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Wright.Media Names Luke Clement as High School Sports Anchor



Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Introducing the new Sports Anchor for Wright Media Luke Clement! A rising star in sports broadcasting, Luke hails from Minco, Oklahoma. Growing up in the countryside, Luke was no stranger to hard work, assisting with cattle and various chores. There, he developed a sense for a strong work ethic and a love for the outdoors and physical activities, eventually translating into a passion for sports.

After graduating from Minco High School in 2022, Luke pursued his interest in sports and media by enrolling at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). There, he embarked on a degree in Mass Communication with a minor in Sports Management.

With his schoolwork, his journey into sports broadcasting also began at SWOSU where he started as a sideline reporter through Wright Media for the football games, gaining firsthand experience and honing his skills.

He then applied at Wright Media where his dedication and talent were quickly evident, and he signed on to aid with all manners of sports broadcasting.

Luke embraced the experiences fully, "I was doing exactly what I want to do after school." Soon, he took on the role of the voice for the Hydro Bobcats, calling numerous games for Hydro-Eakly. His engaging and energetic commentary resonated, solidifying his reputation as a dynamic sports announcer.

In April 2024, Luke's dedication paid off when he was appointed Sports Anchor, following Chuck Ramsey's retirement.

In this role, he not only oversees sports broadcasting but also connects with the community through various platforms. Luke hosts the Sports Recap every weekday morning and evening, offering listeners a comprehensive overview of recent sports events.

His passion for sports and broadcasting is evident in every game he calls and shines through in his enthusiastic commentary. The camaraderie provided by teams and their fans is electrifying, and he's excited for more opportunities to connect with more teams and communities.

"I'm proud to say I'm a Bobcat. I'll proudly wear purple," he declares, reflecting on the past sports seasons he got to call while acting as the voice for Hydro.

In his free time, Luke enjoys soaking up the summer weather with his friends and visiting his brother in Montana, relishing the chance to unwind and enjoy the great outdoors.

He invites fans and listeners to approach him at games and events, saying, "If you see me at the games, come up and say Hi."

Luke can be heard as a regular presence during the seasons on Wright Media stations: 99.3 KCLI, 95.5 The Coyote, and 101.7 The Zoo.



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Jean Gatlin

Ollie Jean Gatlin was born February 9, 1947, in West Carroll Parish, LA, to Daniel and Odell (Richardson) Johnston and passed away Thursday, May 16, 2024, in Oklahoma City, at the age of 77 years, 3 months and 7 days.



Jean was the 9th child out of a family of 13. She was raised and attended school in Louisiana. She worked as a seamstress and a cosmetologist while raising her family. They moved to Weatherford in 1979. Ollie enjoyed spending her days cooking, sewing, quilting, and crocheting. She especially enjoyed casino hopping and always made time for Mexican food and margaritas. Her greatest joys in life were her children and watching her grand and great grandchildren growing up.

Jean is survived by two sisters: Hazel Lasyone of Shreveport, LA; and Joan Bolding of Oak Grove, LA; her daughter, Betty Palesano and husband Alan, of Bella Vista, AR; her son Michael Gatlin and wife Katrina of Woodward, OK; her daughter Melissa Gilbert of Irvine, CA; grandchildren: Brittani Lierle and husband Brandon of Vinita, OK, Stephen Palesano and wife Mandy of Meridian, ID, Alison Palesano and fiancé Dakota Daniels of Ft. Smith, AR; Kenyon Gatlin and fiancé Manual Sam Chavez, of Orange, CA, Stephanie Warner and husband Jim of Weatherford, OK, Heather Williams and husband Kameron of Weatherford, OK; Jayson Gatlin of St. Augustine, FL; Dakota Gatlin of Mt. View, OK; Keifer Gatlin and wife Miranda, of Edmond, OK, and Jonathon Gatlin & wife Jessica of Hennessey, OK; twenty great grandchildren, and a slew of nieces and nephews she adored.

She was preceded in death by her parents, ten siblings, son Darrell Gatlin and granddaughter Hunter Gatlin.

