

# WEST OK WEEKLY



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## The Zoo to celebrate 10th Anniversary Saturday

Chase Wright  
Staff Writer

Wright Broadcasting Systems's The Zoo is celebrating their 10th year birthday with a grand prize drawing on August 14th at Hutch's in Elk City on Route 66. Listeners can enter the birthday bash promotion by visiting Hutch's on that Saturday of the giveaway until 12:30 PM. Grand prize entries will have the contestants guessing the total cost of a grocery tab, included in the Zoo Nitro. The contestant closest to the total retail price without going over will win the grand prize: The Zoo Nitro, packed full of beer & groceries and a pair of tickets to Rocklahoma; they'll also receive their picture in the WestOK Weekly and on the WBS social media pages.

The Zoo launched in 2003 as a Classic Rock Station on KCDL on 99.3FM. Originally, based out of Cordell, the station was known as a Country and Oldies station. In 2011, Wright Broadcasting acquired the 101.7 FM frequency, licensed to Sayre, Oklahoma. The decision was made to move The Zoo to the newer frequency 101.7 with new call letters KKZU-FM. The studio was based on South Main in Elk City. Then, about a year and a half later, the studio moved to its present location on Route 66 in Elk City. This year, a new tower went up at the studio site and has expanded the coverage even more. The Zoo is committed to being live, local, and free. That means local D.J.'s, playing the best Classic Rock of all time, serve the many businesses of western Oklahoma with valuable advertising. So, thank you and join us this year as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of 101.7 The Zoo!



Clinton Public Schools hired 28 new teachers for the 2021-22 school year. On behalf of the Clinton Public Schools Foundation each teacher received a \$500 gift. *Provided*

## 70th Annual Butler Rodeo scheduled Friday and Saturday


The Butler Round-Up Club's 70th Butler Rodeo is set for Friday and Saturday, August 13th and 14th. Gates open at 6 PM each night with free admission on Friday night for children 12 & under; children 12 & under will also receive a free glow stick and hot dog on both nights. The rodeo begins at 8 PM with

events like mutton bustin' for 6 and under, junior and senior breakaway, ribbon roping, and barrels. Rodeo events will continue to kick up as the night goes on into steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, bull riding, and team roping. Each night will have live entertainment – Friday night features the

Hunter Hughes Band and Saturday night will feature Slim Pickins. Butler Round-Up Club is excited to announce this year's rodeo is sanctioned with Kansas Professional Rodeo Association, KPRA and the International Pro Rodeo Association, IPRA. Rodeo stock provided by Sumner Rodeo Co.

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**Jerry Dean VanDerPol**

Jerry Dean VanDerPol was born August 24, 1949, in Montevideo, Minnesota, to Jake and Irene (Ulfferts) VanDerPol and passed away Friday, July 30, 2021, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, at the age of 71 years, 11 months and 6 days.



Jerry was raised and attended school in Clara City, Minnesota, where he graduated from high school in 1967. He soon enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served for 6 years. On July 3, 1976, he married Cheryl Marthaler in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, and they made their home in Weatherford, Oklahoma where they raised their family together. The family moved to Brownwood, Texas, for 12 years before returning to Weatherford. Jerry ran "Ol' Jer's Service" in Weatherford and Brownwood for over 30 years before retiring in 2012.

Jerry enjoyed spending time with his family, going to Foss Lake, renovating houses, drinking coffee at Jerry's, and Sunday afternoon drives, exploring Oklahoma with his sons. He was an avid purveyor of exceptional Dad Jokes, never meeting one he didn't like. Jerry loved helping others through service and spent many years as a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the St. Eugene Chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Jerry is survived by his wife Cheryl VanDerPol of the home in Weatherford; three sons: Justin VanDerPol of Weatherford, Matthew VanDerPol and wife Kathryn of Fort Smith, AR, Michael VanDerPol and wife Kristin of Loxley, AL; one brother Jim VanDerPol and wife LeeAnn of Kerkhoven, MN; two sisters: Carol Thomton and husband Ron of Clara City, MN; and Terry VanDerPol of Granite Falls, MN; and four grandchildren: Brayden, Katelyn, Zed, and Wyatt Anne. He was preceded in death by his parents; and one sister Beverly Miller and husband Lanny.

