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Levitt AMP Clinton Music Series 2024 Kicks Off Friday, May 10



The second year of the Levitt AMP Clinton Music Series at the amphitheater in McLain Rogers Park in Clinton begins this Friday at 7:30pm with performances by the 77th Army Band, based out of Ft. Sill in Lawton, followed by the Cecil Gray Native Blues Band, a blues band comprised of Native American artists based out of Oklahoma.

The night's concert begins with the 77th Army band that will perform classic American standards. The 77th Army band will also be in Clinton performing on Thursday night for the Americana themed Friends on Frisco event hosted on Frisco Avenue by the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Immediately following the 77th Army Band will be the Cecil Gray Native Blues Band fronted by guitarist and Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame

inductee Cecil Gray. Gray is no stranger to the blues scene and has recorded 4 blues studio albums and one gospel album. With this former band, Cecil Gray and the Red Dawn Blues, Cecil won "Best Blues/Jazz Recording" for his 2004 album "Indian Harmony" at the prestigious Native American Music Awards. He has also been nominated 6 times at the awards for his music.

Cecil Gray agreed to perform at the Levitt Amp Clinton Music series after meeting Dr. Susan Adams-Johnson last fall at an Oklahoma Arts Council Conference. Adams-Johnson is the Executive and Co-Artistic Director for the Scissortail Productions who coordinates the Levitt AMP Clinton Music Series along with the City of Clinton and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

"You know, one of my goals coming into this was to be able to reinvigorate the concept that it doesn't matter how large a community is, in Oklahoma they can still have a very active and robust art scene," said Adams-Johnson.

Adams-Johnson and Scissortail Production have made it a priority to feature homegrown talent from around Oklahoma and ensure that Native American artists are represented in the concert series. This year's line-up will feature three Native American musical acts including the Cecil Gray Native Blues Band.

You can visit www.scissortailproductions.com for more information about the Levitt AMP Clinton Music Series or to RSVP for any concert this summer.

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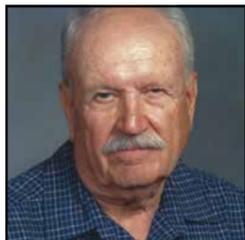


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Olen Visor

Olen Edward Visor was born in Hinton, Oklahoma in 1936, to Thomas and Lucille (Kessler) Visor and passed away on April 28, 2024, at Life Care Center in Andover, Kansas at the age of 88 years, 3 months, and 16 days.



He was raised in Hinton, graduating from Hinton High school in 1954. Shortly after graduation, Olen completed basic training at Fort Bliss in El Paso, TX, and later served in the Army in England and was honorably discharged in October of 1956. Olen married Corrine Klein on August 27, 1960. Olen graduated from OU in 1963 with a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering, utilizing the GI Bill. Later, Olen received his Master's Degree from Wichita State University. For 30 plus years, Olen worked for the Boeing Company as a Flight Control Aeronautical Engineer.

Olen's joys in life were his property and horses. He enjoyed rodeos and going to auctions. He and Corrine were active and enjoyed following the activities and sports of all their grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents Thomas and Lucille Visor; brothers: Lawrence Dobbs and Archie Dobbs; sisters: Lora Mae Pope, and Virgie Jacques.

He is survived by his wife Corrine Visor; sons: Kevin Visor and wife Kristi; and Bryan Visor, all of Augusta, KS; grandchildren: Karli Nystrom and husband Christopher, Owasso, OK; Kori Lawrence and husband Matt, Bel Aire, KS; and Karson Visor of Augusta, KS; great-grandchildren: Chastin Nystrom, Ayla Nystrom, and Ewan Lawrence; brothers: Paul Visor and wife Diane, OKC; and Bill Visor and wife Charlotte, Checotah, OK; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Duane Kauk

Duane Edward Kauk was born August 4, 1945, to Gus Edward Kauk and Ovada Mae (Haney) Kauk in Butler, OK and passed away Monday, April 29, 2024, in the Homestead Assisted Living Center in Clinton, OK.