Bobo Lunsford

Robert James Lunsford, a.k.a. "Bobo," was born May 26, 1987, to Lois J. Jackson and James Paul Lunsford in Clinton, OK and passed away Tuesday, May 20, 2024, in his Ft. Cobb home.



"Bobo" was raised in Colorado where he attended school. He moved to Oklahoma when he turned 18 years old so he could be educated and learn his Cheyenne/Arapaho traditional ways and heritage.

He was a proud member of the Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. He loved the native ways and traditions; he learned to bead and earned his income by making and selling his works of art.

He was baptized in the Catholic Faith; he loved to fish, he had a love of horses and just cruising with his family and friends.

He was an avid sports fan, and he favored the Denver Broncos, Oklahoma Thunder, Oklahoma University Football, and Colorado Avalanche Ice Hockey.

He enjoyed spending time outdoors, and he loved to sit and watch sunrises and sunsets. He thought the sunsets were so beautiful that it often would bring tears to his eyes.

Bobo is preceded in death by his brother William Lunsford and son Cole "Blue" Lunsford.

He is survived by his mother Lois J. Jackson (Thornton, CO); and father James Paul Lunsford (Amarillo, TX); his companion since 2015 Clarissa Whiteskunk (Ft. Cobb, OK); two sisters: ReNee Lunsford (Castle Rock, CO) and Cheyenne Lunsford (Amarillo, TX); and two brothers: Jesse James Lunsford and Sam Lunsford, both of Amarillo, TX.

He is also survived by three daughters: Mary Jane, Alexandria, and Mia; and three sons: Eliseo, Denver and Eli;

Becky Newlin

Jessie Rebecca "Becky" Newlin was born February 1, 1945, to Joseph and Mary Borjas in Chanute, Kansas. She passed away Saturday, May 18, 2024 in Oklahoma City, OK.



Inspired by her parents' determination and her father's service to our country in the military during World War II and the Korean War, Becky quickly pursued a college education after graduating from Capitol Hill High School in Oklahoma City, OK in 1963. It is at Central State College (aka University of Central Oklahoma) in Edmond, OK, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Language in 1967 and also met her husband Ed Newlin, during her Senior year.

Ed and Becky were married on June 9, 1967, and moved to Cushing, OK where they both taught school for five years. They started their family in 1969 with the birth of twins Rhonda and Ronald and added their second daughter Renee, four years later. Ed's career change into commercial printing moved the family to Elk City, OK in 1972. In Elk City, both Ed and Becky became very involved in the Jaycees organization. She was an active member of the Women's Guild at St. Matthew's Catholic Church as well as holding many positions within the Beta Sigma Phi organization.

Becky helped establish an Hispanic group, G.I. Forum, in Elk City in 1975 with the support of the Oklahoma City Chapter because her parents were members of that chapter. She held many officer positions, including President while involved and made many lifelong friends from that group.

Becky was the Founder of the local Zeta Zeta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Iota (Teacher organization), which was established in 1995 and was their first President. She was also the History Chair for the State of Oklahoma Kappa Kappa Iota. Becky was known by her students as "Senora Newlin" where she taught for twenty-four years in Oklahoma (she taught Spanish, English, French, Yearbook/Newspaper, and also received Teacher of the Year during her teaching career in Elk City). She also taught for ten years in Kansas before retiring.

Even after retirement, Becky continued her involvement, holding many Chair positions within the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association (OREA). Some of her recent positions over the last few years include the following: Chairman of Volunteer Hours Committee, Regional 3 Empathy Chair, and Philanthropy Chair.

Though not driven by accolades, her commitment to her community led to numerous recognitions by peers as well as a special acknowledgment by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma in 1979. Becky was selected as one of three "Outstanding Young Oklahoma Women." She served on the Oklahoma Hispanic Leadership Board, then was recommended for the Western Oklahoma State College Board of Regents where she served a term of seven years. Becky was the first Hispanic to serve on a State College Board of Regents in the State of Oklahoma.

