

# WEST OK WEEKLY



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## SWOSU to receive largest-ever single donation for Healthcare Education Center

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford is set to receive the largest single donation in the history of the university.

Longtime SWOSU benefactors Jerry and Margaret Hodge of Amarillo (TX) have generously committed a record-breaking \$5 million charitable gift.

The Hodge donation will enable SWOSU to take the next steps toward construction of a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to healthcare education and pharmacy, named in honor of the Hodges.

The gift will also establish a substantial new endowment benefitting students enrolled in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy.

Jerry Hodge, former chairman and chief executive officer of Maxor National Pharmacy Services Corporation, is a 1965 graduate of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy and a long-time supporter of the university. He was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1979 and was honored by the SWOSU College of Pharmacy as Outstanding Alumnus in 2008.

SWOSU President Randy Beutler said the goal of the building project is to establish SWOSU as the center for rural health education in the region. An integral part of the center will be components of the College of Pharmacy and other health-related fields at SWOSU that will further the university's mission of enhancing outreach efforts across western Oklahoma.

"We are extremely grateful and excited about the opportunities that this provides for SWOSU," Beutler said. "This incredibly generous gift from Jerry and Margaret Hodge and the long-term, positive benefits it will provide to our students, faculty and programs is truly a watershed moment in the 120-year history of this institution."

"I am deeply indebted to SWOSU and the College of Pharmacy," Hodge said. "Without my pharmacy degree, I would not have been able to purchase Maxor in 1966, and Maxor would not have been able to contract with Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore to run their out patient pharmacies in 1991. It was at Johns Hopkins Hospital that I met Margaret, and we married in 1994. With her support and her medical background, Maxor began to grow nationally. So, now you understand why I feel so indebted to SWOSU and the School of Pharmacy. This gift is from the two of us."

The Hodge donation will complement the \$7 million in resources provided by the recently passed sales tax by



Dani Ingram/WW

Longtime Southwestern Oklahoma State University benefactors Jerry, left, and Margaret Hodge, right of Amarillo, Texas, donated a record-breaking \$5 million charitable gift to Southwestern, which is the largest single donation in the history of SWOSU. The gift will be used for a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to healthcare education and pharmacy, named in honor of the Hodges as the Jerry and Margaret Hodge Pharmacy and Rural Health Center.

the citizens of Weatherford with a focus on rural health sciences and education.

As SWOSU continues to expand its health sciences offerings, the Hodge donation will enable the university to proceed with planning for strategic partnerships with other higher education institutions. These partnerships could lead to SWOSU students having access to a Physician's Assistant program and the possibility of a dual degree program through the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. This is a long-term goal and priority of SWOSU that will be powerfully and positively impacted by the Hodge gift.

The endowment component of the donation is \$500,000 and the Pharmacy Foundation will honor the endowment by raising equal amounts of the matching funds. SWOSU has committed to working on matching that portion

of the gift, according to Beutler. The Hodge gift and related endowments will be collaboratively stewarded by SWOSU's long-time institutionally-related charities—the Southwestern Pharmacy Alumni Foundation, Inc., (SPAF) and the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. (SWOSUF). The two Foundations will partner in raising matching funds to help further the ability of the Hodge gift to provide financial assistance to SWOSU College of Pharmacy students.

In 2005, the Jerry and Margaret Hodge Endowed Scholarship was established at SWOSU. Since its inception, the fund has provided a total of \$60,000 in scholarship awards to 52 pharmacy students.

Hodge was born in Carnegie and attended a two-room country school outside of Mountain View through

(See Donation, page 3)

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### Keenan Zander Musick

Funeral services for Keenan Zander Musick, 18 year-old Weatherford resident, were held Saturday, June 19, 2021, 2:00 P.M. in the Weatherford High School Basketball Gym with Keith Musick officiating. Burial followed in Greenwood Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



Keenan was born November 17, 2002, in Clovis, New Mexico, to Joshua Marc Musick and Eladah Musick Waters and passed away Monday, June 14, 2021, in Weatherford. Keenan was raised and attended school in Hydro until his freshman year; he then transferred to Weatherford where he graduated with the Class of 2021. He made the K101 Classic Bowl Game and also 2nd team All-Conference. Keenan loved working out, playing basketball, skateboarding, snowboarding, hiking, fishing and spending time with family and friends. Keenan had a huge heart, and loved his family and siblings.