Duane was raised in Butler, OK where he also graduated from Butler High School in 1963. He attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University for a short time.

He soon started a 30 plus year career as a lineman with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, retiring in 1992.

He later worked for Western Equipment, and he drove a U.S. mail truck while he also farmed.

He married Debbie Shepard on September 13, 1991, in El Reno, and made Clinton their home after.

Duane was known to being a kind, gentle hearted man, described by many as the kindest person they ever met.

He was a member of the Cornerstone Church. his main hobby was his farming, but he enjoyed fishing and hunting. He was an avid Thunder Basketball fan.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents, Gus Edward Kauk and Ovada Mae (Haney) Kauk.

He is survived by his wife, Debbie, of the home, two sons, Kevin Kauk and wife, Michele, Cordell, OK, Chase Kauk, Clinton, OK, and his fiancée, Kendra Myers, Altus, OK and stepson, Brooks Braffett and wife, Jaimie, Davis Junction, IL, sister, Wanda Nance, Clinton, OK, Darrel Kauk and wife Lynda, Clinton, OK.

He is also survived by six grandchildren, Kayleigh Kauk, Kale Kauk, Koby Celsor, Isaiah Braffett, Hannah Braffett and Jeremy Braffett .

Elaine Lockstone

Elaine Hope (Tautfest) Lockstone was born on February 1, 1932 to David and Bertha (Lehr) Tautfest in Enid, Oklahoma and passed away on Friday, May 3, 2024 in Weatherford, Oklahoma at the age of 92 years, 3 months, and 2 days.



Elaine was born and raised in Enid until the age of 14, when her family moved to Weatherford to open the Tautfest Hardware Store. Soon after moving to Weatherford, her dad passed away in 1949. Her mother continued running the store alone and the family kept living in Weatherford. Elaine attended Weatherford High School and graduated with the Class of 1950. She attended Southwestern State College for two years before going to the University of Oklahoma. She returned to Weatherford and completed her degree.

In the summer of 1953, Elaine began dating a young man named Stony Lockstone and they were married on November 20, 1953 at the First Methodist Church in Weatherford. She taught music for two years at Hydro Schools and later as a substitute teacher but was soon busy raising her children. Their family was blessed with three sons and one daughter—Shawn, Mike, Marty and Jane and together they raised their family. These years were busy with children's school activities, volunteering, and helping with the family business.

Elaine and Stony were longtime members of the First United Methodist Church in Weatherford and Elaine was a member of many women's groups throughout her years, but PEO and Methodist Women were both particularly special to her. She loved her friends and enjoyed being able to spend time with them playing Bridge and quilting. She made many quilts over the years, and all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have their own. She also enjoyed playing the piano and organ her entire life, including playing for church and funeral services. Stony passed away in 2019. Together they had accomplished 65 years of marriage and everything with it.

Her house was kept well. She travelled extensively. Her gardens were tidy and she kept them herself. Her flowers bloomed. She had a large and loving family whom she cared for and loved her back. She had many friends she loved and many who loved her. Life was good.

Elaine is preceded in death by her husband, R.L. "Stony" Lockstone; her parents, David and Bertha Tautfest; parents in law, Ralph and Angeline Lockstone; one grandson, Jon Logan Lockstone; and sisters-in-law Kay Tautfest and Eleanor Williams;

Elaine is survived by her daughter, Jane Buffham of Elk City, OK; three sons, Shawn Lockstone and wife Mary Anne of Duncan, OK, Mike Lockstone and wife Vicki of Wichita Falls, TX, Marty Lockstone and wife Cindy of Weatherford, OK; brother, David Tautfest and wife Novelle of Weatherford, OK; nine grandchildren, Kendall Lockstone and wife Megan of Roswell, NM, Miles Lockstone and wife Kimber of Wichita Falls, TX, Matt Lockstone and wife Amanda of Broken Arrow, OK, Audrey Lockstone of Oklahoma City, Adam Lockstone and wife Jenna of Weatherford, OK, Scott Price and wife Elizabeth of Weatherford, OK, Boone Price of Weatherford, OK, Rory Pugh of Weatherford, OK and Riky Pugh and wife Kelsey of Weatherford, OK; fifteen great-grandchildren; and many other family and friends.