**Vergil Clarence Burks**

Vergil Clarence Burks was born, February 17, 1937, in Delhi, Oklahoma, to Sidney Clarence and Newell Mae (O'Brien) Burks. Vergil went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, July 30, 2021, at the age of 84 years, 4 months and 13 days.



Vergil grew up and attended school in Vega, Texas. He graduated from Vega High School in 1956. In the fall of 1956, Vergil enlisted into the United States Air Force. June 22, 1958, Vergil married Mary Emma Jarnagin in Amarillo, Texas, and they returned to El Paso, Texas, where Vergil was stationed. After service to his country in 1960 he moved his family to Elk City, Oklahoma. Vergil was a member of the First Christian Church and was employed by Public Service Company of Oklahoma. He was active with the Boy Scout chapter, a member of the Elk City Chamber of Commerce, the Elk City Lions Club, the Proclaimers Gospel Group, the Elk Creek Boys, and the Ozark Flavor. Vergil later owned and operated a heating and air conditioning service until they moved to Arkansas in the early 90's.

He enjoyed playing Bluegrass and Gospel music with his brothers and friends. Vergil played music at

numerous events and venues in Oklahoma, Arkansas and South Texas with friends.

Vergil is survived by his wife of 63 years Emmie Burks of their home in Corn, OK.; one son Barry Burks, and wife Janet, of Edmond, OK; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers: Frank, Woody and Elmo; one sister Derotha; and a daughter Kim.

A Memorial Service will be held Sunday, September 19th, 2021, 2:00 p.m. at: Antioch Christian Church, 3200 Country Club, Elk City, Oklahoma.

**Bertha Joan Lewis**

A Memorial Service for Joan Lewis, 68, Arapaho resident was held 1:00 P.M., Friday, August 6, 2021, in the Arapaho First Baptist Church, officiated by Don Lacy and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Bertha Joan Lewis was born June 10, 1953, to Aubry Fite and Edna Lavem (Smith) Fite in Corcoran, CA and passed away Saturday, July 31, 2021, in the Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK.

Joan, as her family and friends referred to her, was raised and attended school in Carnegie, OK. She soon moved to Thomas, OK where she worked at the Thomas Medical Clinic as the office nurse. She married Homer Lee Lewis April 18, 1987, in Arapaho, OK. She became a farmer's wife, she loved the animals. They raised goats, sheep, and cows and, of course, dogs. She enjoyed the outdoors and doing gardening. In their spare time, she followed the grandkids to their sporting and school events, being their biggest supporter.

She was a member of the Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother Gene Fite.

She is survived by her husband of the home; two daughters: Tammie James and husband Thomas, Elk City, OK and Melissa Lewis OKC, OK; two sons: Dustin Maggard, Arapaho and Jimmy Lewis, Clinton; sisters: Caroline Lasley, Clinton; and Patricia Turney, Carnegie; two brothers: Bobby Jo Fite, Carnegie; Clarence Fite and wife Cendy, Springdale, AR. She is also survived by five grandchildren: Landon, Luke, Zachary, Riley and Jessica and two great-grandchildren: Lane and Logan. Her nieces and nephews were a big part of her life, and she was just as proud of them as if they were her own children.

**Ervin Schenewolf**

A Chapel service for Ervin Schenewolf, 85, Butler resident was held 3:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 4, 2021, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel, officiated by Doyle Kinney and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Ervin Lee Schenewolf was born September 6, 1935, to Alfred Lee Schenewolf and Nina Marie (Lee) Schenewolf in Clinton, Oklahoma, and passed away Sunday, August 1, 2021 in his Butler home.

Ervin was raised west of Clinton and attended Clinton Schools. He soon joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Japan. He was married to Margaret Peggy Webster on November 27, 1959, in San Luis Obispo, CA. They stayed on California until his honorable discharged in November 15, 1961. They moved back to Oklahoma and settled in Butler in 1966. He was a heavy equipment operator and machinist and had worked for numerous farmers and companies in Custer

County, including Cornell Construction, Bob Smith and Western Equipment.

He was a member of the National Rifle Association; he enjoyed wood working, fishing, hunting, looking for and collecting arrowheads, reading and messing with his animals.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, son, Dwaine Carl Schenewolf and a great grandson, Samuel Wade.

He is survived by a daughter Teresa Page and husband Tony, Hammon, OK; two sons: Vernon Schenewolf and wife Vickie, Canyon, TX, Martin Schenewolf and Melissa Bowen Butler, OK; three sisters: Ruth Ann Wagnor, Clinton, Alfreda Wells and husband Billy, Clinton and Virginia Jantz of Missouri.

