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Provided

Burger King located at 120 North Washington in Weatherford recently held their grand opening ribbon cutting.

Wford FRC Grand Can Sculpture Competition March 27

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The Weatherford Food & Resource Center in Weatherford has its annual Grand Can Sculpture Competition, starting on March 25th. The competition is open to everyone schools, church groups, businesses, friends, etc. and it's a great way to raise donations for the WFRFC. The Center is a full service food pantry that serves many of the cities in the area of western Oklahoma.

Teams, entering into the competition, will need to register by March 20th and are required to provide their own canned food. Each team can have any number of

members, but only 5 builders will be permitted at a time on each build site.

Canned food must be unopened, non-damaged, and the labels must still be attached. Teams can decorate the cans as long as the decorations are removable.

There will be multiple awards for the competition; some awards will be point based. The awards are as follows: Most Pounds of Food (1 pound = 1 point), Best Use of Labels, Structural Integrity, Best Meal, People's Choice (1 Facebook/Instagram Like = 2 points), and the Grand Can Sculpture Champion. Teams are encouraged to plan

their builds early.

Building will take place over two days with voting and awards on the third day, March 27th. Voting will take place from 11 am to 6:30 pm. During this time, food trucks will be on site for all who come through the Center. The Awards Ceremony will take place after votes are tallied at 7:30 pm.

Additional information and registration can be found on the Weatherford Food & Resource Center Facebook page. All canned donations will go towards feeding the hungry. Don't miss out on this fun competition!

Relay For Life Back to 80's

Relay For Life will be back at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Starting at 6 P.M., on Friday, March 27th, the event will be held at the Pioneer Cellular Event Center.

Relay For Life is a hard-hitting, sponsor-driven fundraiser, aimed at raising awareness and support for cancer patients, celebrating survivors, and remembering past victims. Each year, local communities around the world hold relay events to raise funds that will improve the quality of life for both patients and their caretakers. The American Cancer Society (ACS) is an organization of 3.5 million survivors, patients, volunteers, caregivers, and researchers. It's inspiring and humbling to know that there are that many selflessly devoted individuals, fighting together to combat the hardships of cancer.

The fundraiser doesn't just cover research grants. The ACS has listed four different areas where money is divided: Cancer Research, Patient Support, Prevention/Information/Education, and Detection/Treatment. Out of the four areas, Patient Support receives the most because it encompasses multiple services like appointment rides, programs, guides, phone support, and more. Facing cancer is tough. And you need a strong support team behind you.

One such support system is the ever-growing number of Hope Lodges popping up around the country. A Hope Lodge is ACS's answer for when patients need to seek treatment far from home. Each Lodge offers cancer patients and caregivers a free place to stay when they need to stay in another city. Designed to provide a home-like environment it allows guests and families to worry about feeling better and not on bills or accommodations. So far, there are over 30 Hope Lodge locations throughout the U.S. Accommodations and eligibility may vary, but the ACS strongly encourages anyone to check out locations and procedures for signing up on their website. These Hope Lodges are just one example of the many ways Relay For Life is working to combat cancer.

(See Relay for Life, Page 3)

SPRING Fling
Vendor AND Craft Fair
Saturday, April 25, 2020
10:00am-4:00pm
A Fundraiser for the Arapaho Reading Room

Registration fee is \$50 for a 10x10 booth which includes electricity, tables, & chairs.

Past Vendors include:
Avon, Homemade Jewelry, Stained Glass, Clothing, Jams & Jellies, Food Trucks, & Arapaho Med Shed