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SCAN ME

Oklahoma History: The U.S. State with the Second Longest Prohibition



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

Photograph of Governor Charles N. Haskell signing the prohibition law. (Photo by Armantrout Brothers, Guthrie, OK - Dec. 18, 1907).



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

Photograph of the interior of a bar or saloon. Oklahoma County Peace Officers conducted many raids in the prohibition era of the 20's.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Alcohol – a common drink seen in many households, bars, and restaurants around the world today – has had a push/pull relationship with governments and regulations over its lifetime. Oklahoma is no exception. The most well-known era of alcohol’s woes came during the early 20th century when states signed prohibition laws against the drinks. This period of prohibition in the US, went into effect on Friday, January 16th, 1920. However, alcohol’s prohibition began much earlier.

Discussions regarding the consumption of alcohol have been going on since the beginning of its general use, but the arguments are not nearly as black and white as they appear. Proponents of alcohol have claimed benefits such as: de-elevated stress, pain relief, and commodity revenue; meanwhile, opponents cite incidents of violence, irresponsibility, and health complications. For example, pain relief, while beneficial, was short-lived (often dampening symptoms instead of healing the problem). “Incidents of violence” tended to fall along the more milder saloon/bar disagreement. Most people did not have strong feelings either way which led to long, drawn-out discussions regarding the sale, tax, distribution, and consumption of alcohol throughout history.

Oklahoma’s alcohol afflictions began early in its statehood when territorial laws sought to set up stricter alcohol enforcements in Indian Territories. Before Oklahoma became a state in 1907, alcohol was legal everywhere except for the eastern side which was Indian Territory where the federal government had banned it. When Oklahoma was accepted as a state, the territories combined and a new issue arose.

Congress had a condition for statehood at the time which required the incoming state to ban importing alcohol into former Indian territories. So, immediately upon statehood, legal areas for alcohol suddenly became illegal. From there, the state piggybacked off the anti-saloon mindset adopted by many Americans and got prohibition accepted as part of the new state’s constitution. However, the medical field (who had been using alcohol for medicinal relief) demanded access to it. So, a compromise was set where Oklahomans in need could apply through dispensaries for a “prescription”. It wasn’t long until more Oklahomans became “ill” enough to qualify.

Many of the lawmakers who had established prohibition in the state were appalled by the corruption of the dispensaries and sought to get them closed down. They did not have to push too hard. The dispensaries fell upon their own hard times as their industry began failing due to customer hardship, financial failures, and bootleg liquor. Before long, Oklahoma lawmakers had passed legislation labeling the dispensaries as a moneymaking scheme and shutting them down.

Now, those in search of alcohol had nowhere legally to turn. Around this time, the nationwide prohibition on alcohol began which led to back-alley deals, speakeasies, moonshine, and bootlegging. As the demand for alcohol rose, so too did the number of illegal acts. Which, in turn, led to more arrests, jailtime, police funding, and fighting. Those against alcohol remained steadfast in their beliefs while others began pushing leaders to look at the rising rate of crime across the nation. This unhappy limbo continued for years until a sharp economic impact swept through the Midwest – the Great Depression.

In 1933 the nationwide prohibition ended, but Oklahoma’s remained due to it being written into the state constitution upon statehood. Oklahoma legislature began considering the idea of legalizing alcohol due to the potential profit margin the state could receive. Many anti-prohibition organizations were pushing agendas that showed how much potential revenue there was to gain. Oklahoma legislature created a referendum for alcohol and out of the 77 counties, only 27 were in the dry column. While this did not completely abolish the ban on liquor, it served the purpose of showing lawmakers exactly what the people wanted.