He is also survived by six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Delano Harvey Miles**

Funeral Services for Harvey Miles, 63, Hammon resident, were held 1:00 P.M., Saturday, August 7, 2021, in the Hammon High School Auditorium, officiated by Mona Bearshield, Robert Chaney, Mark Dodson, Gerald Panama, Dolan Ivey and Jan Phillips. Burial will conclude in the Hammon Indian Mennonite Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



There was a wake service 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m., Friday, August 6, 2021, in the Hammon Indian Community Building.

Delano Harvey Miles (Indian Name: Ese'hohma'aeste "Red Moon") was born August 29, 1957, to Irene Hayes and Franklin Miles in Elk City, OK and passed away Monday, August 2, 2021, in the Oklahoma University Trauma Unit in Oklahoma City, OK.

Harvey was raised in Hammon where he graduated from high school in 1975. After his high school graduation, he was employed with the Hammon Public Schools in the Maintenance Department.

He was a member of the Pentecostal Church; he had served as a Bishop and a Deacon of the Christ Holy Sanctified Church. He was a proud member of the Cheyenne Tribes of Oklahoma. He enjoyed doing beadwork, working with silver; he attended many Native American events where he sang native songs. He took his grandfathers place in the Kit Fox Society; he was a member of Promise Keepers and a member of the Red Moon Gourd Society.

He was preceded in death by his dad, maternal grandparents Lewis Littleman and Cootsie Hayes-Littleman; brother Stewart Candy, Uncle William Littleman and two Aunts, Nellie Littleman and Dorothy Rivers.

He is survived by his mother Irene Hayes, of the home, niece and nephew that he helped raise: Aaron Littleman and Sierra Littleman, both of Hammon; adopted sisters: Shannon Littleman-Reyes, Dena Howlingwolf, Bridget Higgins, Veronica Candy, Mary Jo White, Deidra Littleman and Lois Littleman; adopted brothers: Allen Littleman, William Littleman, Melvin Miles, Albert Littleman, Logan Littleman, Victor Orange and Troy Lee; Aunts: Bernice Bull, Margaret Howlingwolf and Doreen Watan.

He is also survived by three grandchildren: Zoey, Zeus and Cruz Hernandez.

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## Hofmeister announces \$13 million science of reading initiative for 10,000 teachers



**OKLAHOMA**  
STATE DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION  
— JOY HOFMEISTER —  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

New Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies will be available at no cost to 10,000 kindergarten through third-grade teachers over the next three years. This announcement by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) today comes in the wake of new research indicating academic progress for many students has been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

The OSDE is using approximately \$13 million in federal relief to fund comprehensive professional development for four groups of teachers. They will spend two years on research-based Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training on the science of reading starting this month through December 2024.

“This initiative has the potential to foster reading and writing proficiency for literally millions of children,” said Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. “We have known for the past decade that instruction strategies grounded in brain science are the best way to ensure our youngest learners attain the critical literacy skills needed for future academic success. Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies offer extensive professional learning for our early-grade teachers. The foundation for literacy built from these academies will reap rewards not only for students who have faced disrupted learning due to the pandemic but for every learner in a participating teacher’s classrooms for the entirety of their careers.”

The training focuses on the science of reading, which uses evidence-based research on how students learn to read, why they struggle and how to make individualized interventions. The academies will result in educators more effectively teaching students to read.

Two hundred Enid Public Schools teachers and administrators have completed LETRS training in the past year. An additional 75 plan to participate this school year.

“This training has given our teachers the ‘why’ behind what they do every day and has demystified one of the most difficult tasks students are learning – how to read,” said Enid Public Schools curriculum director Kristen Jones. “Our teachers have reported that they are more confident in their literacy instruction, we’ve seen growth in our students and we have a more effective intervention program. We are excited to see continued growth and improvement in the years to come.”

Registration for the Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies, an initiative under Ready Together Oklahoma: An Action Plan for Supporting Students Through the Pandemic and Beyond, is available now. The OSDE launched the plan in May with online resources to support schools and communities with federal relief funds. Learn more on the Science of Reading Academies web page and in this FAQ document.



Provided

Swimmin Safe, located at 1303 Lera Drive, recently held their grand opening. To join them was OSU’s Bullet and the OSU Spirit Rider team.

