sewell, Blake Shaddon, Alisyn Shellhorse, Micahel Shipman; **June 6th-** Kaci Axtell, Raymond Cole, Daryl Jones, Jasmine Lamp, Janet Little, Donna Poeling, Janet Roulet, Dwight Slagell, Brittany Theis, Bo Thomason. **June 7th-** Deon Basler, Angeline Evans, Ryan Fox, Tommy Klein, Nickie Lee, Ashley Oliver, Denise Slagell, Denis Slagell, Raymond Vermillion; **June 8th-** Kathy Barckholtz, Clare Blakeslee, Evelyn Bouma, Kathy Hanson, Lillie Peach, Melissa Reeves, Dawnellen Settles, Grant Sheperd, Elizabeth Sikes; **June 9th-** Savannah Jo Collins, Whitney Carder, Kim Cooper, Debi Duff, Justin Edler, Michelle Furhmann, Mary Graham, Wade Haugan, Jack Walton; **June 10th-** Beverly Axtell, Lonni Boone, Carla Maddox, Kirsten Nestell, Mary Perkins, John Postelwait, L.R. Sights, Chad Spencer, Lance Waldrop, Gavina Whitley.

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Krystal Blackwell/WW

The Weatherford Eagles Boys Basketball Team hosted one of two summer basketball camps this past week. Weatherford students from 1st grade all the way up to 8th grade performed skill drills and practiced with Coach Derrick Bull and varsity members of the boys basketball team.






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Oklahoma History: The Origins of Collegiate and Secondary Education in Oklahoma



Chase Wright
Staff Writer

After the Organic Act established the Oklahoma Territory, a legislative staff formed to help create a more systematic governing body. President Benjamin Harrison appointed George W. Steele as the new governor of the Oklahoma Territory, which would see tremendous advances in available public works/systems. The territory, with many fresh faces from the Land Run of 1889, was in dire need of schools and forms of higher education.

Governor Steele worked for seventeen months. During his time, he was a major advocate for public schools and universities. By his urging, the First Oklahoma Territorial legislature set up three collegiate schools in December of 1890. The three universities were the Norman Territorial University (which would later become the University of Oklahoma), the Oklahoma Agriculture and Mechanical College (that would go on to form Oklahoma State University), and the Central

State Normal School in Edmond (University of Central Oklahoma).

For these collegiate level schools to be at the same level of the rest of the country, they would need knowledgeable and well-trained teachers. So, two additional “teacher training” schools were opened a few years later; these normal schools were dubbed Northwestern State Normal (Northwestern Oklahoma State University) in Alva which opened in 1897 and Southwestern State Normal (Southwestern Oklahoma State University) in Weatherford in 1901.

The legislation also established a college in Langston in 1897 for African Americans: Colored Agricultural and Normal University (Langston University). As part of the push for “equal” opportunity, a secondary institution, the University Preparatory School at Tonkawa, was created in 1901 to prep high school graduates for entry to the University of Oklahoma.

Quickly after the establishment of these colleges and

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secondary schools, Oklahoma Territory found itself preparing for statehood. Part of the proposed entry as a state to the United States would see the territory combine with the remaining portion of Indian Territory. Early discussions between the territories were heated due to the feeling of an educational imbalance as most of the college and university locations would be on the western side. As part of a compromise, “Oklahoma Territory offered to duplicate in the eastern part of the new state the number and types of institutions that existed in the west side” (Oklahoma History Society).

The agreement was signed, and the First Oklahoma Legislature established a list of schools for the east. The colleges created were the Oklahoma Industrial Institute and College for Girls (University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma) in Chickasha and the Oklahoma School for Mines and Metallurgy (Eastern Oklahoma State College) in Wilburton. Then, three normal institutes were opened: East Central State Normal (East Central University) in Ada, Northeastern State Normal (Northeastern State University) in Tahlequah, and Southeastern State Normal (Southeastern Oklahoma State University) in Durant. To match the preparatory school for OU, the secondary Eastern University Preparatory School was established in Claremore.

With the addition of these higher education schools, the legislation wanted to ensure more students had access to adequate preparation to any of the normal secondary or university options. So, the formation of six additional district schools were created in 1909 to get students ready for entry to Stillwater’s Oklahoma A&M and the other normal colleges. These six district schools were split evenly between the western and eastern halves of the state.

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Reigning Miss Southwestern and budding country musician Mackynsie McKedy performed at the Levitt AMP Clinton Music Series this past weekend with her band.



Kyle Dillingham and Horseshoe Road also played at the Levitt AMP Clinton Music Series this past weekend. The Clinton Music Series has scheduled eight more free shows this summer at McLain Rogers Park.

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Jon Chidester
Assistant AD/Media Relations

The 2024 ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. II All-Region teams and Regional Players of the Year have been announced in all eight regions. Jackson Syring, for a third time this award season, found himself as a Second Team All-Central Region selection.

Syring had previously been named all-region from the NCBWA and D2CCA and completes the trifecta for region recognition with his latest nod from the ABCA. He becomes the eighth Bulldog to earn All-Region honors from the ABCA in SWOSU's NCAA era. He led the team in batting average, hits, triples, RBIs, slugging percentage, hit by pitches, and on-base percentage. Syring's .394 batting average and 19 doubles both ranked second in the GAC, while his 57 RBIs finished as the fifth most in the league.

The ABCA All-America team was first recognized in 1949 and now includes nine divisions: NCAA Divisions I, II and III, NAIA, NJCAA Divisions I, II and III, Pacific Association Division, and high school. ABCA/Rawlings Gold Glove teams were first recognized in 2007.

About the ABCA:
Founded in 1945, the American Baseball Coaches Association is the primary professional organization for baseball coaches at the amateur level. Its over 15,000 members represent all 50 states and 41 countries. Since its initial meeting of 27 college baseball coaches in June 1945, Association membership has broadened to include nine divisions: NCAA Division I, II and III, NAIA, NJCAA, Pacific Association Division, High School, Youth and Travel.

Four from SWOSU Softball Named
CSC Academic All-District



Jon Chidester
Assistant AD/Media Relations

Four student-athletes from SWOSU Softball have been named College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District selections.

Bulldogs who earned academic recognition include Dani Carmo, Chesnie Hewitt, Jady Hook, and Maddie Rahon. Both Carmo and Rahon earn the award for a second straight year.

Academic All-District selections were based on combined academic and athletic qualifications. Student-athletes must compete in 90 percent of the institution's games/contests played or must start in at least 66 percent of the institution's games/contests. In addition to the

athletic qualifications, student-athletes must also hold a minimum of a 3.50 cumulative GPA or higher and be at least a sophomore. A maximum of five student-athletes can be selected per school.

The 2023-24 Academic All-District® Softball Teams, selected by College Sports Communicators, recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the diamond and in the classroom. The CSC Academic All-America® program separately recognizes honorees in four divisions — NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III and NAIA.

Baseball, track & field/cross country, and golf will all be announced through the month of June.

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