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Dixie Lee (Thomason) Butler

Our beloved wife, mother and grandmother Dixie Lee (Thomason) Butler of Duncan was called home to be with our Lord on March 5, 2020, at the age of 81. Dixie was born on April 9, 1938, in Butler, Oklahoma, to Roy Leonard and Allie Lee Hardin Thomason. She attended Butler High School, graduating in 1956. She and Thomas Dwight Butler were married July 5, 1955, in Butler, Oklahoma. She attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Cameron University where she received her BA in Education. Dixie was a retired teacher, having taught at Frederick, Checotah, Moore, and Butler public schools. She also worked for Burns Flat public schools, OK State Rehab in Moore, and RECAP in Frederick. She enjoyed fishing, camping, and dancing in her younger years. More recently enjoyed taking morning "coke tours" with her husband Tom and going to the casino. She was also an avid fan of the OU Sooners and OKC Thunder. Most of all, Dixie loved her husband and family. She was the beloved mother of daughters Sherri Griffin and husband Rob of Norman; Terri Erickson and husband Craig of Frederick; Leigh James and husband Mike of Crescent; and son Tommy Butler and wife Billie of Marlow. Together, Tom and Dixie have 24 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2020 at Martin-Dugger Funeral Home Chapel in Elk City, Oklahoma. Les Banks will officiate. Interment will be at Stafford Cemetery in Stafford, Oklahoma. Services have been entrusted to the care of Martin-Dugger Funeral Home in Elk City, Oklahoma. Survivors include her husband Tom of the home, her children and their spouses; two sisters: Montie Hoover of Dallas, TX and Kay Tharp of Mustang; one brother Ted Thomason of Hammon; sister-in-law Carolyn Price of Coffeyville, KS; and numerous nieces and nephews. Dixie was preceded in death by her parents, one brother Trailor Roy Thomason; two granddaughters: Lacie Horton and Leah Erickson; one grandson Chad Hanley; and one great-great granddaughter Ava Hanley. Memorials can be made Heart to Heart in care of Martin-Dugger Funeral Home, P.O. Box 707, Elk City, Oklahoma 73648.

Jerry R Hartronft

Jerry R Hartronft; Graveside Service: 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2020. Lawnview Cemetery Cordell, Oklahoma. Visitation: 1:00 p.m., ~8:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2020 Ray & Martha's Funeral Home Cordell, Oklahoma. Under the direction of Ray & Martha's Funeral Home-Cordell

Mary Camilla Lankford

Mary Camilla was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma, on November 9, 1947, to Betty and Henry Reynolds. She was the oldest of five children. Camilla lived up to all the characteristics of a first-born. She loved taking charge, was confident and adventuresome. She lived briefly in Arkansas and Colorado, but her hometown was in Norman, OK. Camilla graduated from Norman High School in 1965.



Camilla attended the University of Oklahoma for a year after high school but decided to take a break from school and adventure out into the real world. She moved to Arlington, Texas, and on a blind date met Jerry Lankford. In Jerry, she found a no-nonsense guy who could handle her free-spirit, love her, and keep her grounded. Jerry and Camilla were married August 27, 1966.

Jerry and Camilla started their family in Arlington where their son Greg was born. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Weatherford where she and Jerry both attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University. After graduating from Southwestern in 1970, Jerry took a job in Little Rock, Arkansas. Camilla started her teaching career in North Little Rock at a middle school. They lived in Arkansas until moving back to Weatherford where Jerry worked at 3M and Camilla continued teaching. In 1976, they welcomed daughter Teresa who completed their family.

Camilla touched countless lives with her boundless energy, creative spark and generous nature through her twenty-eight years of teaching in public schools. During this time, she shared her love of travel with many of her family, students, friends and colleagues by organizing and chaperoning trips to Europe. After retiring from teaching, she did not slow down. In 2000, what started as a hobby grew into a photography business which flourished into a new career. Along with the photography business, Camilla and Jerry started a miniature horse ranch adventure. They had up to thirteen minis at one time. As Avery grew taller, she needed a bigger horse and was interested in jumping and dressage so Camilla and Avery joined Pony Club. Camilla was a very active member of Pony Club and loved the events and all the lessons she learned with the girls. Camilla savored every moment of life. She took the

words "No" and "You can't do that" as a dare. She tried and succeeded in most everything she attempted, with exception of ballet, working with cut glass and driving a motorcycle. She impacted so many lives. She was a Boy Scout leader, Girl Scout leader, aerobic instructor, Silver Sneakers instructor, Pony Club supporter, genealogist, master storyteller, history maker and part time debater (She relished a good argument!)

Early in the morning of March 5, 2020, Camilla passed away. She leaves behind her husband of 53 years Jerry, her two children: Greg and Teresa, a daughter-in-law and son-in law, 4 siblings, 6 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and countless friends.

We will miss the light and energy that she shared with us all.

Terry Glenn Hunter, Jr.

Terry Glenn Hunter, Jr., was born October 1, 1964, to Terry G. Hunter and Carol K. (Meeks) Hunter-Underhill and passed away early Saturday, March 7, 2020, in the Grace Living Center in Clinton, Oklahoma.



He was raised in Clinton, Oklahoma where he attended Clinton Public School. He continued his education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, OK and Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and specialized in the study of history.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard and was honorably discharged after 10 years on August 14, 1991.

He was a lifelong member of the Custer Ave. Baptist Church (Now the Ave.) He served the church in many capacities, including Royal Ambassador Crusader Counselor and a Brotherhood Director. He enjoyed studying archeology, paleontology and art. In his early years, he began a hobby in collecting stamps and coins and working on genealogy. He truly enjoyed learning and proving his family's history, he wrote books on his family histories. He also wrote poetry and songs.