Keenan is survived by his parents Eladah Waters and husband Nick of Weatherford and Josh Musick and wife Kelsi of Weatherford; two sisters: Amaria Musick and Oakley Waters of Weatherford; two brothers Maddox and Titus Musick of Weatherford; maternal grandparents Rosalie and Cleo Fallis of Clovis, New Mexico; and Rod and Chris Waters of Hydro; and paternal grandparents Jeannie Musick of Ravenna, Nebraska; and Steve and Pam Bond of Canton, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather James Musick.

In remembrance of Keenan, a memorial fund has been set up at the Bank of Hydro.

and Shannon Buie, Elk City; grandchildren include Jared and April Black, of Piedmont, Jacy and Jared Deck, of Norman, Jantz Black, of Farmington, Michigan, Clay and Becky Buie, Thiensville, Wisconsin, Will and Amanda Buie, Leedy, Carly Buie, of Oklahoma City, Hailey and Cole Buie, of Elk City; and great grandchildren Kierstyn and Aunika Black, Rachel Charlton and Jude Deck, Christopher and Maelyn Black, Pippa, Bo, and Samuel Buie, and J. W. and Ellie Mae Buie and other relatives and friends. Memorial donations may be made to the Eakly Fire Department or the Eakly Cemetery Board.

### Kim (Phuong) Maher

Kim (Phuong) Maher was born to Hau Vo and Tinh Nguyen on October 10, 1944, in Saigon, Vietnam, and passed away on Sunday, June 13, 2021, in Thomas, Oklahoma, having reached the age of 76 years 8 month, 3 days.



Kim was raised in Saigon, Vietnam. In 1969, she married William B. Maher in Saigon, Vietnam. At this time, Kim was working for the United States Government under a Four Star General. In 1971 Kim, Bill, and their two small children left Vietnam to make a life for themselves in the United States. Prior to moving to Thomas, Oklahoma, Kim resided in Ventura, California, where she owned her own Beauty Salon, Kim's Perfect Touch. They bought the Nite Owl Motel in Thomas in 2006, where she was still active in running the motel. Kim enjoyed cooking, gardening, and spending time at her Koi pond.

She is survived by one son William C. Maher and his wife Laura of Camarillo, California; one daughter Kim L. Maher of Thomas, Oklahoma; two sisters and one brother. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, sister, and husband.

married in 1962 in Corn, OK. In 2012, they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary by taking their three children, their spouses, and their grandchildren on a Disney Cruise and Disney/Universal Studios trip. This August would have been their 59th anniversary.

He is also survived by his son Brett Allen Dye and his wife Simone Tamer of Rogers, Arkansas; his son Craig Dye and his wife Diolanda Dye, also of Rogers, Arkansas; his daughter Kristi Bell and her husband Jeff Bell; and his seven grandchildren: Keely, Kaitlyn, Bridget, Zoe, Eleanor, Anthony, and Isabel. His children and grandchildren were one of the most important things in his life.

Dick was a kind hearted man who never met a stranger. He was always ready with a smart comment or joke, but never at another's expense. He was saved by Jesus Christ at the age of 27, and Thelma can't wait to see him in heaven.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Mike and Harrolyn Pruett, Loren and Janie Penner, Sylvia Spain, Joe Sullivan and his family, Sandy and all the friendly folks at the Pioneer Center, and the helpful people of Russel/Murray Hospice.

The memorial service will be held on Wednesday, June 16th, at 2pm at Lockstone Funeral home in Weatherford, Oklahoma. The service will be informal, with his children and grandchildren leading the memorial. Earl Stephenson, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Weatherford, will say a few words and Dick's friend Charles Regier will sing a few of Dick's favorite songs with a quartet from Corn Mennonite. A reception at the family house will follow. Visitation is available at Lockstone Funeral Home until the service. He will be laid to rest at the cemetery in Corn, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, please make any donations to Corn Bible Academy.

### Oral Willis Buie

Oral Willis Buie was born July 30, 1931, the 4th child born to Harvey Audmer and Lovella Mae Lee Buie. He passed away at his home in Eakly, Oklahoma, on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. He would have celebrated his 90th birthday this summer.

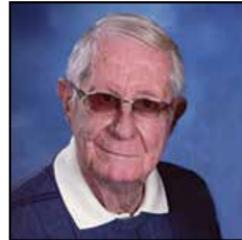


On September 30th, 1951, he married Ethel Mae Clear. Oral and Ethel Mae began married life in Oklahoma City. Oral and Ethel Mae were not "city" people, and Oral jumped at the opportunity to purchase a trucking business in Eakly. From that point on, Eakly was home, and they both would work in the family businesses. In 1955 Marta Gaylene joined the family. In 1956 Risa Ann was born, and in 1958 John Allen was born. He served 12 years in the National Guard, receiving the rank of Master Sergeant. In the early 1960's, Oral bought the Sinclair "service" station and later became a wholesale distributor for local farmers and businesses. After selling the wholesale business, he worked several years, helping C. B. Sims build homes. Then he spent the next 12 years driving large equipment for Caddo County. Oral was active in the community, serving as a school board member and class parent. He was a Little League baseball volunteer and supporter, a volunteer fire fighter for over 20 years as well as serving on the Eakly Cemetery Board. "Buie," as he was known by his customers and friends, "Dad" by his children, and "Poppa" by the grands and greats will be greatly missed.