While being retired, she enjoyed exploring and camping with Ed, spending a weekend at their home in Arkansas, and traveling to see her children and grandchildren in Texas and Washington.

Becky always looked forward to seeing her Coffee Group (Steel Magnolias) friends on Friday afternoons and spending the afternoon with her Lunch Bunch friends (Wednesday Lunch Group and the Mexican Ladies).

Cherishing her memory is her husband Ed Newlin; Children: Rhonda Heiser, Ron Newlin, and Renee Schuler; and Grandchildren: MalaKai Hallgrimson and Max Horrell; Brothers, David (aka Joe), Sam, Benji, Tom, Eddie, and Paul Borjas.

She is preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Mary Borjas.



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<p>Weatherford Church of Christ "Start the Party" Date: June 23rd-26th Age: Kindergarten-5th Grade Kickoff: Sunday, June 23 @ 6:00pm Monday: Wednesday – 9:00am-12:00pm Free Meal: Wednesday, June 26 @ 6:00pm Program: Wednesday, June 26 @ 7:00pm</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church "Camp Firelight" Date: June 23rd -27th Time: 5:30-8:00 pm Age: Pre-K-5th Grade (24-25 school year) Free meal for kids provided each day</p>	 Sign-up here
<p>Emmanuel Baptist Church Date: July 15th-19th Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm Age: Finished K-6th Grade</p>	<p>First Baptist Church Date: July 22nd-25th Age: Completed K-6th Grade Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm Register @ www.fbcweatherford.com</p>	
<p>Southwestern Christian Church Date: June 2nd-6th Time: 6:00pm-7:30 pm Age: Kindergarten-Entering 5th Grade</p>	<p>Pleasant View Mennonite Church Hydro, OK Date: July 8th-11th (Mon-Thu) Time: 6:00pm-8:30pm Supper provided</p>	

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Oklahoma Senator Jech Pushes for Important Bills Before May 31

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As we approach the constitutionally required Sine Die adjournment on May 31, the Legislature is continuing to work through the budget process and sorting through the figures that differ between the Senate and House proposals.

One of the main topics of discussion this session has been delivering a tax cut to Oklahomans. The Senate voted to eliminate the state portion of the grocery tax earlier this year, meaning Oklahoma families can see annual savings up to a few hundred dollars once the tax cut is effective.

Our work also continues on policy measures as we prepare final versions to be sent to the governor's desk. A few of the measures I've authored have already been signed into law, including Senate Bill 1713. This measure provides that school districts that purchase their insurance through interlocal cooperative agreements must have a board of directors that includes one member with 10 or more years of experience in property and casualty insurance and another member who is an American Academy of Actuaries member. Having the oversight of these professionals will make sure our schools have proper guidance and can make educated decisions related to their coverage, especially as insurance costs continue to rise.

Of the House measures I've worked on, four have been approved by the governor, including HB 3643, HB 3196, HB 3458 and HB 3460. These measures relate to several subjects from modernizing state recordkeeping processes; helping address the statewide shortage of large animal veterinarians; designating "Space Day" in Oklahoma to honor General Thomas P. Stafford; and providing that the Attorney General and Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority may

receive confidential records from the Oklahoma Tax Commission for purposes related to compliance, investigations or prosecution. It was a pleasure to work with our colleagues in the House on these bills that will benefit Oklahomans, and I appreciate the governor's consideration and approval.

As Senate Rural Caucus Chair, I am happy to report that the Rural Caucus has had many meaningful discussions this session.

During our weekly meetings, we've been joined by state officials including Attorney General Gentner Drummond, State Treasurer Todd Russ, Oklahoma Broadband Office Executive Director Mike Sanders, and Executive Director for the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority Adria Berry. We greatly appreciate these individuals and agencies for visiting with us and providing insight into their departments work in rural areas of the state.

In case you missed it, I recently visited with two Custer County students to discuss the importance of Agricultural Programs and the benefits they can provide to the next generation.

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.

