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Kids Across Western Oklahoma Show Their Readiness for the School Year



Courtesy Laura Martin

Kinley holds up a keepsake sign before her first day of Kindergarten.



Courtesy Micah Williams

Wylder (7th Grade) and his little brother Mason (3rd Grade).



Courtesy Selena Gideon

Bobby (3rd Grade), Olivia (Pre-K), Mason (Kindergarten) and Brandyn (Kindergarten).



Courtesy Chelsey Pitts

Jagger (Kindergarten) and Jax (5th Grade) hold novelty pencils for a pre-school photo.



Courtesy Lacey Thome

Aysa (5th Grade) and Aspy (1st Grade) take a photo with their three loving dogs.



Courtesy Sara Panek

Easton (2nd Grade) and Jameson (Kindergarten) pose with their two-year-old sister Lacey.



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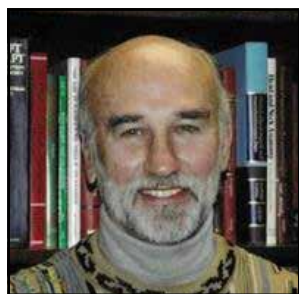


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Oakie Morris

Dr. Richard “Oakie” Louis Morris, of Weatherford, OK, was born on September 2, 1941 to parents, Dr. Louis Harold Morris and Vanita Beverly Garner Morris. Richard, also known as “Dick,” and to most as “Oakie,” was one of 5 children - Bob, Marge (deceased), Kent and Don.



Oakie leaves behind devoted wife, Kate, his biggest fan, cheerleader and confidant. He is also survived by children John and Shawn Morris, Allison, Jonathan, Erin and Kaitlin and 12 grandchildren.

Oakie attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University, then went on to medical school at the University of Oklahoma. He completed his general surgery residency at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Denver, CO. After serving as Lieutenant Colonel in Muenchweiler, Germany, Oakie completed another residency in Plastic and Reconstructive surgery at Duke University in Durham, NC. From there, he enjoyed private practice in Virginia Beach for more than 20 years. Oakie was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 2000, retired, and started a vineyard and winery on Knotts Island, NC.

How lucky we were to be part of his life. A life cut short by Parkinson’s but what a fight he fought. He brought so much joy and love into our lives. Great adventures, sometimes even death-defying. The mantra, “how bad could it be,” shaped our lives in so many ways. Every day was something new and we cherished every second we had with him.

Artist, painter, sculptor, rower, marathon runner, risk-taker, wildlife rescuer, fisherman, chef, moon-gazer, rock collector, orchid-whisperer, winemaker, prankster, fart-knocker, husband and father.

Troy Waugh

Troy Legrand Waugh, beloved son of Glenna and Gary Hollis, passed away on August 1, 2024, at the age of 60. Troy was born on October 9, 1963, to Stanley E. and Glenna (Vaughn) Waugh in Liberal, Kansas. He lived a life full of generosity, leadership, and strength. He was known for his passion for adventure, architectural expertise, proficiency in martial arts, and enjoyment of motorcycles and the open road.



Troy graduated from Merritt High School in Elk City, Oklahoma, in 1982. He worked many years at the Elk City Honda Shop.

He then earned his Professional Bachelor of Architecture from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and established a distinguished career with years of service in civil and government architecture.

Troy’s work included building high-rises in Honolulu, Hawaii, and government projects in Kabul, Afghanistan, Manila, Philippines, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

He also worked on U.S. Embassy projects in Asuncion, Paraguay. Troy had a keen eye for detail and a special appreciation for timeless church structures.

At the time of his illness, Troy was an architectural project and construction manager for the City of Plantation, Florida, where he was greatly supported and encouraged by many friends and coworkers. He was a member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and held a U.S. government “Q” Clearance, one of the highest levels of security privileges.

Troy lived an adventurous life and traveled to 42 countries. He loved hunting, fishing, deep-sea diving, and while living in Key West, Florida, he enjoyed spearfishing.