He is preceded in death by Ethel Mae, his parents, brothers: Noel, L. Dean, and Audmer Buie, and one sister Jeannie Watts. He is survived by his sister Verda Lea Tinsley of El Reno, his children: Danny and Marta Black, of Weatherford, Risa and Junior Ray, Eakly, and John

### Richard Paul Dye

Richard Paul Dye, lovingly known as Dick, passed away on Friday, June 11th, 2021, at the age of 85 in Weatherford, Oklahoma.



Dick was born in Old Gulf, Texas, in 1935 to Dr. F.E. Dye and Mrs. Ida Mae Dye. Very soon after his birth, he and his family moved to Bay City, Texas, which he considered his hometown. Dick attended the University of North Texas and the University of Texas before taking a break to pursue his interest in photography, apprenticing in Norman, Oklahoma, and later at Blunk Studios in Clinton, Oklahoma, where he met his wife Thelma while taking her Nursing School senior picture. They were married, soon, the following year, and he returned to school, graduating with a degree in Education from Texas State University in 1963. After working as an English teacher at Corn Bible Academy in Corn, Oklahoma, he again returned to school, this time to complete his Masters in Education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma. With that degree in hand, he returned to Corn Bible Academy as the Superintendent. In 1969, the family moved to his hometown of Bay City, Texas, where he taught high school English and worked in education administration. In 1977, he ventured out of education and received his real estate broker's license and started his own company. In 1993, the family moved back to his wife's hometown Corn, Oklahoma, and later Weatherford, Oklahoma. At this point, Dick wanted to keep busy in his retirement years and started working at the neighborhood Wal-mart in Weatherford, OK. As the official greeter, Dick was recognized and greeted, himself, all, around town. Once his wife Thelma retired from teaching Nursing at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, he retired from Wal-mart, and they began leading groups of tours for Prudent Travel together. With almost 30 tours, they visited every state in the continental US.

Dick is preceded in death by his parents and his older brother Fulton Dye, Jr.

Dick is survived by his two sisters Geraldine Parker and her husband Dr. Wade Parker of San Antonio, Texas; and Carole Weathered and her husband Preston Weathered of Kerrville, Texas.

Dick will be greatly missed by his wife Thelma who he

### Nova June Minyard

Nova June Minyard was born, the third child, in her rural family home outside of Colony, Oklahoma, to Simon Perry and Easter Comell Jones Minyard. She is preceded in death by her parents, her older brothers and their wives, whom she regarded as sisters, James and Hope Minyard and Denzle and Mildred "Lee" Minyard, and two sons-in-law Marshall Gregory and Adam Sewell.



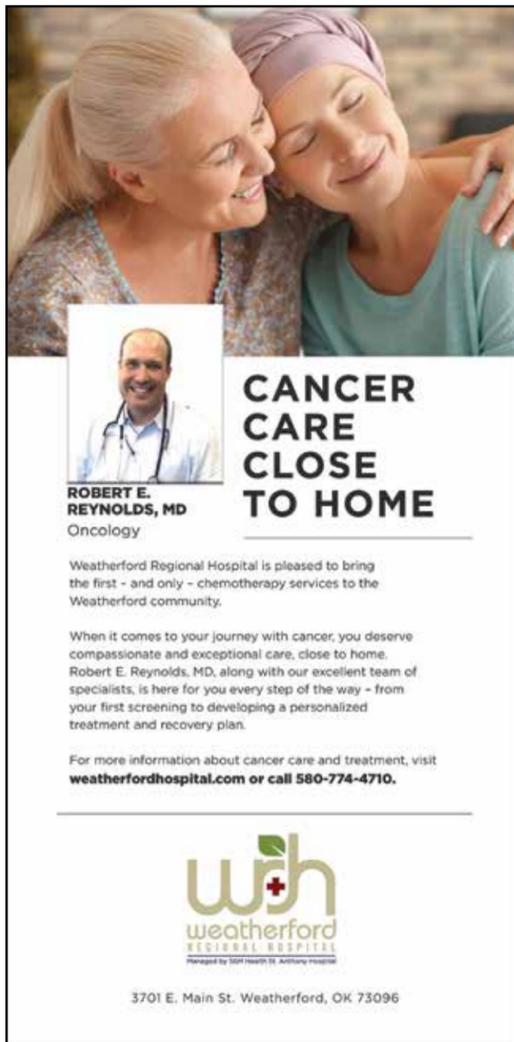
Nova June is survived by her beloved lineage of three children and spouses: Reece Allen and Barbara Dudley, Diana June "Dee" Gregory, Nova Lynn Long, and Gary and Glenna Long. Her grandchildren and spouses: Deanna and Ricky Mahoney, Chris and Glenda Gregory, Shannon and DeeAnn Gregory, Amber and Chris Hudson, and Mae and Brian Thomas. Grand children: Zach Higgins, Ryan Mahoney, Jake Gregory, Stephen Gregory, and Nicholas Gregory.