His working career included construction with his step father Al Underhill and his specialty was painting and laying floors.

He is preceded in death by his father Terry Hunter, Sr., step-father Al Underhill, brother Gregory C. Hunter and his grandparents Jack and Mildred (Trench) Hunter and John and Lois (McMullin) Meeks.

He is survived by his mother Carol Underhill, sister, Gayla Tucker and husband Michael, all of Clinton, brother Bryan Hunter and wife Staci, Arapaho.

He is also survived by step-mother Shirley Hunter, step-siblings Brent Davis, Tami Young, Tina Underhill, Sonja Parks; nieces and nephews: Monica Martinez, Clinton,;Bailey, Brecken and Blake Hunter, Arapaho; Tanner, Kambree and Taylor Davis,, Cole Young, OKC, OK, and Ashely, Clinton and great-nieces and nephews Karlee and Ryan Martinez, all of Clinton.

Program Manager
Hobart, OK - The General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum is currently seeking a program manager to provide organizational skills and coordination of leadership and educational programs, production and volunteer coordination for the Museum's programs and special events; more specifically Celebration of Freedom, Midland Young Leaders Challenge and Four Star Leadership. Compensation commensurate with education and experience. Bachelors degree preferred. Please send resume, cover letter and list of references to admin@tommyfranksmuseum.org.

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Relay for Life

Continued from Page 1

Relay For Life is a fundraiser where participants can walk or run on designated tracks or areas. The goal of each event is to have people on the track at all times to signify that cancer never rests. Relay For Life is held solely off of the work done by sponsors and volunteers, but the event wouldn't be successful without the participation of individuals and teams. Most Relay For Life events last 6 to 24 hours and revolve around ceremonies acknowledging survivors and caregivers. All Relays begin with an opening ceremony honoring people affected by cancer and the contribution of past and current Relay sessions. Then, there is usually a Survivor Lap that kicks off the event. Survivors are encouraged to walk during this time to be cheered and supported by all in attendance. After the Survivor Lap ends, caregivers are recognized with a Caregiver Lap. This lap is important to recognize the hardship cancer has not just on the individual but on all. When both laps are completed, the track is open for all participants and teams to begin the celebration. Local businesses and organizations usually form teams

that work the event and who also take turns walking throughout the length of the event. Relay For Life is open for all to participate and many do. Throughout the event people will come and walk a lap or two to show their support. Others may come in for a few hours to volunteer at a booth where teams have set up games and activities that teach how to be an advocate for the fight against cancer.

After sunset, the Luminaria Ceremony preparations begin. Many walkers and runners gain a new drive of energy as the emotional meaning sets in. The darkest time for cancer patients looms when they are first diagnosed. The fear of not knowing what comes next. Of not being able to see what the future holds. That's why Luminarias are made. Each light is a representation of a life. A life taken by cancer, one of a survivor, or one of a strong individual fighting the disease. The lights are meant to show survivors and patients that they are not alone. To give them strength to step into the dark and to grow even stronger from it.

Lastly, the ceremony comes to a close with recognitions made to all of the people participating and running the event. The final celebration comes when everyone takes a moment to look at what they have accomplished and what things can be achieved as long as we work together.

The Custer-Beckham County Relay For Life will continue the great legacy of past relays and will seek to expand the support and awareness of the local area. This year's Relay For Life's theme is "Back to 80's". The team behind Relay For Life of Custer-Beckham Counties has themed music, clothing, food, games, and more planned, so don't miss out!

Donations for the event are open through the American Cancer Society website. Participants are encouraged to register early. Everyone is welcome to come in whenever they can. The event at the Pioneer Cellular Event Center will be from 6 P.M. on March 27th and will go until 2 A.M.

Let's make this year's relay another smashing success.

House Passes "Sarah Stitt Act" to Help Inmates Find Post-Incarceration Employment



The Oklahoma House of Representatives passed legislation inspired by the efforts of First Lady Sarah Stitt to assist people leaving incarceration with finding gainful employment.

House Bill 3113, also known as the "Sarah Stitt Act," was authored by State Rep. Brian Hill (R-Mustang) and requires the State Dept. of Corrections to provide inmates preparing to reenter society with certain relevant documentation to assist the inmate in obtaining post-release employment.

Necessary documentation, as available, includes vocational training records, work records, state-issued

identification cards, birth certificates, Social Security cards and resumes. Prisoners will also complete a practice job interview.