Troy was a respected figure in the professional mixed martial arts community, excelling as both a fighter and a UFC referee.

He held a black belt and was skilled in various martial arts, including Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, in which he trained under the renowned Gracie family. He was also, a member of the Florida Boxing Commission.

Troy fought in many MMA events worldwide, which included a notable world championship fight in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He also refereed many prominent UFC fights, including those featuring Jon “Bones” Jones and Kimbo Slice.

In Moscow, Russia, he refereed a high-profile match attended by President Vladimir Putin, Italian President Ciampi, and actor Jean-Claude Van Damme at ringside.

Troy actively served as Vice President and Road Captain of the Florida Abate SE Motorcycle Chapter, was a contributing author to the Abate SE Florida Magazine, and advocated for biker safety laws.

He spent hours riding on weekends with friends as a protective leader, always looking forward to the next ride.

Troy had a deep, personal, private faith in God, having been raised in the Friends Church and accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior at an early age at Camp Quaker Haven in Arkansas City, Kansas, where he was also baptized. His faith sustained him throughout his life, especially during his courageous two-year battle with brain cancer—he truly was a Braveheart.

Troy is survived by his mother and stepfather, Glenna and Gary Hollis of Elk City, Oklahoma; his sister, Debra Smith of Wichita, Kansas; his brother, Stan Waugh and wife, Janet of Stillwater, Oklahoma; stepsisters D’Ann Barrett and husband, Billy of Clifton, Texas; Geri Hollis of Midlothian, Texas; Deborah Lynne Cox and husband, David of Crescent, Oklahoma; and Jessie Waugh Modderman and husband, Geoffrey of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Troy was a beloved uncle to his nine nieces and nephews: Michael Feltman, Rachel Martinez, Jordan Arias, Shane Smith, Lela Smith, Luke Smith, Tanner Smith, Alex Waugh, and Jacob Waugh; as well as to his 12 great-nieces and great-nephews: Judah, Michael John, Meggie, Hadassah, Leire, Adam, Samuel, Gael, Carter, Annie, Grace, and Clark.

Additionally, Troy was also survived by a host of step-nieces, step-nephews, and many cousins—all of whom loved him dearly—and loving friends too numerous to name.

Troy was preceded in death by his father, Stanley E. Waugh, in 1982.

Larry Jones

Larry Niles Jones was born February 17, 1935, in Thomas, Oklahoma, to Clarence Albert and Constance Viola (Boileau) Jones.



He passed away peacefully Wednesday, July 31st, surrounded by the wonderful, caring nurses of Maple Lawn Manor in Hydro, at the age of 89 years, 5 months and 14 days.

After graduating from Thomas High School in 1953, Larry attended Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University).

He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy in 1957.

Konea Hendrix became a part of his life during her six-week stint in junior high at Thomas and later when they reconnected at Oklahoma A&M. He was smitten from the beginning as evidenced by his driving over a curb and up several steps while watching the object of his affection instead of the road.

They were married on June 24, 1956, and in 1957, moved two miles west of Thomas, Oklahoma. For over 65 years Larry farmed and Konea did not. They agreed at the beginning of their marriage that she would take care of the inside while he worked the outside. That never changed. Recently, Larry was in the wheat field to celebrate his 89th first day of harvest.

The couple had two children, daughter Jackie Graves, of Snyder, Oklahoma, and son Ron Jones, of Thomas. Larry and Konea enjoyed attending every activity in which their children and grandchildren participated.

As a 67-year dedicated member of the First Christian Church in Thomas, Larry held several positions. He even taught the 13-year-old girls Sunday School class when no one else would.

Larry is survived by grandchildren, Season Graves of Snyder, Oklahoma, and Austin and Leah Graves of Mustang, Oklahoma, as well as great-grandchildren, Cassie and Wyatt Gabehart, Justen and Melody Hunnicutt, and Lane Foust.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his spouse, three brothers, Earland Jones, Jack Jones, and Sherrill Jones and one sister, Lucille Christensen.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Christian Church in Thomas.