Nova June spent her lifetime in many different fields of work, beginning with cleaning hotel rooms and working in the kitchen of a diner with her mother, to working in her son's coffee distribution business, and concluding with assisting customers at her daughter's and subsequently granddaughter's pet store. She was known for doing a job right, and making a friend of every customer. Other Weatherford establishments benefited from her time and work ethic, including her time as a manager at The Southwestern Motel, a pastry chef at The Porterhouse Café, and a film processor at Owl Photo.

Her marriage to her second husband Ken Schafer who was in the Air Force, allowed her the opportunity to see and live many places, including Ohio, Indiana, New Mexico, Washington DC, and Hawaii, but the farm in Oklahoma was always "Home." She frequently came back to and finally settled at her family home south of Weatherford, OK. All of her life's journeys always took her where she was needed most by those that she loved, which was always her foremost priority, thus leading her back to Oklahoma and "the farm," to care for her mother.

Nova June loved gardening and painting. Her family homestead is full of the irises she loved, as well as many of her descendants' gardens, and their homes are graced by the presence of her works on canvas. A love of music steeped in gospel and bluegrass was deeply ingrained at an early age by her parents and "fiddle-playing" brothers. She went on to instill this love in many of her children and grandchildren, playing with them at many festivals and local engagements over the years. Nova June loved her savior Jesus Christ and endeared many by following his loving and kind example.

The family asks that all who wish to please attend a graveside remembrance and interment of ashes at 11:00 AM on June 19th 2021 at Greenwood Cemetery in Weatherford, followed by a "come and go" Celebration of Life in the lobby of Hudson Technology Solutions/The Aquarium, 10319 N 2410 Rd, in Weatherford.



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## Donation

Continued from Page 1

the eighth grade before moving to Amarillo, where he graduated in 1960 from Tascosa High School.

Following his graduation from SWOSU, he purchased Maxor Drug Company, Inc., in Amarillo and transformed it from a small community drugstore into Maxor National Pharmacy Services Corporation, a company that at one time employed nearly 500 people in Amarillo and more than 660 people nationwide. Hodge served as Maxor's chairman and chief executive officer until he retired in 2016.

He served on the Texas State Board of Pharmacy from 1981 to 1987, including a stint as president from 1984 to 1985. He is a past president of the Texas Panhandle Pharmaceutical Association and was a charter member of the American Society of Consulting Pharmacists.

In 1973, Hodge was first elected to the Amarillo City Commission at the age of 30. After serving two 2-year terms as City Commissioner, at the age of 34, he was elected the youngest mayor in Amarillo history, serving two terms.

In 2018, Hodge was named the Amarillo Globe-News Man of the Year for his many civic, business and charitable contributions to Amarillo. Known as a person always working behind the scenes to improve Amarillo, Hodge was honored for being a great asset to the city, region and state. One friend described him as a problem solver, tough businessman and to his family and friends, a real sweetheart.

Hodge has also been involved in many past positions at the state and national levels, including:

- Chairman and vice-chairman of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Board

- Chair of the Mayors' Advisory Committee to the Governor of Texas

- Personal advisor on utilities and utility rates for Texas Governor W.P. Clements

- President of the Texas Municipal League Region II and on the Economic Advisory Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and director of the Texas Municipal Retirement System. Jerry and Margaret have four children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## Miss SWOSU representatives win awards at Miss Oklahoma



Provided

Miss SWOSU's Outstanding Teen Peyton Davis (left) and Miss SWOSU Natalee Karcher recently returned from the Miss Oklahoma Scholarship Competition. Davis made the Top 11 in the teen portion of the competition, and Karcher tied for a rookie talent award. SWOSU also won first place for cash scholarships at the competition. Jaylee Moore, Miss SWOSU's Little Star, also attended the week-long activities in Tulsa.