Hill said he decided to file the bill after learning more about the issue following the First Lady's push to prepare people leaving incarceration to find employment opportunities prior to the historic Nov. 1 commutations.

"House Bill 3113 is a common-sense step to help prevent Oklahomans leaving incarceration from returning to incarceration. All of the documents outlined in this bill are necessary for a person to find housing and find a job, both of which have a huge impact on the likelihood of a person to reoffend," Hill said. "When a person has served their time and is attempting to reenter society, it's extremely important that we make sure they are prepared to return to the workforce. Former inmates struggle to

find work after incarceration, and as a state, we should be assisting them rather than indirectly increasing their chances of returning to prison."

The First Lady was seated in the House gallery to watch the presentation of House Bill 3113. She was recognized by Rep. Hill and applauded by the House following the passage of the bill.

"HB3113 puts into law the idea behind the re-entry fairs that were started this past November," Stitt said. "We want our fellow Oklahomans to have the resources and support they need in order to successfully transition back into society. This bill aligns with that vision, and I am excited to see it become a permanent fixture of our corrections system."

Following the passage of HB3113 by a 96-0 vote, the bill is now available to be considered in the Senate.

Youth Suicide Prevention Legislation Passes House

A bill aimed at preventing suicide among Oklahoma students passed the House with a bipartisan vote of 93 to 1.

House Bill 3346, authored by Rep. Mickey Dollens (D-OKC), requires public schools that issue identification cards and serve students in grades seventh through twelfth, to print the telephone number and crisis text line for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline on the ID card starting July 1, 2021.

"Evidence shows that people with mental health challenges are more likely to get the help they need when they're aware of support and treatments that are available to them," Dollens said. "With this in mind, I decided to

author House Bill 3346. This lifesaving service is free, confidential, and available 24/7, which is critical when a school counselor isn't available.

"This legislation isn't a cure-all for the mental health issues our student's face. It is, however, a pragmatic, cost-effective approach that not only makes it easier for young people to connect with trained mental health professionals, but it also reminds them that they are not alone. By requiring schools to put the number on the back of student ID's, we can get help to someone before it is too late."

In Oklahoma, someone dies from suicide every 12

hours. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Oklahomans between the ages of 15 and 34.

"After my brother's first attempt, I avoided talking about it because I thought those discussions may resurface suicidal thoughts," Dollens said. "After he died, I learned the opposite is true. Talking openly about suicide prevention is shown to reduce ideation and helps destigmatize mental illness."

The legislation is now available to be heard in the Senate. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is (800) 273-8255 and will soon simply be 988. The number for the Crisis Text Line is 741741.

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In 1970 KWEY was born. At the time, it was known as Big W Radio 1590AM, owned and operated by Dick Johnson and Paul Benning. In 1991, Harold Wright purchased the station from Dick Johnson and Alene Benning. Fifty years later, KWEY AM/FM is locally owned and operated by Harold and Heston Wright and continues to be a force in Western Oklahoma. Since it's inception, KWEY has provided listeners with not only music, but also entertainment and award-winning news, sports, and weather coverage as well as an effective medium for businesses to advertise in Western Oklahoma. We are excited to celebrate 50 years of excellence in radio with a concert, prizes & giveaways, and much more!

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Kikkoman Panko Bread Crumbs	2 for \$3.00	Meat	
Wishbone Salad Dressings 15oz. All Varieties	2 for \$4.00	Boneless Rib Eye Steak	\$9.99 lb.
Claudes Brisket Marinades	2 for \$5.00	Boneless Rump Roast	\$3.69 lb.
Hostess Individual Snacks	4 for \$5.00	Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops	\$2.99 lb.
Slush Puppie Freezer Bars 10ct box	\$0.99	Wrights Sliced Bacon	\$4.99 lb.
Del Monte Green Beans Cut or French Sliced 14.5oz.	2 for \$3.00	Hormel Smoked Pork Chops 15 oz. pkg.	\$5.49
Del Monte Corn Whole Kernel or Cream Style	2 for \$3.00	Opas Smoked Sausage All Varieties 16 oz.	\$4.99 lb.
Green Giant Mexicorn or White Shoepeg Corn	2 for \$3.00	Dry Grocery	
Shurfine Brown or Powdered Sugar 2lb bag	2 for \$3.00	Kleenex Facial Tissue	2 for \$3.00
Rotel Tomatoes and Chilis All Varieties 10oz.	4 for \$5.00	Tide Simply 34 oz.	\$2.99
Knorr Rice or Pasta Sides All Varieties	2 for \$3.00	Finish Quantum Powerball Max 20 ct.	2 for \$5.00
Dairy		Clorox Disinfecting Wipes 75 ct.	2 for \$6.00
Food Club or Shurfine Dip 12oz. All Varieties	2 for \$3.00	Simply Done Towels 6ct. Pkg.	\$4.99
Shurfine Chocolate Milk Half Gallon	\$2.99	Frozen	
Food Club or Shurfine Shredded Cheese 8oz.	2 for \$4.00	Van de Kamps Fish Fillets or Sticks	\$3.99
Red Daimond Tea gallons	2 for \$5.00	Shubert Dinner Rolls	2 for \$6.00
Tampico Punch Gallons All Varieties	2 for \$3.00	Totinos Pizza Rolls 50 ct. bag	\$2.99
Daisy Cottage Cheese 24oz.	2 for \$5.00	Budget Saver Assorted Twin Pops 18 ct.	2 for \$5.00
Shurfine Sour Cream 8oz.	\$0.99		



LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



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BECKHAM COUNTY DISTRICT COURT – FORD

Criminal proceedings are stayed, pending a competency hearing later this month in Beckham County District Court for an Elk City man, charged with sexual battery and malicious injury to property under \$1000. Twenty-seven-year-old Cedric Marquise Ford allegedly inappropriately touched a female inmate February 4th while he was incarcerated at the Elk City jail. Ford also allegedly damaged property in the jail on two separate occasions. Court records show Ford damaged a light fixture in a jail cell and also destroyed a mattress.

HYDRO-EAKLY SCHOOLS – STATE FFA CANDIDATE-

Hydro Eakly Schools says its FFA Vice President, Tayten Lierle, is a candidate for State FFA Office. She is running for the office of Southwest Area Vice President. State FFA Officers travel across the state and nation to provide leadership and personal development training for FFA members. They also make decisions about organizational policy. A nominating committee interviewed candidates in early February and narrowed the field of candidates to three for each of the seven office up for election.

WEATHERFORD – GROUNDBREAKING-

A groundbreaking ceremony was held recently at the West Elementary site on Daniel for construction of two new elementary schools in the Weatherford School District. Superintendent Chad Wilson says the construction of both new schools at East and West will take about 24 months.

WEATHERFORD PERMANENTLY CLOSING BRYAN STREET-

The commission approve permanently closing the area platted as Bryan Street lying north of Proctor Avenue and south of Huber Avenue. Additionally, the commission approved closing and vacating the area platted as an alley running east and west through the center of block 25 of Huber addition for construction of the new East Elementary school. However, the commission denied request for the re-platting of two lots at Shotts Farm and for a small ingress/egress of furlong for future development along Eagle Road.

CLINTON – HILTERBRAN PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR-

A Clinton middle school principal has been named middle school principal of the year in the state of Oklahoma. Kyle Hilterbran recently received the honor.

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PUBLIC RECORDS

Arrested

Casey Robinson, 28, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with No Driver's License.

William Pedro, 46, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with Canadian County Warrant, Driving under Suspension.

Delicia Angel, 32, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with Custer County Warrant, Driving under Suspension, No Insurance.

Myron Sleeper, 39, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with Public Intoxication.

Nicole Turtle, 19, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with Public Intoxication.

Jennifer Barron, 33, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with City Warrant, Driving under Suspension.

Bobby Gideon, 28, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with Custer County Warrant, Receiving

Stolen Credit Card.

Laness Curtis, 37, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with Public Intoxication.

David Lequeux, 30, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with No Insurance.

Michael Limpy, 35, arrested by Clinton Police Department and charged with Public Intoxication.

Johnathon J Lindsey, 26, arrested by Elk City Police Department and charged with Beckham County Warrant.

Tiffany Dawn Sarver, 47, arrested by Elk City Police Department and charged with Local Warrant, Petit Larceny.

Shane Lee Thompson, 35, arrested by Elk City Police Department and charged with Beckham County Warrant.

Regina Ann Yeager, 38, arrested by Elk City Police Department and charged with Beckham County Warrant.

Patricia Lunette Gibbs, 48,

arrested by Elk City Police Department and charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Controlled Substance.

Luis Enrique Rodriguez, 38, arrested by Elk City Police Department and charged with Local Warrant.

Carol Elaine Mitchell, 29, arrested by Elk City Police Department and charged with Local Warrant.

Brandon Dewayne Stout, 33, arrested by Elk City Police Department and charged with Local Warrant, Dewey County Warrant.

