

SWOSU Hosts Ribbon cutting for New Lounge



A ribbon cutting was recently held for SWOSU's new "Steve Price Lounge," located in the Rankin Williams Fieldhouse. This area will be used by the SWOSU Football team starting in Fall 2025.

Heston Wright / WW



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Weatherford's Marley Teasley and Karsyn McPherson were among the "best and brightest" selected for K101's Classic Bowl XXXVII, hosted at the Boomer Softball Field in Woodward.

Krystal Blackwell / WW

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Judith Branscum

Judith Ann Branscum was born August 13, 1943, in Bristow, OK, to Henry and Marjorie Grace (Geller) Stubblefield and passed away Monday, June 2, 2025, in Weatherford, at the age of 81 years, 9 months and 19 days.



Judith was raised and attended school in Bristow, graduating from Bristow High School. Judith attended Central State University and later earned a master’s degree.

She married and they made their home in Bristow to raise their family. She was the Washington County Coordinator for the senior’s meals.

Judith enjoyed reading books, working in her garden and spending time with family and friends, especially her grandchildren.

Judith is survived by two daughters, Angie Goodall and husband, Rick of Weatherford and Michelle Adams and husband, Boaz of Pensacola, FL; two sisters, Joyce Stubblefield of Midwest City and Theresa Stubblefield of Midwest City; sister-in-law, Patricia Stubblefield of Allen, TX; five grandchildren, Tiffany Seal and husband, Kris, Hillary Barnes, Jarred Hardin and wife, Alicia, Jayce Hardin all of Weatherford, and Jordane Hauzler and husband, Gunther of Nurnberg, Germany; four great-grandchildren, Lilly Hardin, Oliver Seal, Adele and Heinrich; two nephews, Matt Stubblefield of Calera, OK and Sean Stubblefield of Allen, TX; great-nephew, Sam Stubblefield of Calera, OK; and great-niece, Ruby Stubblefield of Calera, OK.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Ron Stubblefield; one special uncle, Omar Geller; and son-in-law, Jeff Hardin.

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Linda Newton

Linda Joyce Newton, 73, passed away on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, joining our Heavenly Father.



Linda was born on August 19, 1951, in Whittier, California, to Clarence and Betty (Alexander) Cowles.

Linda grew up in Elk City, OK and later graduated from Elk City High School in 1969.

Linda met her beloved husband, Guy Newton, while working at then, Gibson’s Department Store, in Clinton, OK.

They were married on February 6, 1970, and settled in Clinton, where they built a life together. After 13 years of marriage, they joyfully welcomed their daughter, Amanda, in 1984.

Throughout her life, Linda held various jobs, including positions at Gibson’s Department Store, Blunk Studios, Cordes Accounting, Al-Bar Fabrics, Moore Cleaners and Southwest Interiors. She also pursued self-employment, baking, decorating cakes, and sewing for the public.

Linda was an active member of First Christian Church in Clinton and was part of the Christian Women’s Fellowship group. She found joy in baking, sewing, gardening, and spending time with her two cherished granddaughters, Mari and Iva. Linda’s warm smile and gift for conversation endeared her to all who knew her. Linda was known for her compassionate nature and unwavering desire to help others.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Betty Cowles; stepfather, Cecil Billingsley; beloved husband, Guy Newton; and son-in-law, Anthony Zarbano.

She is survived by her daughter, Amanda Bowens, and her husband, Willie Bowens, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; two granddaughters, Mari and Iva Bowens, also of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; her brother, Dennis Cowles, and wife, Elizabeth Cowles, of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; her stepmother, Vallene Corbin, of Port Orchard, Washington; her stepbrother, Michael Brandon, and wife, Tammy Brandon, of Port Orchard, Washington; her great niece, Dana Brown, and her husband, Jason Brown, of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; and their sons, Carson and Cameron Brown; her great nephew, Derek Kimmel, and wife, Ashley Kimmel, of Slidel, Louisiana; as well as many other relatives, friends, and other loved ones.

Family requests that those wishing to make a memorial contribution do so to First Christian Church in Clinton.

Gwen Pasby

Mildred Gwendolyn Pasby, 86, of Elk City, Oklahoma, was born on November 25, 1938, to Oren and Mildred (Burrows) Jencks in Elk City. Gwen passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Integris Hospice House in OKC with her family surrounding her.