## Oklahoma’s Best Kept Secret - Regional Universities Offer Best Value

Regional universities—like Southwestern Oklahoma State University—are the best kept secret of Oklahoma’s higher education system. Not only do they offer students a quality education, but they are remarkably affordable, close to home, and almost half of graduates have no student debt.



non-traditional — transfer students, working adults and part-time or returning students — appreciate that RUSO provides an affordable education and is flexible enough to allow them to reduce expenses by maintaining a full-time job, living at home or taking care of family.

Regional universities provide 43% of all public bachelor’s degrees in the state. RUSO graduates — numbering nearly 9,000 in 2020/2021 - receive a high-quality, affordable education close to home. Students are taught by professors with doctoral degrees in classrooms with low student to instructor ratios. Graduates go on to well-paying careers across our state in allied health, nursing, accounting, pharmacy and more. After graduation RUSO alumni become our state’s teachers, administrators, public servants, engineers, entrepreneurs, forensic scientists and leaders, including such people as Chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation; SWOSU Distinguished Alumnus Everett Dobson, Executive Chairman of Dobson Fiber; and Chad Richison, CEO of Paycom.

As the largest four-year university system in the state, RUSO’s six public universities have campuses and satellites located in every quadrant of our state: East Central University, Northeastern State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma. Students from rural communities can easily locate a regional university close to home.

Those attending college for the first time, or returning after a break, should consider the benefits of earning a four-year degree at a regional university; an affordable, high quality education that will prepare them for jobs after graduation and a lifetime of successful earning.

For a full-time student from Oklahoma enrolled at a regional university, the average annual total cost to attend is 46% less than at OU or OSU. The Regional University System of Oklahoma takes special care to keep fees low, not creating additional costs for students since many scholarships, including Oklahoma’s Promise, cover tuition and not fees. Students and parents of students currently paying for college will recognize how accessible the price is. Few prospective students realize the significance of the total course fees they’ll be charged by the university they plan to attend. At some universities, academic service fees average an additional 139% of the total price of tuition, nearly five times the cost of fees at regional universities. Those interested can see the 2020/2021 Student Costs Report from the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education at <https://okhighered.org/studies-reports/student-costs/2020-21.pdf>

Recent high school graduates can find in RUSO a traditional college and campus experience for a lower cost. In addition, the large percent of students who are

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# LOCAL & AREA NEWS



**Mike Smith**  
News Director

**Bulldog Football Opens Fall Camp-** Head Football Coach Chet Pobolish and his staff guided 114 student-athletes through their first official practice of the 2021 season on Friday morning at Flex-Chem Field. "Getting back on the field with a goal at the end is just incredible," Pobolish said after practice. "I was giddy today, just being out there together as a team and coaching football again was awesome!" The Bulldogs will have eight practices in fall camp before school begins on August 16, followed by an additional two and a half weeks of preparation before the season opener on September 2nd against Henderson State. Earlier this week, SWOSU was picked to finish 10th in the Great American Conference during the upcoming season. "As the days progress, so will the physicality," Pobolish said. "Monday will be the first time we really go against each other and we'll continue to increase the physicality throughout camp. Once we get into school and start our normal schedule, we'll try to taper off and get healthy as we get closer to the first game."



*Provided*  
**Twila Buie is the latest Zoo Birthday contestant from JC Cowboys! She will be one of seven finalists to try and win the Zoo Nitro next Saturday at Hutches in Elk City!**

Listen to local news **LIVE and FREE** on any Wright Wradio Station!



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**CADDO COUNTY/FATALITY-** One person is dead and another is hospitalized in serious condition following a semi accident on Interstate-40, one mile west of Hinton in Caddo County. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says the driver of the semi, 59-year old Andre Hood of Covington, Tennessee, died at Weatherford Regional Hospital. A passenger in the semi, 27-year old Marquez McDowell of Olive Branch, Mississippi, was last listed in serious condition at OU medical center in Oklahoma City. Troopers said the driver departed the road and drove into an embankment. McDowell, who was in the sleeper compartment of the semi, was ejected about 80 feet.

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**SWOSU/ORGANIZATIONAL FAIR-** Southwestern Oklahoma State University is planning its annual organizational fair for August 26th on the Weatherford campus. Area businesses, churches, student organizations & clubs, among others, will have free booths from 11-1 outside the memorial student center. The organizational fair is held during a Dawg Days celebration to welcome SWOSU students back to campus. Booth reservation forms are due by August 18th and are available by emailing or picking up in-person at the dean of students office.