Carolyn Dean

Carolyn Marie (Lippincott) Dean was born on February 21, 1948, in McComb, Mississippi, to Clifton Charles “Hap” and Maude Winona (Gannon) Lippincott and passed away on August 2, 2024, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the age of 76 years, 5 months and 12 days.



Carolyn was raised in Seminole, Texas graduating from Seminole High School with the Class of 1966. On January 27, 1967 she married Carol Richard Dean in Seminole, TX and they made their home in Denver City, Texas. They were blessed with two children, Richard Lee and Donnie Dee. In 1977 the family moved to Weatherford, Oklahoma where they were longtime residents. They lived briefly in Cushing before returning to Weatherford. Carolyn loved her family very much and attending her children’s and grandchildren’s sporting events. She enjoyed cooking and caring for her flower garden, and was also an active member in Beta Sigma Phi.

Carolyn is preceded in death by her parents; one brother Randall Lippincott; and one sister, Bobbie Bromley.

Carolyn is survived by her husband of 57 years, Carol Richard Dean, of the home in Weatherford; two sons, Lee Dean and wife Courtney of Edmond, OK and Donnie Dean of Weatherford; two sisters Linda Criswell of Canyon, TX and Kayla Hailes of Odessa, TX; eight grandchildren, Makenzie Dean, Garrett Dean, Brock Frazee, Brighton Dean, Tristen Dean, Easton McClure, Tabor McClure, and Pryce McClure; and daughter-in-law Ericka Seyler.

The family suggest memorials to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or www.stjude.org.

Lynton Street

Lynton DeWitt Street, 70, of Erick, OK was born on November 7, 1953 in Elk City, OK. He is the son of Gilmer DeWitt and Joyce Pauline (Roper) Street. Lynton went to sing with the angels for his Lord and Savior on August 3, 2024 at OU Medical Center in OKC surrounded by his loving family.



As a child, Lynton was baptized at the Carter First Baptist Church in Carter, OK. He graduated from Carter High School with the class of 1972. After high school Lynton, attended Mud Engineer School then later MT/AMT at SWOSU in Weatherford.

Lynton then went on to become the owner of Street Drug Collections. Lynton married Jean Ann Head of Erick on July 3, 1993 in Red River, New Mexico. They made their home in Mayfield, OK and to this union they were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Sydney Mikayla born on May 9, 1996. Lynton and Jean moved their family to Erick, OK in 2015.

He enjoyed working on John Deere tractors, playing the guitar, trapshooting, watching cooking shows on Food Network, and just sitting around talking to people. He loved to talk! Lynton loved spending time with his family and friends and will be missed by all.

Lynton was the choir leader at his home church, Texola Baptist Church, Texola, OK. He was a worship leader at numerous revivals across the state and was nicknamed the “Oklahoma Troubadour.”

Cherishing his memory is his loving wife, Jean Ann of the home; daughter, Sydney Leibold and her husband, Karson of Erick, OK; grandson, Coleman Jack Leibold of Erick, OK.

Lynton is preceded in death by his parents, Gilmer and Pauline Street; brother, Kevin Street; granddaughter, Annalie Don Leibold.

Memorials can be made to the Texola First Baptist Church or the American Cancer Association in care of Martin-Dugger Funeral Home, P.O. Box 707, Elk City, OK 73648.



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A Heartfelt Reminder: Visit Loved Ones in Long-Term Care This Summer



Cherrie Nutley
 SWODA Ombudsman

As summer winds down and we gear up for the back-to-school season, many of us are trying to fit in one last vacation. But have you considered spending time with friends or family members in long-term care facilities? A visit to these family members can be more than just a quick hello. They can be meaningful, memorable experiences for everyone involved.