Gwen graduated Cheyenne Public Schools in 1956. Gwen married her high school sweetheart Billie Edward Pasby on July 29, 1955. Gwen and Billie settled in Elk City, where they were blessed with three children: Terry Dale, Tammy Sue, and Garry Edward.

Gwen graduated Summa Cum Laude with her Bachelor’s of Education in 1972 and her Master’s in 1976 from SWOSU. After 12 years of teaching 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades Gwen was named Elk City Teacher of the Year which led her to being awarded the prestigious honor of the 1983-84 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. She was dedicated to serving her community and was a member of the Elk City Association of Classroom Teachers, both the Oklahoma and National Education Associations, Delta Kappa Gamma Society, the Southwest and Oklahoma Reading Councils, and the Elk City Jaycees.

Gwen’s ministry for the Lord came naturally. She was dedicated for over 50 years to serving the United Methodist Church which she had been a member of since she was 16. Gwen taught Sunday School, Disciple Bible and Prayer Studies, was a lay speaker for the Methodist Clinton District, and was actively involved in Meals on Wheels. Gwen was a member of the United Methodist Women, the Women’s Society of Christian Services, and the Lois Smith Circle. She was always available for anyone in need and prayed for everyone constantly. After her retirement from teaching, Gwen was hired as an assistant to the Methodist Pastors. She visited hospitals, nursing homes, and provided support to church members and the community, concentrating on those in need. She was a devoted volunteer at Great Plains Regional Medical Center and in 2019 she was inducted into the Elk City Leadership Hall of Fame.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; stepmother Merle Jencks; and brother Ronnie Jencks.

She is survived by two sons: Terry Pasby and wife Carolyn of Elk City; and Garry Pasby and husband Ruben Manuel of Colorado Springs; daughter Tammy Dillon, of OKC; sister Velda Johnson and husband Lou of North Richland Hills; sister-in-law Alana Jencks Atkins of OKC; step-sister Donna Moore of Elk City; six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and many other extended family members and friends.

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Weatherford Public Library Performer Schedule.

Library: 10 am

YMCA: 3 pm

June 12th: Rocky Mountain Puppets

June 19th: Mad Science

June 26th: Will Stuck

July 11th: Extreme Animals

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Sunday

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Jared Deck Returns to Clinton Music Series



Western Oklahoma Native and Americana Musician Jared Deck is set to return to the historic amphitheater in McLain Rogers Park this upcoming Friday night.

Deck and his full band are slated to headline for the Levitt AMP Clinton Music Series’s festivities which guarantee good food, good company, and great music.

Jared Deck who’s made a name for himself in the folk-rock and americana music scene across the country was once described by Rolling Stone as someone who “channels the pissed-off, politically minded punch of John Mellencamp, Steve Earle, and other heartland-rock greats,” and he’s sure to bring that energy and spirit to Friday’s performance.

Deck’s performance will be preceded by the opening act Biskitheadz, a Southwest Oklahoma based Classic Rock band with roots near Altus. The night’s performances are scheduled to begin at 7pm with Biskitheadz then Jared Deck will take the stage some time around 7:45pm.

95.5 The Coyote will also be broadcasting live from the event beginning at around 6:30pm, so make sure to arrive early for a chance to claim some swag and to meet and greet the Coyote radio crew.

For more information about the Levitt AMP Clinton Music series or to find out how you can help you can find them on facebook by searching Levitt AMP Clinton Music Series. Or you can visit the Levitt Foundation’s website for the event by visiting www.levitt.org/amp-clinton-ok/

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In Weatherford OK

Weatherford Church of Christ
Date: June 15th-18th
Age: Kindergarten-5th Grade

Calvary Baptist Church
“Bible Mountaineers”
Date: Aug 6th-8th
Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Pine Acres Church
Date: July 9th
Be watching in your neighborhood for a location.

First United Methodist Church
“RoadTrip”
Date: June 22nd-26th
Time: 5:30pm-8:00 pm
Age: Pre-K-6th Grade (25-26 school year)
Free meal for kids provided each day

First Baptist Church
Date: July 21st-24th
Age: Completed K-6th Grade

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Date: July 14th-18th
Age: Finished K-6th Grade

HIGHER GROUND

Compelled by Love

I share with you today, what I feel to be one of the clearest descriptions of the lifestyle or commission of a follower of Jesus. Then, out of that picture, let my prayer be your prayer as we walk together in this grand and wonderful journey.