As we wrap up the final few days of session, please contact my office if you have any concerns or comments. You can reach us by email at Darcy.Jech@oksenate.gov or by phone at 405-521-5545. You are also welcome to visit my Capitol office on the second floor.

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Krystal Blackwell / WW

Just Joy, a non-profit activity day center for adults with special needs, recently hosted an art gallery at the Etcetera Shop's Customer Appreciation Day.

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SWOSU Nursing Launches Admission Program for High Schoolers

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J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Media Relations

The Department of Nursing at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) has announced a new initiative: the Direct Admit Pathway (DAP) program, offering high school seniors a clear route into the traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

program from their freshman year. The DAP program caters to high-achieving high school seniors aspiring to pursue a nursing career, providing them with an efficient admission process and early access to nursing coursework. To qualify for the program, applicants must meet specific criteria, including

a minimum GPA of 3.8, a minimum ACT composite score of 25—or SAT score of 1200—and submission of a signed letter of intent.

Once admitted, students must maintain their excellent academic status and continue to fulfill specific requirements to remain eligible for the traditional BSN program. These requirements include satisfactory completion of pre-professional coursework, achieving a minimum score of 75.0 on the HESI A2 Entrance Exam, maintaining a minimum retention GPA of 3.25, and meeting regularly with admissions committee member to review progress and ensure compliance with program requirements. Benefits of the DAP program include personalized support and guidance from experienced faculty members. It offers guaranteed acceptance into the traditional BSN program, small clinical and lab groups facilitating hands-on learning, and seamless transition into SWOSU Nursing master's programs for further education and career advancement. SWOSU Nursing graduates can expect 100% career placement upon graduation. The Department of Nursing is committed to providing accessible pathways for aspiring nursing professionals. With its focus on simplicity and clarity, the DAP program enables students to achieve their academic and professional goals in nursing.

For more information about the Direct Admit Pathway program, including admission requirements and application procedures, please contact Dr. LeaAnne Hume at leaanne.hume@swosu.edu or Courtney Bryan courtney.bryan@swosu.edu.

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for Work Ready Weatherford



J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Media Relations

Work Ready Oklahoma (WRO) is hosting a Grand

Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Work Ready Weatherford center. The event will take place on May 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 1501 Lera Dr., Suite 5 in Weatherford. The community is invited to attend, meet the team, tour the new facility, and enjoy light snacks and door prizes.

In 2023, SWOSU announced a groundbreaking workforce development system, with an investment of \$6.1 million over five years. The WRO contract

was awarded by Oklahoma Human Services and is being led by SWOSU Project Directors Dr. Amy Barnett, Dr. Kalie Kerth, and Ms. Amy Martin.

Work Ready Oklahoma supports low-income Oklahomans by providing the skills and encouragement needed to obtain and maintain quality employment. The program focuses on the unemployed, underemployed, veterans, and individuals reentering society from incarceration. WRO's goal is to build a skilled and motivated workforce by encouraging community well-being

and economic resilience.

The program's Employment Centers, located across Oklahoma, serve as centers of learning and development. By offering comprehensive job preparation training, WRO helps participants build resumes, prepare for interviews, and improve their communication and interpersonal skills.

Employers partnering with WRO gain access to a diverse talent pool, reducing recruitment costs and enhancing community relationships. WRO's focus on long-term success, including ongoing support and coaching, leads to higher retention rates and a more stable workforce. By collaborating with various organizations in workforce and economic development, WRO leverages resources and expertise to support local employment challenges effectively.

The Grand Opening event is open to the public and will feature a ribbon cutting with the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce. Work Ready Weatherford is seeking partnerships with local employers and referral sources to further its mission of supporting economic self-sufficiency and community well-being.

Learn more about the program at www.workreadyoklahoma.com. For additional information about the event, please contact 580-302-9707. For information about SWOSU's involvement in the Work Ready Oklahoma system and its impact on the local community, please contact Toni Ruiz at toni.ruiz@swosu.edu.