Out on Bond

Bryson Don Frost, arrested by Beckham County Sheriff's Office and charged with Application to Accelerate, Possession of Controlled dangerous Substance.

Brea Marie Rinchich, arrested by Canadian County Sheriff's Office and charged with Child Endangerment by Driving under the Influence.

Felicia M Angel, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol and charged with Warrant.

Nathan Leroy Christmon, III, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol and charged with Driving under Influence, Speeding.

Chacotaw Justin Moore, in Custody and charged with Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance, Possession of Paraphernalia.

Carli Anne Resendez, arrested by Weatherford Police Department and charged with Driving under Suspension, Operating a Motor Vehicle in an Unsafe Condition, Possession of Controlled Substance, Possession of Paraphernalia.

William Jared Rhodes, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol and charged with Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance, Possession of Paraphernalia, Driving under Influence.

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Happy Birthday Wishes for March 18th- Elizabeth Gwinn, Frank Sewell, Jack Melton, Margaret Hamlin, Michelle Agan, Pat Sholar, Riley Grogan, Stephanie Buckner; **March 19th-** Augustin Castorena, Claudia Castro, Doyle Bergner, Elisie Jo Lafever, Josh Nickels, Krisha Shantz; **March 20th-** Adam Rogers, Barbara Deevers, Bethany Shannon, Bob Vanauken, Dalynn Brinkley, Denny Smith, Don Morris, Hayden Billings, Letha Bentley, Maxine Crissman, Nicholas Janning, Oma Hicks, Savana Schmidt, Scott Guthrie, Spring Cordes, Tena Leathebury, Trevor Ridgeway; **March 21st-** Aspen Martin, Jim Wahnee, Kay Sewell, Mary Ellis, Mckenzie Spowls, Mustafa Sami, Nina Wilhoit; **March 22nd-** Clyde Rawson, Felipe Rodriguez, Holly Stotts, Jan Britton, Lana Jones, Linda Kay Whitecrow, Mallory Miller, Randy Thompson; **March 23rd-** Armando Lira, Candy Davis, Genevia Koch, Joe Koop, Kenny Lee, Luke Jacobsma, Rhonda Holden, Violer McClahahan; **March 24th-** Bridget Crowder, Claude Snider, Jared Dillta, Matthew Brown.

SPORTS

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Tyra Aska Earns D2CCA All-Region Team Selection

Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The Division II Conference Commissioner's Association (D2CCA) announced their 2019-20 All-Central Region teams last Thursday and SWOSU was represented on the team for the fourth straight year, with senior guard Tyra Aska earning a Second Team All-Region selection.

Aska (Meridian, Okla.) picks up the first All-Region selection of her career following a stellar senior season which saw her earn her fourth consecutive All-Great American Conference honor and second straight First Team All-GAC award. She is SWOSU's second-leading scorer at 11.4 points per game while ranking third on the team with 6.9 rebounds per game. Aska enters the regional tournament as SWOSU's fifth all-time leading scorer with more than 1,500 career points and she's second in career steals and assists.

Aska becomes the fourth player in the Lady Bulldogs NCAA era history to be selected to the D2CCA All-Region team, joining former teammates Hayden Priddy (2018, 2019) and Hailey Tucker (2017, 2018, 2019) along with Julie Dawson, a First Team All-South Central Region selection in 2006.

Sports information directors from NCAA Division II Central Region schools and conferences selected the D2CCA all-region teams. The process concludes with All-American selections announced later in the month. The NCAA Division II Conference Commissioners sponsored the All-Region teams.



GAC to Indefinitely Suspend All Conference Athletic Competitions

Great American Conference Council of Presidents announced an indefinite suspension of the conference's sports activities - practices and competitions - for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year effective immediately.

This decision follows the National Collegiate

Athletic Association's cancellation of all championships for the year.

The top priority for the Great American Conference and its membership is the health of student-athletes, staff, and our campus communities. The conference office will work with the Council of Presidents to

monitor all information impacting athletic departments during the remainder of the spring semester.

Additionally, the GAC will work with the NCAA to ensure equitable resolutions for all affected conference student-athletes.

NCAA Cancels Remaining Winter and Spring Championships

Today, NCAA President Mark Emmert and the Board of Governors canceled all remaining winter and spring NCAA championships. This decision is based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat, our ability to ensure the

events do not contribute to spread of the pandemic, and the impracticality of hosting such events at any time during this academic year given ongoing decisions by other entities.

Among the events that will not be played is the

NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Central Region Championships, which the Lady Bulldogs were set to compete in beginning on Friday evening in Warrensburg, Missouri.