Corinthians II 5:13-21

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. “So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting man’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: be reconciled to God. God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

My Prayer

“My heavenly Father, thank you for the great picture of love that was demonstrated on the cross. I ask that I may be the compelling force in my daily activities. May I be thrust forth each day to live the crucified life, recognizing that in the cross, I died to my old ambitions and passions, to live only for your glory. Fix my eyes with a new understanding of the value of every man. Christ’s death on the cross forever eliminated the view that any man is undeserving of the truth of the gospel. I forfeit the right to choose whom I will love. Reveal to me each day the power that can bring beauty out of ashes, and hope out of despair. It is all of and from you, Oh Lord, and I thank you and praise you for the cross that bridged that great divide between my sins and your holiness. And to think, that you have given me the privilege of carrying forth that ministry and message of reconciliation! May the passion of Paul be mine as well. Thank you for giving me the privilege of being your representative in this alien land, where men curse you and reject the idea that You could love them so. The picture of Christ that men see in me is so often dim and confusing. Forgive me of that and empower me to so live that others can understand and be compelled to take up their cross and follow You. I know that I am your hands and feet, calling men to the Savior, and it both frightens and thrills me. Thank you for the privilege of living the crucified life. Fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit that I would not seek the approval of man, but live only for your glory.

“Thank you for the great transaction whereby my sin was laid on the back of your sinless Son so that I could be seen as clothed in His righteousness. Use me today, and every day as your ambassador to display your love and supreme character as light in a dark and sinful world. Amen.”

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Fallen First Responders to be Honored in Weatherford for EMS’s Memorial Procession



A solemn tribute is making its way across the nation, making 29 stops in 19 states, including Weatherford, OK, to remember 29 EMS professionals who died in the line of duty. The National EMS Memorial Service’s annual procession began June 1 in Riverside, Calif. and will culminate in Arlington on July 19.

On June 11, Air Evac and AMR will host the Moving Honors procession at Weatherford Stafford Air and Space Museum. The event marks one of the many stops along the 6,500-mile journey to Arlington where fallen EMS providers will be honored as part of the National EMS Memorial Service and Weekend of Honor.

At the heart of the journey is a specially wrapped ambulance carrying the Tree of Life—this year’s installment of the memorial bearing the names of those lost. Built by EMS volunteers, the Tree is transported with reverence and remains sealed until its unveiling at the national service. A replica Tree of Life will be on display at each stop, offering communities a space to pause, reflect, and honor lives of service.

These fallen heroes are not just names—they are fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. They are the ones who leave their homes, families and safety behind to answer the call, never knowing that their work would cost them their lives. One of the Moving Honors representatives supporting this year’s procession is American Medical Response (AMR) paramedic Megan Havercamp, now in her fifth year with the crew.

What began as a one-time request to drive an ambulance from Texas to Virginia has become a deeply personal tradition. Havercamp now helps escort the Tree of Life alongside “Chief Ted E. Bear,” a comfort companion who helps children of fallen EMS providers cope with loss.

“Each stop is a moment to remember, to honor

and to let families and fellow providers know that their loved ones are not forgotten,” Havercamp said. “What continues to move me is how everyone comes together, whether they knew the honorees personally or not, to show their love and support.”

“This moving tribute is only possible because of the shared commitment from agencies across the country and the generous support of organizations like Global Medical Response,” said Jana Williams, National EMS Memorial Service president.

Event Details

National EMS Moving Honors Procession Stop
Stafford Air and Space Museum
June 11th, 2025, 3pm - 5pm

Come and honor the EMS professionals who died in the line of duty during 2024 (and prior).

Visuals:

- Decorated ambulance carrying the Tree of Life
- Replica Tree of Life tribute display
- Honor guard and motorcade procession
- EMS personnel and community members
- Remarks from local leaders

Media should arrive by 2:00pm.
Interviews will follow the ceremony.

Air Evac and the GMR Family would like to thank the City of Weatherford, Stafford Air and Space Museum, and all the First Responders and the agencies they represent in attendance to this event.

“It is extraordinary witnessing so many who join alongside us to honor our fallen and to support their loved ones in such an impactful way,” expressed Williams.