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CUSTER CO COMM / THOMAS - Custer County Commissioners recently approved an interlocal agreement between Custer County and the city of Thomas for a street paving project, says District 2 County Commissioner Bruce Walker. The District 2 will replace asphalt with concrete along Highway 33 and 1st Street (County Road N2390). The city of Thomas was awarded a \$75,000 grant for the work.

THOMAS/ SIDEWALK PROJECT - There are multiple sidewalk construction projects going on in Thomas, currently. "One that we're finally going to be done with is Main Street," explained Mayor Jeff Gose. "There, we put sidewalks on both sides of the street from the downtown area to the school." Mayor Gose also says that another project in the works is on Missouri Street.

WEATHERFORD / NEW BUSINESSES - A few new businesses are working to open their doors in the city of Weatherford, soon. Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell provides an update on the opening of Goodwill and Hangry Joe's Restaurant, saying that late June to early July is the soft opening date for both establishments. Goodwill will be located in the Weatherford Shopping Center. Hangry Joe's location will be on East Main Street between Taco Bell and Luigi's Restaurant.

WEST OK / TORNADO CLEANUP - Clean-up and damage assessment is in full swing in Custer County and the surrounding area, following tornado damage. According to Custer County Emergency Management Director Mike Galloway, although all damage sites have been found in Custer County, evaluations are still underway. The National Weather Service says a survey crew found EF2 damage outside of Custer City.

HINTON SB / BOND - The Hinton School Board of Education recently decided to call for a bond election in August for improvements in the district. Matt Reichert is Vice President of Stephen H. McDonald & Associates Incorporated. The \$23.6 million bond would be used for a cheer, wrestling, baseball, softball, and track facility, including locker rooms, renovations at the multipurpose building, a Comet training center with a weight room, a classroom, and a saferoom project at the middle school and roof work at the old gymnasium.

WEATHERFORD / ROTARY - The Operations Manager of AMR, formerly Lifeguard Ambulance Service, was the guest speaker at Weatherford Rotary this week. Rick Bigger discussed the mission of AMR, with representing your patients' best interests being the most important role of an EMS. Bigger says the ambulance service went on 2400 calls last year and transported around 1800 patients.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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Alcohol causing problems? Alcoholics Anonymous meets daily at 928 W. Main, Weatherford. Call (580) 819-0727 for more information. **Christian Free Store** - Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK, Community Center** "Bible Study," Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public. **OK Parkinson's Alliance**, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford's Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. Questions? Contact OK Parkinson's Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@OKpa.org. **Iron Sharpens Iron** is a Christ-centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for May 29th - Brenda Anderson, Ethan Anderson, Betty Deela, Bobby Kyucates, Chandler Miller, Wayne Schoonmaker, Natalie Simpson, Sondra Smith, Kason Thomason, Heath Wright; **May 30th** - Keith Bodrick, Brian Brunner, Jonathan Coronado, Kayla DeWitt, Katherine Kreizenbeck, Gabriel Neely, Caleb Edens Rodolph, Gary Roller, L.T. Scott, Lloyd Shaffer, Cordelia Stephens, Krystin Turney, Ann Vogt; **May 31st** - Don Hendrichs, Brady Hickman, Robin Karlin, Vivian Kliewer, Cordelia Stephens, Rena Sambrano, Amie Upchurch, Gary Wade; **June 1st** - David Blake, Joshua Brittenham, Traci Brownen, Erika Cordes, Betty Dobbins, Clay Gilliland, Candace Kelley, Laura McKinsey, Arnold Miller, Linda Retzloff, Alison Slagell, Candi Williams; **June 2nd** - McKenna Albert, Sherreea Baden, Fran Brooks, George Browning, Sadie Burton, Julianna Leppke, Hillary Wise; **June 3rd** - Barret Cloninger, Kylee Crawley, Rachel Fast, Dr. Wes Levy, Justin Maguire, Stacy Strong, Belinda Thacker, Mavis Wilks, Becky Wood; **June 4th** - Jordan Nel, Hayden Boone, Jeff Brown, Ken Keeton, Bo Lovelace, Deb Mooney, Elizabeth Olguin, Larry Parker, Kendra Parkhurst, Heather Randy, Janice Smith, Laura Lynn Trent, Charmaine Yellow Eyes;

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West OK Cooperative Seeks to Revitalize Historic Sections of Clinton



Courtesy Ruby Payan

Members of the West OK Co-op along with residents of Clinton and Western Oklahoma congregate after one of their monthly meetings. The West OK Co-op invites any and all to join them in shaping a collective and multicultural vision for Clinton's future.