OSSAA Postpones all State Basketball tournaments

***UPDATE: 3:07 p.m.- Thursday, March 12--Due to the public health concern, the OSSAA has postponed all the State Basketball Tournaments, all OSSAA Regional Speech

Tournaments, and all OSSAA District Music contests for this weekend. No OSSAA Basketball State Tournament or OSSAA playoff-level fine arts contest will be scheduled

during spring break (March 15th-March 22nd). We will update the OSSAA website as to when the tournaments will be rescheduled.***

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STATEMENT: Rep. Sean Roberts on COVID-19

Rep. Sean Roberts (R-Hominy) today released the following statement regarding COVID-19:

“Constituents and members of the media, The threat of coronavirus is quite real. The next several weeks are paramount in determining the impact this virus has on our communities. Awful national tragedies such as Hurricane Katrina have shown us what happens when government fails to aggressively act preemptively. We have a chance to change our trajectory. We must mitigate the impact and realize that this virus impacts all age groups. It is important that we fight this virus with an ‘Oklahoma Strong’ mentality. We must all work together to protect our seniors, high risk patients, and our healthcare providers. Even if you, as an individual, are not classified in a high risk sector for the coronavirus, if necessary precautions are not taken, you are potentially putting our senior citizens,

high risk patients and healthcare providers at a higher risk of contracting the virus.

The deaths, hospitalization rates and effects that coronavirus have had on European countries, as well as China and South Korea, show that this is extremely far from just being the flu. It took an extreme, mandated quarantine for China to even limit its mortality rate to 5%. That level of quarantine is incompatible with our culture. That Europe has seen young people hospitalized with grave damage, and in large significant percentages, should give us extreme concern as to the risk this invisible enemy poses.

As Chairman of the House Public Health Committee, I implore our citizens to actively limit their exposure. This would include looking at keeping their families safe, be it their child going to school virtually or telecommuting to work. Wherever possible, I encourage families to look at

options where they can stay home and limit their exposure. This limits them to risk from both people displaying symptoms, as well as those who do not yet qualify to test for the virus but may be actively spreading the disease.

We see this storm front on the horizon. The impact of this disease, if looking at infection rates and mortality rates seen in other countries, shows that this can be the most threatening enemy to our society in living memory. Action absolutely MUST be taken, and NOW. Even a low estimate of a 2% mortality rate and a cursory discussed British infection rate translates to thousands of Oklahomans dying in the next 12 months due to coronavirus. We must stand together as a community and limit our exposure to protect not only ourselves, but also our neighbors and to hopefully get ahead of this virus before it is too late and we are simply reacting to it.”

Weatherford Junior June Parker Pages for Speaker Pro Tem Wright



June Parker, a junior at Weatherford High School, served as a page for House Speaker Pro Tempore Harold Wright (R-Weatherford) at the state Capitol the week of March 9-12, 2020.

June is the daughter of Todd and Kelly Parker of Weatherford. June is involved with teaching children’s service at her church, helping younger band students and volunteering at the local food bank. She is first chair clarinet in the band and secretary of Weatherford’s Youth and Government program.

House pages run messages to legislators while they are in the chamber or committee meetings. Pages also participate in a mock session, in which they learn legislative procedure and how to write, present and debate legislation.

“June has a true heart for helping others” Wright said. “It was wonderful to have her in our page program at the Capitol during what was a very busy deadline week. She did an exemplary job, and I hope got a good lesson on state government.”

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma Taking Precautions in Regard to COVID-19 Virus

In an abundance of caution regarding the potential impact of COVID-19 virus, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is cancelling all large volunteer shifts at its main Volunteer Center facility, effective March 15, until further notice. In addition, the organization is cancelling all events scheduled for March including its annual Chefs’ Feast that was scheduled for March 26.

“The well-being and safety of volunteers, supporters, partner agencies, our staff and the Oklahomans we serve is our utmost concern,” says Deb Bunting, interim chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank. “Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Their efforts enable us to serve the one in six Oklahomans who are food insecure.”

Based upon the very nature of the Regional Food Bank’s work, the nonprofit follows rigid federal and state food safety regulations each and every day. The Regional Food Bank is taking all possible precautions in the event the virus begins to widely impact the 53 counties it serves in central and western Oklahoma.

In what would have been the 33rd consecutive Chefs’ Feast, guests would’ve enjoyed food prepared by Oklahoma chefs, participated in a raffle and silent auction, with all proceeds going to support the Regional Food Bank’s Food for Kids Programs.