Why not bring a little joy to your loved ones by planning a special outing? If they can travel safely, consider taking them out for a drive to revisit old haunts or explore new places. Simple gestures of kindness and familiarity can create lasting memories and bring a smile to their faces. You could even bring their favorite fast food for a nostalgic picnic or treat them to snacks they love. If your loved one cannot leave the facility, you can still make the day special by bringing the fun to them. Collaborate with the facility's activity director to organize a themed event like a Hawaiian Luau or a 50s sock hop.

Involve your kids and make it a family affair. Residents of long-term care facilities love visitors and will appreciate the effort.

Before planning any activities, be sure to check in with the long-term care staff. They can provide important safety information and special instructions to ensure a smooth visit.

The activity director may have ongoing events or celebrations that could use your help. Getting involved in these events can be an easy way to create memories for you, your family, and other residents.

Ultimately, the most important thing is to visit. Spend time talking, listening, and simply being present.

Residents in long-term care cherish these moments, and your visit can brighten their day. So, make a plan and bring some joy to a loved one this summer!

For more information, contact your local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Cherrie Nutley at 580-562-5032.

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HIGHER GROUND

Slow Bible Study



Jim Morrison

“Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.” (Psalm 31:5) Psalm 31 is a picture of the heart cry of David in a time of great stress. It is both a declaration of hope that he has in God and a cry for help.

David describes a period in his life when he was facing great challenges. He sees God as a rock of refuge, a rock, and a fortress.

Perhaps you have faced or maybe you are presently are going through a period of stress when it seems that God is distant, your cries for help remain unmet, and hopelessness is your companion. If that is so, count me as your partner.

But as I read this Psalm of David, I see that in the midst of my despair there is hope. Since childhood the Psalms and Proverbs have been my favorite source of strength and encouragement. David is very honest in his heart cry to God. He often questions God and even makes demands of Him. Yet in the next moment he is acknowledging the faithfulness and love of God.

He says such things as “I am the contempt of my neighbors,” “my life is consumed by groaning,” “my bones grow weak,” “there is terror on every side.” Yet, in the next verse, he reassures himself with, “But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.”

David must remember the times when God was truly his shield in time of trouble—when facing Goliath, or when Saul hurled his spear, just missing pinning him to the wall. Just so, we need to have a good memory of the past when God revealed himself to us.

He is rescuing us from a dangerous situation or providing for our needs from an unexpected source. Henry Blackaby, author of the widely used discipleship program, Experiencing God-Knowing and Doing the Will of God, spent a week on our campus sharing his heart with college students. He spoke of the experience of his daughter being diagnosed with cancer while a college student at OBU. He said the if he ever doubted the love of God, he looked at the Cross. There was demonstrated for all time the depth of God’s love for him.

So, when the times of doubt and despair come, as they will, look at the cross. See there the love that can conquer any problem. or seemingly hopeless situation. I’m asking God to show me what I can learn from my situation. I remind myself that God has not hidden his eyes from me. He can redeem any problem or issue that we are facing. It may not be easy, or come as quickly as we wish but we can get through this... with God’s help.

To comment: jhm82@outlook.com, 580-302-1142


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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS




Mike Smith
News Director


2024 POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
ELECTION DATE: August 27th, 2024



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Dustin Hayes
for
City of Weatherford Mayor
"It Pays to vote Hayes"



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The 17th Annual SWOSU Athletic Auction was held on Saturday, August 10, and introduced the newest SWOSU Athletics Hall of Famers. Pictured (from left): Hayden Priddy, Woody Roof, and Hailey Tucker.



Doug Self, the former Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations at SWOSU, presents Hayden Priddy with a memento following her induction into the SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

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BECKHAM CO / HAYS - A Carter man has been bound over in Beckham County District Court to answer to charges of First-Degree Murder and Malice Aforethought. 37-year-old Clayton Samson Hays is accused of killing Colter Vaught of Sayre by shooting him in the chest outside an oilfield business on South Merritt Road in January. Hays will appear in court September 18th for formal arraignment.