Through the next decade, Oklahoma went through many votes, propositions, and representatives on the road to ending prohibition. By the mid-1950’s, the general attitude toward Prohibition had shifted in the state. Almost half of the state was seeing industrial progress, urbanization, and commercial activity. Younger representatives began challenging what they believed to be outdated social views and it seemed the state was ready to revisit liquor laws with a new perspective.

In 1959, Oklahoma repealed its prohibition with a few caveats due to its almost split dry vs. wet responses. Alcohol would become legal with provisions like, it could only be sold at liquor stores, not refrigerated, and the stores would need to be closed on Sundays.

Today, Oklahoma still has a robust provision list regarding mixed drink establishments, retail rules per type of store (spirits, beer, wine, etc.), advertising, and public availability. Some can even change by county, but its an interesting look back to see how the state has grown into what it is in the present

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HIGHER GROUND

On Satisfaction



Jim Morrison

In one of his essays, C.S. Lewis laments the fact that too many Christians are quick to settle for a spectator faith without really seeking to know God as He truly is. He likens it to children happily playing in the mud when they could be enjoying a holiday at the beach. They are too easily satisfied.

In living out our walk with God there are areas in which we should be satisfied, or content. Paul was speaking of the dangers of wealth when he said, “I have learned the secret of being content in whatever state I am.” I believe it was Rockefeller who was asked, “How much money would you need to have enough?” He replied, “Just a little more.” When my wife and I came to work with students on the college campus at Southwestern in 1965, our beginning salary was

about \$3000. Some wondered how we could make it. But we were blessed in the fact that our backgrounds had prepared us to be easily satisfied with the simple things of this world. Even today I find it hard to go to a garage sale. I might find something I want and I already have everything I need.

But in our relationship with Christ, it seems we are too easily satisfied. We want to be respected in the community as a good moral person. We keep our guard up lest we sully our reputation. We want to do the right thing. But when it comes to really hungering and thirsting after righteousness so that we might know the blessings of God; study, discipline, and risk-taking are really not our priorities.

Joni Eareckson Tada tells of the great blessings that came through the intense suffering of her recent bout with breast cancer. Although the pain and struggle was intense, she shares that her constant prayers as well as those of a multitude of other friends took her into a deepened relationship with God.

I am a reader. I have traveled over the world and explored the minds of great men of God through the printed page. Of course, when you get such pleasure out of something, you want everyone else to have the same experience. I work at our church library, and it is the desire of my heart that others are inspired by

the great prayer life of George Mueller or learn of the contributions of George Washington Carver through his work with the peanut. An answer I often get when encouraging someone to read is, “I don’t like to read.” I want to say, “Did you get to your position in life by only doing the things you like to do?” Tom Landry, legendary coach of the Dallas Cowboys, said of his training schedule, “I make these guys do over and over what they don’t like to do so they can achieve the thing that they would most like to achieve, win the super bowl.”

To reach any goal there are things you must do, no matter how distasteful, so that you can achieve the goal you seek. But if our goal in the Christian life is just to be a spectator, then we will not discipline ourselves to do the difficult things necessary to reach a deeper spiritual depth. A verse I often quote, II Chronicles 16:9, says, “The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” He wants you to experience the fullness of his love and grace. But he is looking for those whose hearts are seeking him. What is your hunger quotient in terms of learning of the heart and ways of God? Are you too easily satisfied?

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



SWOSU Associate Professor Wins Seminar Spot and Award for Project



Dr. Boone Clemmons, SWOSU PR & Marketing Professor in the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences, has been accepted into the highly competitive Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar from June 10 to June 30. This program offers an opportunity for professional development and research in Rome, Italy.

This program has limited admissions, with only a select few faculty members from institutions worldwide being accepted each year. Sevin is one of only ten faculty members chosen for the program this year, demonstrating her expertise in her field.