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Natalie Simpson/WW

Andrea Archer of Tulsa, OK enjoys the tail gate party and cruise Friday night in a 2011 Camaro SS, owned by Carol Aun Christensen.



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613-0108

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# LOCAL & AREA NEWS



Dani Ingram/WWW

**A come-and-go reception celebrating the presidency and retirement of Southwestern Oklahoma State University President Randy L. Beutler was held Friday in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center. Refreshments were served, and attendees had the opportunity to leave a written message of thanks for President Beutler.**

**CLINTON CITY COUNCIL TOURISM GRANTS-** The Clinton City Council, acting as the Industrial Authority, approved three tourism grants. The grants approved include \$7,000 for the C-Town girls fall softball league, \$5,000 for the eight and under coach pitch state tournament in July and \$2,500 for the Clinton rodeo in late July.

Clinton city manager Robert Johnston said that those kinds of activities help bring money to the city.

**CUSTER COUNTY LAWTER ROAD-**Custer County Commissioner Wade Anders said progress is being made toward the beginning of the Lawter Road Project. Anders said he hopes the project will get underway in 2022. The project will include an asphalt overlay with three lanes, including a middle turn lane.

**CUSTER COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS-** Custer County Commissioner Wade Anders said the county has several road projects coming up in the future. Anders said if funding remains in tact, there could be \$25-\$30 million in road projects in Custer County. One of the biggest projects in Custer County is the Lawter Road Project, that could begin in 2022.

**WEATHERFORD SCHOOL BOARD-** Last week marked the last meeting for Carter Robinson as a member of the Weatherford School Board of Education. Robinson, who has been a three-year member of the board of education, will be moving with his family to the state of Texas. The board has 60 days to appoint a successor, otherwise, the seat will remain open until the next school board election. The board approved the contract for new District Superintendent Jill Henderson for the 2021-2022 school year. Henderson begins her duties as district superintendent on July 1st. Henderson said she is in the process of making the transition to Weatherford from Canute

Public Schools where she also served as superintendent of schools. Henderson said she looks forward to seeing the many projects currently underway come to completion, including the construction of two new elementary schools in the district.

**CUSTER COUNTY TRIAL-** A bench trial is planned for August 30th in Custer County District Court for a Weatherford man charged with second degree murder in a 2020 homicide in Weatherford. Twenty-eight year old Zachary Sherwood is charged in the shooting death of 30-year old Ashley Barr at the Best Western in Weatherford. Sherwood is charged with murder in the second degree, imminently dangerous conduct or in the alternative, murder in the second degree in commission of a felony.

**WEATHERFORD SCHOOLS BUILDING PROJECTS-** Several building projects are underway in the Weatherford School District. Interim Superintendent Steve Callen provided an update on those projects to the school board of education. Callen says both elementary school projects remain on schedule. He said the track and turf projects are also still on schedule, despite recent rain. Additionally, Callen said the contractor for the track fieldhouse and concession stand should be on site within the next few weeks.

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**Happy Birthday Wishes for June 23rd-** Debbie Blakeslee, Ruby Dillon, Madison Jade, Stetson Fleming, Gary Friesen, Meg Hook, Rayna Lax, Ruby Polly, Lisa Rockett, Steve Sauer; **June 24th-** Bruce Belanger, Heather Hall, Chelsea Lantz, Genny Lathrom, Naveenah Matrix, Dorothy Sloan, Dalton Sloan, Cecil Smith, Betty Snider; **June 25th-** Jordan Estes, James Fielder, Casandra Fraser, Greg Gainers, Mary Page, Jo Dawn Parrish, Dwayne Roark, Jana Rucks, Justin Savage, Larry Sharp, Michael Wright; **June 26th-** Marissa Gay, Briana Mooney, Rex Patne, Trey Waldro, Jennifer Wiest; **June 27th-** Dustin DeGarmo, Raydon Kuehne, Ayn Lamke, Duane Mapel, Bertha Miller, Connie Ringler, Dale Doark, Irving Schmidt, Cutter Taff, Derah Thomas, Polly Thompson, Kenneth Weightman; **June 28th-** JShelly Bonner, Trevor Brownen, Judy Fong, Taytum Goerend, Jack Johnson, Katy Murrach, Dustin Strong; **June 29th-** Al Chapa, Chrystie George, Chris Ladd, Gena McCullough, Michele Russell, Jim Scruggs, Taylor Smith, Tyrone Turner.