CUSTER COUNTY / FEMA - If you were affected by the May 19-28 storms and tornadoes in Custer, Blaine, or Caddo counties, your deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is August 14th. Custer County Emergency Management Director Mike Galloway provided that update to county commissioners yesterday. Galloway also announced that FEMA is offering public and rental assistance as of last week for those who lost their home in the storm. To apply, visit the website DisasterAssistance.gov, download the FEMA app, or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

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CLINTON CC / GLANCY MOTEL - Clinton City Council ratified the City Manager's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Oklahoma Historical Society regarding the 1962 Glancy Motel sign and the transfer of property at 2225 Gary Boulevard. City Manager Robert Johnston explained what happens next: "[The Oklahoma Historical Society] will take possession of the Glancy Motel sign and get it restored before 2026. They will then place it at [the Oklahoma History Center Museum]." Johnston says the director of the Oklahoma Historical Society has already signed off on the MOU.

CLINTON CC / MEETING RUNDOWN - During this week's meeting, The Clinton City Council approved an updated interlocal agreement with Clinton Public Schools for school resource officers. Additionally, City Manager Robert Johnston was presented the Veterans Recognition Award from the International City and County Management Association (ICMA). City Manager Dave Slezcicky made the presentation, thanking Johnston for his service on behalf of the ICMA.

WEATHERFORD / AIRPORT ROAD - Work continues on the Airport Road bridge project in Weatherford. Even though the \$20 million project is running behind schedule, Mayor Mike Brown says he believes the city will reap the benefits of the work. "We have been notified] that some new businesses will be coming in as a result of [this project], said Brown in a recent interview. "You [may not] think about road work being a thing as a tool for economic development, but it is. Ease of access is something businesses are looking for." Brown says the work on airport road will hopefully wrap up next month.

WEATHERFORD / ROUTE 66 - The city of Weatherford is gearing up for Route 66 related projects in the city. Mayor Mike Brown says Scott Selsor Construction has been selected as construction manager for the work. The projects include an Exit 84 Entrance sign and some eye-grabbing monuments, both designed to advertise Weatherford's history in Air & Space, higher education, and on Route 66. Brown says the timeline for completion of the projects is sometime prior to January 2026.



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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 August 14 - Allen Bryson, Richard Clift, Jr., Stefan Guthrie, Annie Kimble, Chris Kisinger, Rance Moore, Nancy Rhodes, Deven Steffes, Charlotte Young; **August 15** - Bobby Ervin, Madison Guthrie, Arin Henderson, Melissa Henderson, Bobbie Jo Smith, Jason Moore, Bobby Schantz, Elizabeth Scruggs, Destry Smith, Jamie Trotter, Marshal Wright; **August 16** - Janie Amaya, Kendall Broadbent, Mollie Brown, Geneva Copps, Katie Cornell, Mollie Damani, Kaysee Deffenbaugh, Amanda DiLocker, Jade Fraxier, Larena Guthrie, Karen Igo, Matt Janning, Launa Kimble, Bobby Mendez, David Palmer, Michelle Taylor, Louise Thompson; **August 17** - Jy Bass, Scott Cannon, dalton Hawkins, Jennifer Holliman, Bill McMahon, Karl Meigs, Jonetta Reimer, Michelle Taylor; **August 18** - Lyman Bear, Katie Cornell, Darci Gonzalez, Logan Lasley, Troy Lee, Curtis McCoy, Lilly AnnMcCoy, Coletta McKay, Dale Nickels, Anthony Perez, Jacy Steele, Richard Sweetet, Marsha Taylor, Ray Weichel, Keith Woods; **August 19** - Richard Callaway, Kyle DeFord, Elva Dick, Debbie Flaming, Irene Fry, Phyllis Hobbs, Susan Kimble, Betty Leach, Susan Minniz, Pandt Seibold, Rusty Shepherd; **August 20** - Karen Elkins, Kodi Kingler, James Kriby, Billy Smith, Kyle Sutton.

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Military Jeep Hood. Roughly 30"x30." \$250 580-330-1437.