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**CLINTON/TEEN MURDER UPDATE-** In an update to a story: the two juveniles who were arrested in connection with the murder of a 17-year old July 22nd, north of the Clinton Golf Course, have been charged. However, federal officials said the identity of those who are charged in the case will not be released due to their juvenile status.

**WEATHERFORD/HARBOR FREIGHT-** Plans have been filed with the city of Weatherford for the remodel of the former Stage location in the Weatherford shopping center. The remodel will make way for the location of a Harbor Freight Tools store. The \$220,000 remodel project could begin as early as next week.



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**CUSTER CO DIST COURT/SHERWOOD-** The bench trial for an Elk City man, charged with first degree manslaughter in Custer County District Court, has been moved from August 30th to November 29th and 30th. Twenty-eight year old Zachary Sherwood is charged in the 2020 shooting death of 30 year old Ashley Barr at the Best Western in Weatherford. Court records show Sherwood claims while trying to unload his shotgun, it discharged and struck the victim. It's alleged that Sherwood and Barr had been fighting and that the room was in disarray because the two had been arguing.

**WEATHERFORD/JUNE ESTIMATED SALES TAX-** Weatherford economic development director Yolanda Creswell said City of Weatherford officials have obtained the estimated sales tax figures for the month of June. Creswell said the numbers are only an estimate. She says numbers will be up around 12%, putting Weatherford over a million dollars in sales tax collections for the third time this year. The official numbers will be out in the next few days.

**ELK CITY/NEW ISO RATING-** The Elk City Fire and EMS Department is announcing that the insurance services office has issued Elk City an ISO ranking of 2. The rating is an improvement from the previous rating of 3. Fire chief Kyle Chervenka says the ISO ratings calculate how well-equipped fire departments are to put out fires in that community. ISO provides the fire score to homeowner's insurance companies. Insurers then use it to help set homeowner's insurance rates. The better

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**WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!**



**HAPPY Day TO YOU!**

Have a birthday, anniversary, or other special event? Email us at [sales@westokweekly.com](mailto:sales@westokweekly.com) to announce it here for **FREE!**

**Happy Birthday Wishes for August 11th-** Shawn Barrera, Robert Cagg, Casi Cornell, Lucille Janer Austin Jrogdon, Shane King, Austin Kissler, G.W. "Dub" Lowry, Hunter Staggs, Anthony Walter; **August 12th-** Tana Kerr, Ethan O'Neale, Marsha Pigg, Kent Walters; **August 13th-** Camille Goerend, John Kliever, Warren Miller, Zachery Taylor, Michael Visnieski, Gene Whitefield; **August 14th-** Allen Bryson, Richard Clift, Jr., Stefan Guthrie, Annie Kimble, Chris Kisinger, Rance Moore, Nancy rhodes, Deven Steffes, Charlotte Young; **August 15th-** Bobby Ervin, Madison Guthrie, Arin Henderson, Melissa Henderson, Bobbie Jo Smith, Jason Moore, Bobby Schantz, Elizabeth Scruggs, Destry Smith, Jamie Trotter, Marshal Wright ; **August 16th-** Janie Amaya, Kendall Broadbent, Mollie Brown, Geneva Copps, Katie Cornell, Mollie Damani, Kaysee Deffenbaugh, Amanda Dilocker, Jade Frzier, Larena Guthrie, Karen Igo, Matt Janning, Launa Kimble, Bobby Mendez, David Palmer, Louise Thompson; **August 17th-** Jy Bass, Dalton Hawkins, Jennifer Holliman, Bill McMahon, Karl Meigs, Jonetta Reimer, Michelle Taylor

# SPORTS Presented by:



## SWOSU Football Holds Media Day as GAC Releases Preseason Poll

**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

SWOSU Head Football Coach Chet Pobolish was joined by wide receiver Justin Bailey and defensive back Derris Franklin on stage in the Skyview Suite of the Pioneer Cellular Event Center, discussing the upcoming season and the Great American Conference's preseason coaches poll.

The poll, which was also released, has Ouachita picked first with 116 points, two more than Harding in second place. SWOSU's opening-night opponent, Henderson State was picked to finish third this season, while the Bulldogs have been tabbed for a 10th-place finish. Pobolish wasn't fazed by where the Dawgs were picked in what should be a wide-open season in the conference.