# SPORTS Presented by:



## SWOSU Women's Rodeo Team Finishes Second at 2021 CNFR

**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The SWOSU Women's Rodeo team capped off their memorable 2021 season with a national runner-up placing at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR), which concluded on Saturday evening at the Ford Wyoming Center in Casper.

The Women's Team – consisting of Abby Hepper, Sierra Smith, Winter Williams & Sadie Wolaver – accumulated 432.5 points over the four-round event to finish as the national runner-up behind Montana State. The second-place finish is the fourth top-ten national placing for SWOSU Women's Rodeo team under head coach Mike Visnieski and the highest finish for the program since they were second in the country in 2000.

"It's been a great ride this year with the team," Visnieski said. "They were on a mission, put in the work and treated each other like family. All the young men and women on the team had a hand in our success."

SWOSU sent three individuals into the short round on Saturday night, with Hepper, Williams and Wolaver all entering the championship round with title aspirations.

Hepper, who went in fifth on Saturday night, was fourth in the round with a time of 14.24 in Barrel Racing, which moved her into third place in the final standings. Wolaver also went to the short go in Barrel Racing, but clipped her second barrel and was docked with a five-second penalty which dropped her to eighth in the average.

After winning the first round in Breakaway with a time of 1.9 seconds, Williams entered the short go in



fifth place, but a no-time in the final round moved her down to eighth place in the average. Smith was 9.2 seconds or better on all four of her runs in Goat Tying and took fourth place in the third round, finishing 20th in the average.

SWOSU also sent a pair of cowboys to Casper to compete in Tim Troyer and Wyatt Lohman, who were the top two Saddle Bronc riders in the Central Plains Region this season. Both Bulldogs went 2-for-3, with Troyer finishing 18th and Lohman placing 20th in the

average. After getting bucked off in the first round, Troyer rebounded with qualifying rides of 69.0 and 69.5 points to finish with 138.5 points on two rides, while Lohman was 64.5 in the first round and 67.5 in the third to score 132.0 points on two.

"Abby, Winter, Sadie, Sierra, Wyatt and Timothy came here to win and represented us well," Visnieski said. "I'm extremely proud of what they have done but more importantly who they are. My sincere gratitude goes out to everyone who supported us this season."

## Emery Hailey receives United Soccer Coaches Award of Distinction

**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

United Soccer Coaches announced the 2020-21 College Player Award of Distinction Recipients, which includes SWOSU Soccer senior Emery Hailey as one of 325 women's collegiate players to receive the honor.

NCAA Division II Women's Player of Distinction Award Recipients

United Soccer Coaches is committed to extending opportunities for its college members to recognize their significant players and contributions to their programs. The new College Player Award of Distinction was established this spring for its member head coaches to submit deserving player based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Player has achieved quality performance on the field;
- Represented the highest ideals of team leadership;
- Exhibited quality character attributes including sportsmanship and respect for teammates, opponents, officials and the game in general;
- Made other significant contributions to the benefit of the program and the community.

"Emery has been a vital part of our program over the past four years," SWOSU Head Soccer Coach Mark Persson said. "She has given us leadership and set a great example for the younger girls to follow while representing SWOSU and the Weatherford community



with dignity. I'm so proud of Emery and happy that she has been recognized with this award!"

Hailey appeared in all nine games during the 2021 spring season, her fourth year with the SWOSU Soccer

program. The Grapevine, Texas, native has taken advantage of her extra year of eligibility and will return to Weatherford this fall for a final full season of collegiate competition.

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# SWOSU Department of Education Receives National Accreditation



Southwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Education faculty are all smiles as the university learned the department received full accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

The Department of Education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford has achieved full accreditation, meeting all requirements from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

CAEP is the national accrediting agency for teacher preparation programs. To achieve accreditation, faculty and partners in the SWOSU Department of Education provided evidence of meeting CAEP's rigorous standards to ensure candidates are highly qualified and competent teachers by utilizing valid data from multiple measures.

A CAEP site-visit team verified all evidence submitted through review of assessments, evidence and interviews with current and former students, faculty, administration and clinical partners in P-12 schools.

Dr. Veronica Aguinaga, accreditation assessment coordinator for the SWOSU Department of Education, said a foundational accreditation requirement is that the Department of Education develop and maintain a continuous improvement, evidence-based model of program assessment. This approach ensures teacher candidates develop a deep understanding of content and pedagogical knowledge; establishes high-quality clinical partnerships and practice; recruits diverse candidates and supports them during preparation and at completion; documents graduates' impact on P-12 student learning and development; surveys satisfaction of their preparation; and maintains a quality assurance system to monitor candidate, graduate, program and unit effectiveness. The accreditation status is granted for seven years.