2014 Ford Focus - \$6,500. 580-330-3489.

2001 Honda 600CC - Navy Blue. 16k miles, \$2,000. 405-892-8301

2003 Chevy Trailblazer - good tires. \$5,750. 580-330-3489

4-Michelin used passenger tires - 20 inch. 580-393-1444.

Motorized Mountain Bike - Comes with detachable 1-wheel trailer. Lots of extras. Low miles. \$600. 580-890-9442.

2009 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - \$3,750 OBO. 580-330-3489.

For Sale - Porsch 924, good engine. Dune Buggy frame. Buy both for \$1,000! Contact 405-639-9667.

FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

Thomasville Dining Set Has 6 chairs (2 with arm rests). Table comes with heat-insulating cover. Dark cherry color theme. Like new. \$1,000 OBO. **MUST SELL!** Contact 580-819-0004.

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

Mirrors! Large, framed: \$50; Full length: \$10. 580-613-0108

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

Chairs for Sale! Swivel (\$20), Rocking (\$65) and Adirondack Patio Chairs (\$65). Contact 580-613-0108.

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

FOR SALE - Young Children's Wood Rocking Horse. Like new. \$45. 580-613-0108.

Queen-Size Headboard - Match Leather. \$25. 580-819-0004.

Sofa & Loveseat - Both new. Gray. \$400 each. 580-302-2780.

Riverside Roll Top Oak Desk - Beautiful 1980's model. \$300. 580-772-7357.

Adjustable Electric Fan - Both head and feet can be adjusted. Full-Size. Call 580-819-0484 for details and pricing.

Entertainment Center, \$100. Gun Cabinet, \$500. White Armoire, \$275. 580-330-1437.

Furniture! 7-Piece Tiger Oak Dinette Pioneer hutch buffet table and 4 chairs. Deviled glass and mirrors fruit motif. \$2,000. Call 580-772-4297.

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Hefner Joins Governor to Sign Oklahoma Access and Achievement Act



STATE OF OKLAHOMA HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. Elynn Hefner, D-Oklahoma City, celebrates with Governor Kevin Stitt for delivering big for Oklahomans with disabilities. The new law expands Oklahoma Promise to set up scholarships for Oklahomans to attend qualified post-secondary programs designed to support students with intellectual disabilities.

“This is an exciting day for our state, we are expanding laws to include Oklahomans that have previously been left behind. When we support education opportunities for everyone, it strengthens our entire state and workforce,” Hefner said. “I applaud the bi-partisan effort to get this law across the finish line.”

Hefner was joined by Rep. Mark McBride, R-Moore, Senator Ally Seifried, R-Claremore, teachers and

students from SoonerWorks at the University of Oklahoma, Opportunity Orange at Oklahoma State University and the RiverHawks from Northeastern State University. Also present were stakeholders and advocates from the ARC, Oklahoma Developmental Disability Council, integral House Staff, and more. All these experts were instrumental in the passing of this legislation.

“These programs at our state schools increase development and growth of academic, work, and personal skills. Along with independent living, friendships, and self-advocacy. The outcome data shows program participants are employed post-graduation at significantly higher rates with higher average wages,” Hefner said.

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Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Todd Hiett Steps Down as Chair



Todd Hiett (left) stepped down as Chairman of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission during the commission's meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. He remains on the commission.

Michael McNutt
NonDoc Managing Editor

While still declining to resign his statewide elective post, Todd Hiett relinquished his chairmanship of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission as questions linger about who will conduct an investigation into allegations he got drunk and groped an energy industry employee at a conference earlier this summer in Minneapolis.

“I take these allegations very seriously,” Hiett said. “I have publicly apologized for my actions and have taken immediate steps to address the issue by seeking treatment. I respect the call from my fellow commissioners for accountability. I have always supported accountability and transparency as a public servant. I will cooperate fully with any personnel investigation being conducted by the appropriate body.”

House Democratic Leader Cyndi Munson, D-Oklahoma City, issued the following statement after Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Todd Hiett stepped down as chair of the commission after a new accusation.