The Italian Disapora Studies Summer Seminar, now in its seventh year, provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of Italian diaspora cultural studies. Through a series of seminars in literature, film, and the social sciences, attendees will have the opportunity to develop individual research projects in response to the materials covered. Fellows will enjoy a three-week stay in a four-star hotel, with seminar classes held at Roma Tre University.

In addition to her selection for the Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar, Sevin has recently been honored as the 2024 DaVinci Fellow by the DaVinci Institute. This award recognizes her innovative and creative contributions to higher education, further highlighting her dedication to academia.

Sevin's collaborative research and professional development project, "Expanding Horizons: World Languages Certificate Initiative," demonstrates her

commitment to addressing the language education gap prevalent in Oklahoma. Currently, high school students in the state are not required to take foreign languages to graduate. Instead, they can opt for two years of computer science/computer technology. With many Oklahoma high schools lacking foreign language programs, many students reach university with limited foreign language exposure or none at all. Moreover, as language courses are not a requirement for most university majors, students may graduate college or enter the workforce without ever taking a foreign language course.

Sevin's initiative is to address this language deficiency predicament by introducing a World Language Certificate Program at SWOSU, designed to demonstrate students' proficiency in two or more foreign languages.

Sevin, recently promoted to Professor, began her career at SWOSU in 2014 and currently teaches Italian and Spanish courses in the Department of Language and Literature. She also serves as World Languages Coordinator and faculty sponsor of the World Languages and Cultures Association, as well as in the SWOSU chapters of the Alpha Mu Gamma National Foreign Languages Honor Society and Gamma Kappa Alpha Italian Honor Society.

SWOSU congratulates Dr. Sevin on these achievements and looks forward to the knowledge and insights she will bring back to enrich the university community.

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Lilly Ray and Nathan Lee have been awarded the Weatherford Rotary Students of the Month for May. Presenting the award is Weatherford Student Counselor Michelle Hartman

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CUSTER CO / VISIT ROOMS - The Custer County Courthouse's underused law library may be transformed into "visitation rooms," says District Three County Commissioner Lyle Miller. Miller also mentions that the old jail at the courthouse was recently repurposed into a climate-controlled storage facility.

WEATHERFORD / YMCA - Weatherford City Commissioners approved a memorandum of understanding between the city of Weatherford and the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City to acknowledge and formalize an agreement to participate in a joint project. The project is for the development and operation of a multipurpose recreation facility. The commission approved the MOU after a work session.

GREAT PLAINS / ACQUISITION - Great Plains, a Kubota dealership headquartered in Norman, has acquired Arnett New Holland Inc., a 2-store New Holland and Kubota dealership group in Arnett and Enid. Great Plains is among the largest Kubota dealerships in the United States and has ten stores across Oklahoma, including Clinton.

CORDELL / TORNADO - Cordell is cleaning up after a tornado struck last Tuesday. A stand-by shelter at the First Baptist Church is available, courtesy of the Red Cross. The National Weather Service has rated Tuesday's tornado as an EF-1.

ELK CITY / NEW PD - Officials with the Elk City Police Department say due to the upcoming remodel of the Police Department, they have now relocated to 120 South Jefferson. Additionally, the department still has the drug take-back box for unwanted or unneeded prescription medications. Please call 580-225-4653 to schedule an appointment for drop off, Monday through Friday from 8-5. Officials say the municipal court clerk's office is also at the same location as the temporary police department, 120 South Jefferson.