The SWOSU Department of Education offers a total of 17 nationally accredited programs: 11 for initial licensure in the following areas: Art Education, Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Special Education, English

Education, History Education, Math Education, Science Education, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, and Health and Physical Education. And, 6 accredited programs for advanced licensure in the following areas: Educational Administration – Building Level, Educational Administration – District Level, Reading Specialist, School Counseling, School Psychology, and School Psychometry.

"Maintaining the success of these programs as a unit depends on high-level communication, trust and collaboration across multiple faculty and program leaders. Such coordination would not be possible without fantastic faculty and administration effort, support and willingness to work toward a singular vision of developing the next generation of professional educators and colleagues," said SWOSU Department of Education Chair Ed Klein. "The Department of Education vision is to provide the necessary background in professional education for the development of competencies which will contribute to successful teaching, administration and supervision in the elementary and secondary schools in our state, region and nation."

Aguinaga said this was SWOSU's initial accreditation with CAEP, so the university is extremely pleased with the outcome.

"The accreditation process is quite an arduous journey, so achieving national accreditation demonstrates that the SWOSU Department of Education is committed to continuous improvement and validates the quality and rigor of our undergraduate and graduate programs," Aguinaga said. "A special thank you is extended to all involved with the site visit, including current and former students, clinical partners, state team members, SWOSU administrators, the Education Advisory Board, SWOSU Assessment Center and the Teacher Education Council."

## "The Coin Guy" Gold Coin with a Message from 1857



Trent Boesen

The M.S. Rau Fine Art, Jewels, and Antiques has a special display in New Orleans. An 1854-O \$2.50 gold coin, with a counterstamp, is the star of the show. It was recovered from sunken treasure.

The counterstamp is from J.L. Polhemus a Sacramento, California druggist advertising his business location. It is the only \$2.50 gold coin known from Mr. Polhemus. It is insured for \$65,000. It is certified by the Professional Coin Grading Service as Extremely Fine 45. It can be seen at 630 Royal St. New Orleans Monday through Saturday from 9 A.M. to 5:15 P.M. with free admission.

It was discovered at a depth of 7,200 feet down in the Atlantic of the coast of North Carolina. It was part of the gold treasure on the SS Central America which sank in 1857.

Do you have questions about coin collecting 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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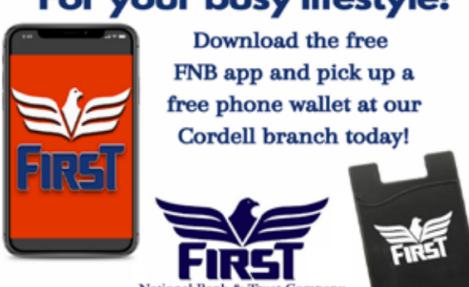


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# Oklahoma History: Platt National Park

Chase Wright  
Staff Writer

Like many locations throughout the U.S., Oklahoma has a multitude of parks and recreation spots throughout the state. Its first, and one of its most prominent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA) has been a popular spot among locals and tourists. CNRA has had an interesting history as part of its almost 10,000 acres was once designated as a National Park.

Platt National Park, a 640-acre park, was established on June 29, 1906, when Congress renamed the Sulphur Springs Reservation after Orville H. Platt, the senator who began legislation to protect the 32 freshwater and mineral springs in Murray County, Oklahoma. At the time, Platt National Park was the 7th, and smallest, national park established in the country. Despite its size, the park welcomed droves of visitors, and by 1914, the National Park Service (NPS) recorded more visitors to Platt than to Yellowstone or Yosemite.

As part of the New Deal, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was put in charge of the park's new infrastructure between 1933-1940. The CCC built pavilions, campgrounds, picnic areas, dams and waterfalls, and linked them all with new trails and roads. During the work, they planted over a half-a-million trees, and the park underwent minor expansions.

In 1976, Platt National Park was abolished by Congress and merged with the much larger Arbuckle National Recreation Area; the entire area was renamed to the CNRA. With the addition of many other water features, including the 2,350 acre Lake of the Arbuckles, CNRA's popularity remained high.

Due to the clean springs and dams, many popular



Photo: Visitors to Little Niagara, 1910. By NPS/Chickasaw National Recreation Area

swimming and fishing spots are scattered throughout the park. A variety of springs flow together through the Travertine District - a 3 mile long park with biking trails, picnic grounds, a bison pasture, and Nature Center. The crystal clear creeks form beautiful waterfalls as they join together to form Travertine Creek which flows through the district. Several miles of biking and hiking trails wind their way along the creeks making the Travertine District "an oasis in the

Oklahoma Prairie" according to the NPS.