“I am pleased to see Commissioner Todd Hiett stepped down as chairman of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. This is a step in the right direction. There is still time for him to remove himself entirely and take full accountability for his actions and the harm and danger they have caused others. I once again ask the Governor to issue the call for Special Session and let us begin this work to seek justice and put this situation behind us. Oklahomans deserve answers and action. Oklahomans deserve to know the people in power are committed to keeping them safe and are held to the same standards as everyone else. Commissioner Hiett maintains his work is too important for him to step down entirely. I agree his work is important, which is why he should have thought about that before his harmful behavior.”

Prior to Commissioner Todd Hiett stepping down as chair, Leader Munson formally requested the Governor issue a Special Session to call for Hiett's impeachment twice.

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Oklahoma History: Madeline Manning's Record Breaking 800m Dash



Courtesy Crawford Family U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Archives

Madeline Manning standing atop the 1968 Olympic Podium wearing her Gold Medal for her historic 800m Dash.



Courtesy Crawford Family U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Archives

Madeline Manning competing in the 800m Dash at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City (October 1968).

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Madeline Manning-Mims began her journey from humble beginnings in Oklahoma to Olympic glory. Born on January 11, 1948, in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Tulsa, Madeline's story is one of breaking barriers in a time when African-American women faced significant challenges in sports.

Madeline grew up in a close-knit family, where hard work, faith, and resilience were deeply valued. At 3-years-old, she was diagnosed with spinal meningitis and not expected. Her parents, devout Christians, played a crucial role in shaping her character and nurturing her talents while teaching her to overcome. She battled the diagnosis, which also made her incredibly sick, until she was 14. Despite her illness, Madeline displayed a natural gift for athletics. She was energetic, competitive, and showed an incredible ability to run.

During her high school years, Madeline achieved significant milestones. Despite limited resources, she excelled in track and field, setting numerous records and earning a reputation as a fierce competitor. In 1965, she won her first national title and was named to the U.S. team. Her outstanding performance attracted the attention of college scouts, leading to a scholarship at Tennessee State University, an institution in track and field, particularly for African-American athletes.

At Tennessee State University, Madeline's career flourished under the guidance of legendary coach Ed Temple.

Temple, known for producing Olympic champions, recognized her potential and worked tirelessly to hone her skills. Her college years were a time of immense growth and development, both personally and athletically.

Madeline's breakthrough came in 1967 after setting a national record and winning the gold medal in the 800 meters at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada. This victory set the stage for her historic performance at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. At just 20 years old, Madeline became the first African American woman to compete in the 800 meters and the first American to win the gold medal in the 800 meters, setting an Olympic record of 2:00.9. Her triumph was not just a personal victory but also a significant milestone for African-American women in sports.

She would go on to break her own world record 3 times, ultimately ending with a time of 1:57.9 in 1976.

Madeline's journey was filled with challenges. Besides the rigorous demands of training and competition, she faced the societal challenges of being a black woman in a predominantly white sport. The 1960s were a turbulent time in America, marked by the civil rights movement and widespread racial tensions. Manning's success on the track was a powerful statement of defiance against the barriers that sought to limit her. She was inducted into the National and Olympic Hall of Fames in 1984.

Madeline's legacy extends far beyond her athletic achievements. After retiring from competition, she dedicated herself to helping others, particularly young athletes. She became an ordained minister and established the United States Council for Sports Chaplaincy, providing spiritual support and guidance to athletes across the nation. Her role as a chaplain at multiple Olympic Games showcased her commitment to nurturing the next generation of sportsmen and women.

In addition to her chaplaincy, Madeline has been an advocate for health and wellness. Drawing on her own experiences with anemia, she has educated others about the importance of maintaining good health while pursuing athletic excellence. Her contributions to sports medicine and her efforts to raise awareness about health issues have had a lasting impact. She also became an author, inspirational speaker, and recording artist inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame.