ODOT / ALMQUIST RETIREMENT - The engineer for District 5 for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation headquartered in Clinton is retiring. Brent Almquist has spent 42 years at ODOT. “We’ve got some great engineers coming in District 5, so it’s time for me to get out of the way and let them,” expressed Almquist in his announcement speech. “I’ll be able to spend more time with my son, Clay, and my grandkids. There are also a few things around my house that have been coming up over the years. I haven’t really had a chance to take care of those types of things.” A successor for Almquist has not officially been named. The last day on the job for Almquist is June 30th.

SWOSU / NAMING RIGHTS - SWOSU officials say room naming rights and sponsorship opportunities are available within the Jerry & Margaret Hodge Center for Pharmacy & Rural Health. The facility is scheduled to open in the spring of 2026 and will serve as the new home of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy and SWOSU Center for Rural Health. The room naming rights and sponsorships provide alumni and donors with a unique, once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in education, healthcare, and the future of Oklahoma communities.

ELK CITY / MORENO ARREST - An individual who recently escaped custody while being escorted from the Beckham County Courthouse has been apprehended by Elk City Police. An officer observed suspicious activity and with the assistance of another officer, Michael Moreno was taken into custody during a traffic stop.

CLINTON CC / PAYMENTS - The Clinton city council recently approved payments totaling more than \$339,000 to Krapff-Reynolds construction for the relocation of water and sewer lines for the Exit 65/65-A project. The city recently delivered a check of over \$6 million to the ODOT for their 10% payment for the project. Bids are anticipated to go out soon.

EARP / SENTENCING - A Weatherford man has been sentenced to serve 35 years of a 50-year prison term after pleading guilty to 10 charges associated with offering money to juvenile boys in exchange for nude photos and sex. 40-year-old Todd Earp had access to the youths as an employee of the city of Weatherford and when he served as a driver’s education instructor and when he worked for the YMCA.

**WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!**
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Christian Free Store – Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK, Community Center** “Bible Study,” Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public. **OK Parkinson’s Alliance**, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford’s Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. Questions? Contact OK Parkinson’s Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@OKpa.org.

Iron Sharpens Iron is a Christ-centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for June 11th - Beverly Axtell, Lonni Boone, Carla Maddox, Kirsten Nestell, Mary Perkins, John Postelwait, L.R. Sights, Chad Spencer, Lance Waldrop, Gavina Whitley; **June 12th** - Mindy Cash, H.R. Cornell, Brandi Estrada, Susan Gates, Victoria Gonzalez, Crystal Hamons, Carlewchee Hutto, Meisha Johnson, Jon Stinks, Fern Patrick, Chris Post, Richelle Ridling, Anna Ross, Javan Shaw; **June 13th** - Paige Barnes, Letha Brown, Kale Ellis, Sue Meacham, Antonio Mejia, Alicia Huss; **June 14th** - Tyler Bowman, Darlene Cardwell, Steve Crane, John Gerber, Amanda Greer, Andy Janning, Gina Leonard, Lillian McCaskill, Mark Roark, Cody Wilburn; **June 15th** - Brad Berrong, Charlotte Burton, Joe Chittum, Bo Felch, Jocelyn Gooch, Karen Harris, Addison Hoffman, Ellen Johnson, Joyce Sloan; **June 16th** - Dylan Biggs, Larry Dowty, Nicholas Gere, Jesse Hampton, Kayla Harris, Shelby Maggard, Denene Naufeld, Brooke Poeling, Corey Shirey, Jean Simpson, Kayla Thompson; **June 17th** - Katyn Albert, Amy Felgener, Erin Giles Dixie Palmer, Barri Hope Ryan, McKenzie Smith, Wannie Whiteshield.

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Baby Walker - Bounces, comes with mobile and music. \$35. 580-613-0108.

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3 Handheld Vacuums - \$30 each. 580-613-0108.

Widescreen TV - 93" CRT. Mitsubishi. \$499. 580-772-7997.

Curio Cabinet, Bottom Storage \$50 - 580-774-4000.

Coil roofing air nailgun - Like new, with 3 boxes of coil nails. \$250. 580-330-1437.

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Oklahoma History: The Native American Code Talkers of WWI / WWII



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society
Choctaws in training in World War I for coded radio and telephone transmissions.