"It's hard to tell because nobody really knows what anybody has on their roster and who's coming back,"

Pobolish said. "If you look back on past years and results, I think we're picked exactly where I would have expected us to be. Now, it's a tremendous opportunity for us to get the program to a different level."

Pobolish enters his fourth year in Weatherford – and third season – after the 2020 fall campaign was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Bulldogs finished 3-8 in both of his previous seasons, but he sees that improvement has been made both on and off the field within his program, which returns seven starters this fall – three on offense and four on defense.

"With the time away from competition, we looked to find a way to turn that into a positive for our program and I think we did that by focusing on player development," Pobolish said. "I think we've made a tremendous amount of progress in that area. In our first two years here, we've been a very young team and

played a lot of young guys, especially on the defensive side of the ball. I'm excited for those young kids who were needed to play early in their career and have now had a chance to continue to improve and develop."

Oklahoma Baptist was picked fourth in the preseason poll, the highest among conference teams from Oklahoma, while Southern Arkansas was fifth and East Central sixth. Arkansas-Monticello, Arkansas Tech and Northwestern Oklahoma State held down the seventh-through-ninth spots, just ahead of the Bulldogs, who were trailed by Southeastern Oklahoma State and Southern Nazarene in the final two placings.

SWOSU Football opens the 2021 campaign on Thursday, September 2nd, in the SWOSU Kickoff Classic against Henderson State. Kickoff of that game is set for 6:00 pm from the newly renamed Flex-Chem Field at Milam Stadium.

## SWOSU Athletics Has 67 Student-Athletes Receive D2ADA Academic Achievement

**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA) announced the 2020-21 recipients of the D2 ADA Academic Achievement Awards. The Academic Achievement Awards, in its 14th year, is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the Division II level.

SWOSU was one of nine schools from the Great American Conference to have student-athletes recognized by the D2ADA and the Bulldogs had 67 players honored – an improvement of 17 from the last academic season. Football led the way with 11 student-athletes on the list, followed by Softball (10), Track & Field (10), Baseball (8), Women's Basketball (8), Men's Golf (6), Soccer (4), Volleyball (4), Women's Golf (3), Cross Country (2) and Men's Basketball (1).

"I would like to commend these 67 SWOSU student-athletes for persevering through a unique year unlike any other, finding a way to excel in the classroom and earn this distinctive Academic Achievement from the D2ADA," SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton said. "I would also like to recognize our coaches and academic staffs on campus for guiding our student-athletes and putting them into a position to achieve success in the classroom!"

In total, there were a record breaking 16,262 student-athletes from 188 institutions recognized for the 2020-21 Academic Achievement Awards. This is the most student-athletes being recognized since the inception of the award's program. For the third consecutive year, the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) has the largest number of student-athlete honorees with 1,466 total, closely followed by the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) with 1,216 and Northeast 10 Conference (NE10) with 1,181.

"It is incredible to think that our athletes excelled in the classroom despite having to deal with the many stressors associated with COVID-19. To see once again that a record-breaking number of students are recipients of the D2 ADA Academic Achievement Award is simply astonishing," said Dr. Bren Stevens, Vice President for Athletics at the University of

Charleston and current D2 ADA President. "I am extraordinarily impressed by the efforts of our member institutions to ensure that they provide special recognitions for their respective athletes, as they are certainly deserving."

In order for a student-athlete to receive an Academic Achievement Award, the athletics director of the Division II institution MUST BE a CURRENT dues-paying member of the D2 ADA.

- Also, the student-athlete must:
- have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
  - have attended a minimum of two years (four semesters) of college level work
  - have been an active member of an intercollegiate team during his/her last academic year
- \*Given the vast experiences institutions have had

this year when it comes to participation, all athletes who meet bullet point items 1 and 2 are still eligible as long as they were still an active member of the roster during this academic year.

About D2 ADA: The D2 ADA is the first organization of its kind to provide educational and networking opportunities; enhancement of acceptable operating standards and ethics; and establishment of the overall prestige and understanding of the profession of Division II athletics directors. For more information about the D2 ADA, please visit [www.div2ada.com](http://www.div2ada.com). The D2 ADA is administered by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), which is in its 57th year. For more information on NACDA and the 17 professional associations that fall under its umbrella, please visit [www.nacda.com](http://www.nacda.com).