Madeline Manning Mims' story is one of hope and inspiration. From her soft stepping roots to her thundering strides, her historic world-shattering victories and ongoing contributions to the world of sports are testaments to the power of perseverance and the importance of breaking barriers. Her journey reminds us that with talent, determination, and support, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges to achieve greatness. Madeline Manning-Mims is not just an Olympic champion; she is a role model for generations to come.

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Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

The Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2 ADA) announced the 2023-24 recipients of the D2 ADA Academic Achievement Awards. In its 17th year, the Academic Achievement Awards is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the Division II level.

SWOSU had 75 student-athletes earn the honor this year. In total, there were a record breaking 19,774 student-athletes from 192 institutions recognized.

“The goal of this program since inception has been to showcase the amazing student-athletes, coaches and staff, across our Division II landscape,” said D2 ADA President Mike McFarland. “We couldn't be prouder of the work that these individuals put into their craft. Our industry will be a better place as these student-athletes head out into the real world.”

Honor Requirements:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- At least four semesters of college level work
- Active member of a college team since Fall 2023

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. The D2 ADA is administered by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), which is in its 60th year. For more information on NACDA and the 18 professional associations that fall under its umbrella, please visit www.nacda.com.

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Kelln Henderson, Baseball
Logan Lagasse, Baseball
Zane Leonard, Baseball
Geoff Marlow, Baseball
Rece Parker, Baseball
Philip Sanders, Baseball
Jackson Syring, Baseball

SWOSU Men's Basketball Recipients

Kenneth Daughy III, Men's Basketball
Mason Hart, Men's Basketball
Ben Smith, Men's Basketball
Nick Burchfield, Men's Basketball

SWOSU Women's Basketball Recipients

Kira Berkey, Women's Basketball
Rees Berkey, Women's Basketball
Lanie Gooch, Women's Basketball
Jamaya Johnson, Women's Basketball
Mason Jones, Women's Basketball
Averi Zinn, Women's Basketball
Layni Zinn, Women's Basketball
Libbi Zinn, Women's Basketball

SWOSU Cross Country Recipient

Isabel Sanchez Cross Country

SWOSU Football Recipients

Timirance Adams, Football
Carson Creach, Football
Jonovan Dennis, Football
Logan Engle, Football
Isaac Foster, Football
Andrew Horton, Football
Jacob Karsak, Football
Peyton McNutt, Football
Logan Monroe, Football
Mason Price, Football
Zack Roberts, Football
Tye Tucker, Football

SWOSU Men's Golf Recipients

Cameron Gallagher, Men's Golf
Caspar Graf, Men's Golf
Otto Heden, Men's Golf
Lukas Hendricks, Men's Golf
Sutton McMillan, Men's Golf
Mariano Racca, Men's Golf
Anders Strand, Men's Golf

SWOSU Women's Golf Recipients

Ashlyn Acosta, Women's Golf
Drew Dodgion, Women's Golf
Rebecca Lau, Women's Golf
Georgia Miller, Women's Golf
Lucia Rivas, Women's Golf
Sam Kuzma, Women's Track
Marleigh West, Women's Track
Delaney York, Women's Track

SWOSU Soccer Recipients

Anna Bager, Soccer
Summer Bass, Soccer
Ashlyn Stigall, Soccer
Claire Torry, Soccer
Sola Tsuruta, Soccer

SWOSU Softball Recipients

Kaylee Barkley, Softball
Dani Carmo, Softball
Chesnie Hewitt, Softball
Jaydn Hook, Softball
Riley Lusk, Softball
Taylor McMahon, Softball
Shallen Mershon, Softball
Maddie Rahon, Softball
Kirsten Sudderth, Softball
Jordyn Wadley, Softball

SWOSU Volleyball Recipients

Maddie Clark, Volleyball
Lauren DeSantiago, Volleyball
Keke Holloway, Volleyball
Sam Kuzma, Volleyball
Maicee Morgan, Volleyball
Lacy Mott, Volleyball
Hailey Smith, Volleyball
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