WRH / ANESTHESIA - Weatherford Regional Hospital Chief Executive Officer Darin Farrell says the hospital has doubled its anesthesia coverage for surgery and OB. Additionally, Farrell says nursing recruitment has gone well and the hospital will not need to renew any agency temporary contracts once the final contract expires in June.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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Happy Birthday Wishes for May 8 - Ginger Emmons, Michelle Huckabay, Mike Richardson, Marc Whittington; **May 9** - Kyle Burton, Dana Davis, Landon Little, Susan Pierce Donald Settles, Emily Spraldin. **May 10** - Jennifer Bass, Denise Richardson, Rhonda Ridgeway, Courtney Ringler; **May 11** Rosella Adler, Dana Brunner, Bryce Conway, Silas Dodgen, Kristi Fleece, Theresa Harms, Ridge Parsons, Autumn Phillips, Ron Russ, Darrell Stinson, Betty Taylor, Theresa Vargo, Ann Weaver; **May 12** - Emma Ferrell, Diana Hawkins, Paula Howes, Susan Rinehart, Monte Smith, Debbie Suderman, Tiffany Buckner; **May 13** - Jamie Cupp, Scott Hoffman, Ally Janning, Justin Mobley; **May 14** - Martha Buckner, Trey Chervenka, Michelle Hamlin, Melvin Lancaster, Nolan Louthan, Zitlalli Olguin, Randy O'Connell, Margaret Pebley, C.B. Perkins, Whitini Root, Tony Stobbe, Megan Ulrich;

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Sen. Darcy Jech: Oklahoma's 2024 Legislative Session Adjourns May 31



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With less than one month remaining in this year's legislative session, we're heavily focused on crafting the state budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

The House of Representatives recently released their budget proposal, and the Senate Appropriations Committee met to compare state agency budgets within each chamber's figures. Those numbers that match will be set aside so we can focus on reviewing and negotiating the funding that we are not currently in agreement on.

The final budget numbers will also take into account the grocery tax cut that was passed earlier this year. While providing Oklahomans with much-needed relief, this cut does result in a loss of revenues in some areas, so we must account for that as we consider what other appropriations we will make this year.

In addition to legislative work, we took time last week to recognize Oklahoma's agriculturists and 4-H members at the Capitol. On Ag Day, we heard from a number of producers from across the state, as well as Secretary Arthur and other officials from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry.

We were also joined by ODAFF's Agriculture Youth Council, which is made up of distinguished youth who have already established themselves as leaders in the industry. I had the pleasure of presenting a citation to Tabrey Lierle, an Ag Youth Council member from Hydro, OK. It is always an honor to celebrate this industry and recognize those who keep it moving.

On 4-H day, I also got to visit with two students over lunch, Jenna Stutzman from Weatherford and Lilly Rousha from Arapaho. They shared more about the opportunities presented to them through local 4-H clubs and their current projects. 4-H extends beyond the agriculture industry and has many opportunities for students to learn about leadership, outdoorsmanship, health and wellness, STEM, and much more. I enjoyed getting to hear from local students as well as their 4H leaders as we celebrated this organization.

Please contact or visit my Capitol office the second floor if I can assist you with a legislative matter. My door is always open for constituents who have concerns or comments. You can reach us at Darcy. Jech@oksenate.gov or by phone at 405-521-5545.

RFBO: Volunteers Needed to "Stamp Out Hunger" on Saturday, May 11




Austin Prickett
 Marketing Manager

Volunteers are needed to help the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma sort nonperishable food donations Saturday, May 11 during the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

On May 11, letter carriers across central and western Oklahoma will collect nonperishable food donations from homes on their routes and bring them back to local post offices. Volunteers will be located at post offices in the Oklahoma City metro to assist letter carriers unload the donations and sort the food.

"Stamp Out Hunger is one of the most exciting days on the calendar at the Regional Food Bank," said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank.

Sign up for a volunteer shift at rfbo.org/volunteer. Volunteer shifts are available at various times and locations and can be registered for up until the day of the event. The minimum age to volunteer is 8 years old. Volunteer spaces are first come, first serve.

Donations will stay local and benefit a Regional Food Bank partner in the community where it was collected.

"We appreciate the OGE Energy Corp. Foundation for sponsoring Stamp Out Hunger this year," said Dykstra. "We encourage Oklahomans to join us for this day of hard work where you'll see the power of a community

working together for a collective cause, fighting hunger."