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# Vance T. Nye Makes Major Gift to SWOSU

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) has announced the receipt of a major gift from Vance T. Nye of Edmond.

Nye, a 1990 SWOSU alumnus from Weatherford, has made a generous contribution to the SWOSU Football Legacy Fund. The SWOSU Football Legacy Fund was established in 2015 to provide private support to the SWOSU football program.

“We are so thankful to Vance Nye for his continued investment in and involvement with SWOSU football,” said SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton. “Private gifts are crucial to our success, and donors like Vance who give back to our programs make it possible for our student-athletes to reach higher.”

Following his undergraduate work at SWOSU—where he excelled as a two-year letterman on the SWOSU football team including being a two-time NAIA Academic All-District 9 selection—Nye attended the University of Tulsa School of Law. He graduated from law school with honors in 1993. Today, Nye is a shareholder, director and officer at Gungoll, Jackson, Box, & Devoll, P.C., where he practices in the areas of oil and gas, real estate, banking, estate planning, commercial, transactional and corporate law.

Nye currently serves as a member of the Executive Council of the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame. There, he serves on both the Auction/Fundraising Committee as well as the Jim Thorpe Award Committee, which selects the winner of the Jim Thorpe Award recognizing the best defensive back in college football each year. Nye also has previously served on the booster club board at Oklahoma Bible Academy as well as board member of Enid Habitat for Humanity, New Horizons Counseling Center, Inc., Northwest Oklahoma United Way Budget Allocation Subcommittee, Grace World Outreach Church, Inc., and Macedonia Missions Network, Inc.

“The things I learned as a member of the SWOSU football team continue to positively influence me today,” Nye said. “I am proud to give back through charitable giving, and I urge my fellow former SWOSU student-athletes to do the same.”

Nye was born and raised in Weatherford. He



Provided

Vance T. Nye (right) of Edmond has made a generous contribution to the SWOSU Football Legacy Fund in Weatherford. The SWOSU Football Legacy Fund was established in 2015 to provide private support to the SWOSU football program. With Nye is SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton.

is the son of two SWOSU emeriti: the late Dr. Jerry G. Nye and Juanita Nye. His wife, Lena J. (Stucky) Nye, is a 1991 SWOSU pharmacy school graduate. Nye’s daughter, LaurieBeth (Nye) Whatley, graduated from SWOSU in 2017 with a degree in athletic training. Nye and his wife also have a son, Christopher, and a grandson, Dreyden.

The SWOSU Football Legacy Fund is stewarded by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. The Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy, award scholarships and to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently manages nearly \$30 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For more information, please call 580-774-3267 or visit [www.SWOSUFoundation.com](http://www.SWOSUFoundation.com).

## "The Coin Guy"

Holed coins that are now plugged



Trent Boesen

One problem which plagues coin collectors are coins with holes in them. Sometimes, it appears that the best looking, or more valuable, coins are holed. In the marketplace holed coins are heavily discounted.

The term “Plugged,” used by the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), uses this term with coins that were previously holed and then repaired. Many holed coins were used to make jewelry. Some repaired-holed coins show signs of being re-engraved.

The above pictured coin is an 1801 \$10 gold eagle that was repaired after it was holed. NGC certified the coin as “Very Fine Details, Plugged”.

The 1801 \$10 gold eagle sold at auction for \$4,320.

Are you interested in collecting holed coins but did not know who to ask? Call the Coin Guy at 580-890-8076. We can meet at Jerry’s and discuss them. Thanks for reading.

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Not many people of today have heard of a young man named William Borden. His achievements were not historically noteworthy and his life lasted only 25 years. But his self-sacrificing example and purposeful life lives on in his biography, Borden of Yale, by Geraldine Guinness. Born into a wealthy family he could have settled into a life of ease and self-indulgence. But he chose otherwise.

At the age of sixteen his father who had made his wealth in the silver mines of Colorado, as a graduation present, gave him a trip around the world. As he traveled through Asia, the Middle East and Europe he saw the poverty and hopelessness of millions and wrote home about his desire to be a missionary. His friends thought he was throwing his life away. He continued his education at Yale University. Yale had

its beginning as a Christian University, designed to train preachers, but it had fallen under the influence of a humanistic philosophy resulting in moral weakness and sin-ruled lives.