“Each year, Chefs’ Feast helps us raise much needed funds for the one in four Oklahoma children who live with hunger,” Bunting says. “With the potential impact of COVID-19, we were concerned with hosting an event for nearly 800 guests.”

For guests seeking a refund, please contact Natalie Wood at nwood@rfbo.org. If guests are not seeking a refund, 100 percent of the costs for tickets will be applied as a fully tax-deductible donation toward the Food for Kids Programs.

The Regional Food Bank staff is in daily communications with the appropriate local, state and federal health agencies and will continue to evaluate the organization’s day-to-day operations.



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Morton Ties for Second, Lady Dawgs Third at Diffe Ford Invite



Behind an individual runner-up finish from Zoe Morton, the SWOSU Women's Golf team placed third at the Diffe Ford Lincoln Invitational, which concluded at Kickingbird Golf Course in Edmond.

Morton was the first-round leader at the tournament before dropping back to second on Tuesday and finishing three shots behind Jessica Green of Rogers State for the top spot. Morton had rounds of 71 and 76 to finish seven-over par

for the event. Rebecca Lau was six shots behind and tied for 14th while Georgia Miller fired two rounds in the 70's and tied for 24th at 15-over.

The Lady Bulldogs finished seven strokes behind Central Oklahoma and Rogers State, who won the tournament on a playoff.

SWOSU returns to action on March 23-24 at the Barry Invitational in Miami, Florida.

Senate advances bill directing coordination among transportation agencies

The Oklahoma Senate unanimously advanced legislation directing the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority to coordinate resources and functions more closely.

Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, is the author of Senate Bill 1775.

Treat said the bill directs the two agencies to coordinate as much as possible but allows the Turnpike Authority to remain a separate agency in order to address concerns that a merger of the two agencies could jeopardize highway funding. Treat worked with Transportation Secretary Tim Gatz on the bill to ensure the new legislation did not jeopardize federal highway funding and protected highway bondholders. The legislation says OTA would remain separate "for so long as any bonds, notes or other obligations of the Authority remain outstanding and are not fully discharged."

"With two entities building and maintaining highways in Oklahoma, there are a lot of similar duties and responsibilities," Treat said. "ODOT and OTA work closely on some issues today, but this bill codifies into law the Legislature's intent that they maintain their coordination moving forward. This bill will help Oklahoma maximize transportation resources by ensuring the mission of ODOT and OTA remain aligned. That will ensure we take a unified approach to maintaining our highway infrastructure into the future."

The bill now heads to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, where the primary House author is Speaker Charles McCall.

Ford's "All Kids Buckled Up" Legislation Passes House



A bill that would strengthen seat belt laws for youth ages 8 to 17 passed the House with a vote of 78-18.

House Bill 2791, by State Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow), would require every person under the age of 18 to wear a seat belt when riding in the back seat of a passenger vehicle in Oklahoma.

"As a former police officer, there was absolutely nothing worse than working an accident scene where a child died because they were not wearing a seat belt," Ford said. "This law will help us avoid such needless tragedies in the future."

Currently, state law requires only youth ages 8 or younger to wear a seatbelt while riding in the backseat of a moving vehicle. Other than that, only the driver and front-seat passenger are required to be belted.

Ford worked with AAA Oklahoma, Safe Kids Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (DPS) to draft the legislation, which is supported by the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, the Oklahoma Hospital Association, the Oklahoma Sheriffs Association, Chiefs of Police organizations throughout the state and many others. In total, 36 state organizations joined together to express support for this change in statute.

"The Department of Public Safety recognizes the importance of occupant protection, and we fully support measures to increase the safety of passengers, especially our vulnerable children," said DPS Commissioner John Scully.

Leslie Gamble, AAA Oklahoma Public and Government Affairs Manager said, "Representative Ford has seen first-hand the tragedies that occur when children aren't buckled up in cars and crashes occur. He sees the need for protection for all minors in the back seat and the absurdity of having a law that only requires children up to the age of eight to

be buckled up. We're so grateful to have his passion and practical experience to eliminate Oklahoma as one of the ten worst states for child passenger safety."

According to information from AAA, Oklahoma is the only state in the nation without a law requiring children 8 to 17 to wear a seat belt when riding in the back seat of passenger vehicles, and the state currently ranks 50th nationwide in protecting children in car crashes – the leading cause of death and injury to those 8 and older in our state. The organization says that over half of deaths and serious injuries in car crashes can be prevented with proper use of seat belts.

According to data from the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, 67 children ages 8 to 17 were injured and 16 were killed in 2017 in Oklahoma who weren't wearing seat belts.

The bill now moves to the state Senate where Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) is the Senate author.

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