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society
Code talkers in training from the Comanche Nation at Fort Gordon, Georgia, pose for a photo during World War II.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The Choctaw Code Talkers Monument in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, dedicated in 2022, honors the Native soldiers whose language skills confounded enemy code-breakers in two world wars. Broken Bow, Okla. — On a crisp autumn morning, Choctaw elders and veterans’ descendants gathered around a new granite memorial.

They came to honor the “code talkers” – Native American soldiers whose use of Indigenous languages helped the United States and its allies win two world wars . Amid Choctaw hymns and prayers, speakers recalled how these warriors turned their mother tongue into an unbreakable code that baffled enemy eavesdroppers. It’s a remarkable chapter of Oklahoma history, one that stretches from the trenches of World War I France to the beaches of World War II Normandy.

World War I

In the fall of 1918, during the Meuse-Argonne offensive in France, American forces were stymied by German code-breakers. Standard military ciphers had been cracked; even runners carrying written orders were intercepted. Desperate for a solution, a U.S. officer overheard two enlisted men from Oklahoma – Choctaw soldiers – conversing in their Native language. He quickly organized a test. With a few hours of training, Choctaw men were posted at field telephones to transmit military commands in Choctaw. They even improvised new Choctaw words for terms that had no equivalent – for example, “little gun shoot fast” to mean machine gun.

The impact was immediate. Suddenly, German intelligence officers monitoring American lines were left utterly confused. Guided by secure Choctaw messages, the Allies captured key objectives. In October 1918, these Choctaw Code Talkers aided American victories in places like Saint-Étienne and Forest Ferme. Officers in the field credited the quick-thinking Choctaw men with helping bring World War I to a swifter end.

A total of about 18 Choctaw men served as code talkers in that late 1918 effort. The original group included soldiers like Solomon Louis, Ben Carterby, Pete Maytubby, and James Edwards, among others. One was Private Joseph Oklahombi, who not only sent coded messages but also became Oklahoma’s most decorated World War I hero. As word of the Choctaws’ success spread, other Native troops were pressed into similar service. By war’s end, Cherokee, Comanche, Cheyenne, and Osage soldiers from Oklahoma had also used their Native languages to send vital messages on the front lines. These men were the pioneers of a tactic that would later be used on a much larger scale.

World War II

When World War II erupted a generation later, the U.S. military remembered the lessons of the Choctaw experiment. In the Pacific Theater, the Marine Corps famously recruited Navajo code talkers.

Their whose complex code based on their language perplexed Japanese cryptographers. At the same time, the U.S. Army turned to the Comanche people of Oklahoma for a similar role in Europe. In 1940–41, seventeen young Comanche men were recruited and trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, to develop a secret battlefield code. They created a list of over 250 Comanche terms for military items – effectively a codebook only they understood. In this cipher, a tank became a “turtle” and a machine gun a “sewing machine,” while Adolf Hitler was dubbed the “Crazy White Man,” among other creatively coined phrases. Combined with the obscurity of the Comanche language (unwritten and unknown to German linguists), these coded terms produced a secure communication line.

On D-Day – June 6, 1944 – a team of 13 Comanche code talkers landed with the 4th Infantry Division on Utah Beach in Normandy. Under fierce enemy fire, they began sending radio messages in Comanche. One of the first reports from the beachhead came from Cpl. Larry Saupitty, who spoke in cryptic Comanche over the static: “We made a good landing. We landed at the wrong place,” he quipped. The message, incomprehensible to German interceptors, relayed that although some units had been put ashore off target, the invasion was underway successfully. Throughout the European campaign, Comanche code talkers continued to serve in every major battle from Normandy to the Bulge, relaying commands and intelligence that enemy forces could never decipher. The Comanche code – like the Navajo code in the Pacific – was never broken by the Axis powers.

Oklahoma’s contributions did not end with the Comanches. Dozens of Native Americans from tribes across the state used their languages in the U.S. armed forces. In the Army’s 45th Infantry Division (the Oklahoma National Guard unit), Choctaw soldiers fighting in Italy reportedly spoke Choctaw over field radios to confuse German eavesdroppers. Kiowa artillerymen from Oklahoma used their language for secure communication in Europe. In the far-flung Aleutian Islands campaign, a Seminole and a Muscogee Creek from Oklahoma worked as code talkers for the Army Air Forces, while two Pawnee servicemen did the same in the liberation of the Philippines. In total, members of more than 30 Native nations served as American code talkers in WWII, ensuring that U.S. military orders could move swiftly without tipping off the enemy. What started as a spur-of-the-moment idea in 1918 had grown into a proven strategy saving countless lives.