His classmates soon saw his heart fully surrendered to Christ. An entry in his personal journal reveals the distinctive quality that set him apart—“Say no to self and yes to Jesus every time.” He began meeting with a friend to pray together early in the morning. By the end of his first year, 150 freshmen were meeting weekly for prayer and Bible study. At the close of his senior year one thousand of Yale’s 1,300 students were meeting in such groups.

His heart of ministry was not limited to the Yale campus. He was often found among the widows, orphans, and disabled. He founded the Yale Hope Rescue Mission, in an attempt to rehabilitate the drunks from the streets of New Haven. He gave generously out of his wealth. Once, he was seen admiring a new automobile. His friend suggested, “Why don’t you purchase it,” knowing that he could have easily done so. Borden replied, “I can’t afford it.” It was not that

he lacked the resources; it was that he could not afford the possibility of it redirecting his focus of ministry.

Borden went on to graduate from Princeton Seminary. He had a heart to reach the Muslims in Northwest China. On his way to China he stopped in Egypt to study Arabic. While there he contracted spinal meningitis. Within a month he was dead at the age of 25. The story of his death was carried by nearly every major newspaper in America. It seemed to some that his early death was a waste, but to many his example of total dedication to Christ served as such an inspiration that it resulted in memorial services being held as far away as China, India, Korea, and South Africa as well as in a small African Methodist church where he taught Sunday school for two years.

As the collegiate year begins would you pray mightily that God would raise up some “William Borden” in our day. Our world desperately needs some mighty men and women of valor and total dedication to change the course of history and rescue us from ourselves. To comment Ph.580-772-2311 or [jhm82@outlook.com](mailto:jhm82@outlook.com)

# Oklahoma History: Red River Bridge War

Chase Wright  
Staff Writer



Photo: Sequoyah seal

The Red River Bridge War was a conflict between Oklahoma and Texas over boundary lines that arose over two bridges on U.S. Route 69 and U.S. Route 75 between Colbert, Oklahoma, and Denison, Texas. The conflict was a bloodless dispute that began when Oklahoma and Texas jointly built a free bridge to the northwest of the existing

toll bridge.

The original toll bridge was owned and operated by the Red River Bridge Company; a private firm owned by Benjamin Colbert. After the construction of the free bridge, the Red River Bridge Company filed an injunction against the Texas Highway Commission on July 10, 1931, to keep it from opening. The injunction stated that the highway commission had promised the previous year to buy the toll bridge for \$60,000, and they demanded a \$10,000 payment each month for a fourteen-month period for their unexpired contract claiming the commission had not fulfilled its obligation. Governor Ross S. Sterling of Texas ordered the free bridge to be barricaded at Texas's end.

On July 16th, Oklahoma Governor "Alfalfa Bill" Murray ordered they open the new bridge by executive order, claiming that Oklahoma's portion of the bridge ran North to South thereby placing both sides of the river in Oklahoma's boundary as outlined in the Louisiana Purchase. Murray pointed out that Oklahoma was not named in the injunction and was thereby exempt from any deal Texas made. Murray sent crews across the bridge to destroy the barricades.

Governor Sterling sent Texas Rangers to defend the highway commission workers and rebuild the barricade that night. The following day, Oklahoma crews demolished the Oklahoma approach to the toll bridge, making it impassable, and traffic across the river came to a standstill. On July 23rd Texas State Legislature passed a bill allowing the Red River Bridge Company to sue the state over the issue. Soon, the Bridge company joined



Photo: Red River Bridge War, OHS

the state in dissolving the injunction, and by July 25th, rangers were withdrawn, and the free bridge was opened.

Meanwhile, in Oklahoma, Governor Murray declared martial law and enforced the site with Oklahoma National Guardsmen and even personally appeared at the site. Local news showcased Murray, sporting his antique revolver, at the "war site." Hours later, a Muskogee, Oklahoma, court prohibited him from blocking the bridge approach; but Murray, who had already directed his men to allow anyone across either bridge, claimed his martial law declaration put him above the power of the federal court.

On July 27th, Murray heard that the free bridge

could be closed permanently. So, he sent men across the river, expanding his martial law on both free bridge approaches. Texas papers proclaimed an "invasion" was taking place.

On August 6th, the injunction against the bridge opening had been fully dissolved, and soon after, the martial law order was rescinded.

The free bridge was opened on September 7th, 1931. News of the dispute made national and international headlines, and in 1995 the bridge was dynamited and replaced. A portion of the original bridge was flagged as an historical attraction and sent to a park in Colbert, Oklahoma.

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