All nonperishable items are welcomed. Recommended items include peanut butter, canned tuna and chicken, canned fruits, pasta and canned sauce, soup and stew. Healthy food options are also needed, such as wholegrain and low-sodium items.

Stamp Out Hunger is presented by OG&E in 2024, following a generous grant from the OGE Energy Corp. Foundation. In addition to the foundation grant, OG&E employees will volunteer at a metro post office to sort donations on the day of the food drive.

"Stamp Out Hunger makes a real difference in the lives of our neighbors who experience food insecurity," said Christi Woodworth, vice president of marketing and communications for OG&E. "Supporting the Regional Food Bank in their vision of an Oklahoma where no one goes hungry is important to our company and the 2,300 people who work at OG&E.

Together, we can make a difference and we encourage everyone who is able to join us in the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive."

Financial donations are also accepted. Text "Food" to 501-501 to make a \$10 donation. Every \$1 donated helps to provide three meals to Oklahomans living with hunger.

For more information about the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, visit rfbo.org/stamp-out-hunger.

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Jon Chidester
 SWOSU Media Relatio

SWOSU Softball juniors Jady Hook and Maddie Rahon were named to All-Great American Conference teams on Wednesday night, announced at the league's awards banquet preceding the GAC Tournament. Hook was placed on the second team selection while Rahon was named an honorable mention.

Hook (Tishomingo, Okla.) picks up all-conference honors in her first year as a Bulldog. She led the team in batting average, at-bats, runs scored, hits, and on base percentage. She also proved to be one of the best hitters in the league, ranking third in the GAC in hits and fifth in batting average. At one point this season, Hook rode a 16-game hitting

streak. The Murray State transfer was a symbol of consistency for the team, starting in all 49 contests in 2024.

Rahon (Placentia, Calif.) earns a second-straight honorable mention selection. Her clutch hitting was evident all year for the Dawgs. She ranked first on the team in both RBIs and doubles. Her 11 doubles ranked fifth in the conference this season. On March 1 against Southeastern Oklahoma State, Rahon notched her first multi-home run game at SWOSU. She hit two home runs and batted in a career high five runs as well.

Hook, at second base, and Rahon, at shortstop, also turned the most double plays in the league this season.

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Smith & Brown Named Athletes of the Year



Jon Chidester
 SWOSU Media Relatio

The SWOSU Athletic Department hosted the 2023-24 All-Sports Awards Ceremony on Tuesday evening at the Pioneer Event Center in celebration of the past year in Bulldog Athletics. Ben Smith (men's basketball) and Megan Brown (women's golf) were labeled SWOSU's Athletes of the Year.

Other honors handed out on Tuesday were the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Awards, which were presented to Geoff Marlow (baseball) and Sola Tsuruta (soccer). SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton also presented the Cecil Perkins Service Award to Mike Brown in appreciation for his long-standing support of the athletic programs.

Smith (Edmond, Okla.) was a First Team All-Great American Conference selection this year as a senior, making him an all-conference player in back-to-back seasons. He's the fourth SWOSU player in the league's 13-year history to earn a first team nod. He ranked inside the top-10 in the league in a pair of statistics, averaging

17.4 points per game, sixth, and 6.2 rebounds, 10th. He became the fifth Bulldog in the NCAA era to score 1,000 career points at SWOSU back on January 27, and he tied his career scoring high on December 2 when he put up 28 points in a win against Southeastern Oklahoma State – a team who would later go on to win the GAC's regular season championship.

Brown (Cordell, Okla.) is currently the No. 6-ranked women's golfer in the Central Region with a 74.4 scoring average. She was named a First Team All-GAC selection earlier this month for the third time in her career, becoming the fourth women's golfer in the program's GAC history to earn first team honors at least three times. In the eight tournaments she's appeared in this season, she has finished seventh or better in six of them. At the 2024 GAC Championships, she shot the lowest round of anyone in the tournament when she carded a two-under 70 and went on to finish inside the top-10 at the conference tournament for a fourth straight year.

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