Lasting Legacy

For many years, the exploits of the Native American code talkers were little known outside their communities. Military secrecy kept some details classified until the late 1960s, and the code talkers themselves seldom spoke of their unique service. It was only decades later that their story received full recognition.

In 1989, the French government – grateful for the role code talkers played in the liberation of France – joined Oklahoma leaders in honoring these men. In a ceremony at the Oklahoma State Capitol, France bestowed its Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Mérite (Knight of the National Order of Merit) on the World War I Choctaw code talkers (posthumously) and on the last surviving Comanche code talkers of D-Day. It was one of the first international acknowledgments of their heroism.

The United States followed suit with formal honors. In 2008, Congress passed the Code Talkers Recognition Act, which officially recognized every Native American code talker from World War I and II m. The act awarded each tribe its own Congressional Gold Medal design, highlighting the valor of groups such as the Choctaw, Comanche, Cherokee, and Navajo, among many others. Dozens of aging veterans (or their families) received silver replicas of these medals in an emotional ceremony in 2013, finally bringing long-overdue thanks to the warriors who had been America’s secret weapon.

A bronze “Spirit Talker” statue at the Comanche Nation headquarters in Lawton, commemorates the 14 Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. The Choctaw Nation worked with state officials to designate a section of Highway 3 in southeastern Oklahoma as the WWI Choctaw Code Talkers Highway, with historical markers and granite monuments at each end. One monument, unveiled in 2022 in Broken Bow, bears an etched image of a World War I Choctaw soldier talking on a field telephone. In southwestern Oklahoma, the Comanche Nation installed the “Spirit Talker” statue at its tribal complex in Lawton in 2003, featuring the faces and names of 14 Comanche code talkers who served in Europe. And in 2018, a new memorial was dedicated in the town of Walters, Oklahoma, honoring Comanche code talkers near their home community. Each of these sites serves as a tangible reminder of the courage displayed by Native sons of Oklahoma in wartime.

Today the story of the Native American code talkers is taught with pride. It carries a deep sense of irony and justice: the very languages that government boarding schools once tried to suppress became indispensable tools for securing American victory. The code talkers’ legacy has also sparked renewed efforts to preserve those languages, recognizing them as a vital piece of cultural heritage and national history. From newspapers to Hollywood films, the tale of the code talkers has moved from secrecy into the public eye – a fitting tribute to men who served with quiet ingenuity. In the words spoken at the recent Choctaw memorial dedication, a language “that was not supposed to be heard” in America ultimately “saved this country” . The Native code talkers of Oklahoma proved that devotion to one’s people and patriotism to one’s nation could speak in the same voice, and that sometimes the most powerful weapon on the battlefield is a single word spoken in an ancient tongue.

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Sala Second Team All-American by Women’s Golf Coaches Association



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU women’s golfer Freya Sala was named a Women’s Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) Second Team All-American.

Sala, a junior from Mexico City, Mexico, becomes the ninth All-American in program history and the fourth in the Division II era. Notably, her second-team status marks the highest honor in the program’s D2 history, surpassing Gloria Choi (2017, 2019) and Kala Freeman (1999), who both earned honorable mention recognition from the WGCA.

This season, Sala finished as the No. 2-ranked golfer in the NCAA Central Region with a 73.5 scoring average. She won two tournaments, including the Great American Conference Championship, and had three additional top-3 finishes. Her win at the GAC Tournament marked SWOSU’s second time capturing the top spot in the league’s 14-year history.

Sala was previously a unanimous First Team All-GAC selection and was twice named the league’s Women’s Golfer of the Week this season. She earned All-Region status from the WGCA earlier in May.

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Mitschke Family Makes Gift to SWOSU Football



Courtesy SWOSU Athletic

Mr. Jim Mitschke, '64, of Tulsa (center) recently displayed his SWOSU Football mementos and swapped stories with SWOSU Foundation, Inc. (SWOSUF) Executive Director Mr. Garrett King, '08 & '18, and SWOSUF Development Consultant Mr. Clarke Hale, '08 & '10. Mitschke and his wife, Tanya, have established an endowment at SWOSU to provide scholarships for members of the SWOSU Football team.

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