Like the springs and creeks throughout the CNRA, the Lake of the Arbuckles has excellent water quality and clarity. It has year-round fishing, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has rated it as the best in the state for bass fishing.

With free entry, many 24 hour areas, 20 miles of trails, over 400 campsites, and swimming and fishing locations, CNRA is a must stop spot for outdoor lovers.

## SWOSU Hosting Open House for New eSports Arena on June 24

**SWOSU eSPORTS**  
Community Open House

When: June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 12pm-3pm  
Where: SWOSU Wellness Center  
*Beverages and Snacks will be served.*

Southwestern Oklahoma State University will host an open house for its new eSports Arena on Thursday, June 24, on the Weatherford campus.

The public is invited to stop by the arena from 12

noon until 3 p.m. on the first floor of the Wellness Center. Hors d'oeuvre and drinks will be served.

SWOSU Dean of Students Joshua Engle said the state-of-the-art arena is impressive and the SWOSU eSports team looks forward to hosting events this fall.

During this past year, SWOSU competed in several intercollegiate tournaments and brought home impressive wins. Super Smash Bros. competitors brought home first and third place finishes during Oklahoma Association of Collegiate eSports intercollegiate tournaments, while Rocket League competitors brought home second place.

SWOSU also developed and implemented its first video game design option as part of its computer science program.

"Students can now learn imperative and foundational skills in game

development and eSports event coordination," Engle said. "It was exciting to see students engage in the classroom as we had over 20 complete the first course of the program."

Engle said this last year also saw students embrace casual play as they attended informal tournaments every Thursday evening. He said this fostered a growing gaming community while supporting our student-competitors to sharpen their competition skills.

Another open house event is also planned for SWOSU students when they return for the 2021 fall semester.

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### INDEPENDENCE DAY

HYDRO HOMETOWN CELEBRATION  
SATURDAY, JULY 3RD

- 7:30am: Golf-Tournament-Shot Gun Start at Weatherford Golf Course-Enter a 4 man team at Bank of Hydro
- 8am: Soap Box Derby- Inspections at the top of Arapaho Street. Registration day of event
- 10am: Horse Shoe Tournament at Rodeo Grounds. Register a two man team at Deer Creek Markets
- 2pm: Mushball Tournament at Cook Field. Register at All American Insurance Services

Register at indicated Chamber member locations.  
Deadline: July 2nd at noon.

### HIGHER GROUND

Praying for your children

Someone has said that the greatest thing we can do for our nation is to pray for our children. Of course this does not our discount love, discipline, instruction, modeling, etc. But prayer should certainly undergird every action we take.

God, speaking to Moses, cried out, "Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always so that it might go well with them and their children forever. ("Deut. 5:29) The cry of God for his children, the nation of Israel, reverberates through the ages. It is still true that if well with us and with our children.

Let me share some insights that may help you as you pray for your children or grandchildren.

- WE know that God desires that every child brought into the world come into a personal and loving relationship with the Heavenly Father through his complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ as

Lord. 2 Peter 3:9

- Lord, open this child's spirit to receive the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.
- Lord, make his heart tender to receive and obey your truths.
- Give us as parents, wisdom to provide the atmosphere and opportunities that will allow your Spirit to work freely.
- Make us aware of anything in our lives that might hinder his/her understanding of your love and grace. We ask that you would remove those hindrances.
- May our faith and love be so transparent that he/she will long to experience that kind of life.

2. We know that God would have every child of his be transformed into the likeness of his Son, Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:29

- Lord, may my child have a heart to learn of your ways and a spirit willing to obey your truths. Psalms 25
- Give him/her a tender heart, sensitive to the needs of others. Phil. 2:3,4
- I pray that you will

protect him/her of their innocence and rob them of their future. John 10:10a

- May they be quick to recognize the deceitfulness of sin and make decisions that would honor You. Heb. 12:1
- Lord, give me wisdom to guide them to understand that you are in control and that nothing will separate them from your loving presence. Rom. 8:29
- Lord, I pray that they will realize that their body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Give them a desire to keep the body pure and set apart for maximum service Rom 12:1,2
- May they live a life of purpose, with a heart of a servant, and a sense of responsibility. Luke 9:23-25

This is my no means inclusive. You can add your heart concerns. Many who read this have already reared their children. Feel free to cut this out and give it to your adult children, a young couple, or small group. This might nudge them into a more active and structured prayer life. God bless. To comment: Jhm 82@outlook.com or phone 580-772-2311