With the Route 66 Centennial just a little under 2 years away, several rural communities along the historic path of the Mother Road are expecting tourism to boom. These centennial celebrations, with the prospect of countless visitors, have created opportunities to redevelop and reimagine what these historic communities look like, and a community of artists and entrepreneurs based in Clinton are helping shape a vision for the future of Clinton.

The West Ok Co-op, described as a "a community of artists, art inspired entrepreneurs, and seekers that have roots in Western Oklahoma," according

to their website, is spearheading these community driven redevelopment efforts to engage travelers.

"The West OK Co-op is really focusing on the historic east side of Clinton, which, you know, just happens to be where our Route 66 is," said Jason Smith, Co-founder and President of the Board for the West Ok Co-op. While most visitors to Clinton are aware of the flagship Route 66 Museum that sits on the west side of town, Smith believes that Clinton has much more to offer visitors and that by developing the East Side of Clinton, they could get people to "slow down through Clinton, because the reality is that we do have an off-main main, so

sometimes you'll have tourists or even regional people here that don't even realize Clinton has a historic downtown because they just flew through on Gary Boulevard," added Smith. This slowdown also has the potential to dramatically affect the local economy.

But Smith is not alone. West Ok Co-op's treasurer, Andrew Stone, is one of the artists trying to drum up public interest and comments on their plans. "We're developing a series of projects, one being the exit 69 corridor into Clinton, that through a series of landmarks we can start talking about the history of Clinton, getting people to historic downtown Clinton and then developing an itinerary that's based around the storytelling of Western Oklahoma," said Stone, who is also a professional architectural designer.

Smith and Stone are currently planning to pursue grants and funds centered around Route 66, but they also want to ensure that residents of Clinton have a hand and voice in collectively developing this new vision of Clinton.

One of their greatest hopes is to ensure the representation of the various cultures that make up Clinton. They invite Clinton residents as well as residents of Western Oklahoma to join their open house meetings at their art space located at 613 Frisco Ave. They plan to hold open meetings every Tuesday at 6pm during the summer months, and they invite any and all who are interested to join them.

For more information about the West OK Co-Op you can visit their website at www.westokcoop.com or you can find them on social media.

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Financial Literacy Education Bill Signed for 2025

STATE OF OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Legislation adding a financial literacy course to high school graduation requirements has been signed into law.

House Bill 2158 was authored by Rep. Dick Lowe, R-Amber, who said empowering students to take control of their finances starts with education.

"Requiring students to master financial literacy before graduating isn't just about balancing budgets," Lowe said. "It's about laying a good foundation as they begin the next chapter of their lives by equipping them with the tools they need to navigate financial decisions thoughtfully."

The measure requires students to complete 1/2 unit of personal financial literacy coursework in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade. The coursework may be integrated into an existing class or taught on its own. HB2158 outlines certain topics to be taught, including retirement planning, investing, online banking features and credit scores.

"I proudly signed HB 2158 into law because students need these crucial financial literacy skills to thrive in their lives and careers," said Governor Kevin Stitt. "I'm proud of Representative Lowe for introducing this important piece of legislation, and I'm excited for the doors this opens for Oklahoma students."

"Housing is a basic human right, and homeownership is a dream for many," said Bryan

Hutchinson, CEO of the Oklahoma Association of REALTORS®. "Putting financial literacy tools into our students' hands is key to making the next generation of homeowners a reality. This bill better prepares Oklahoma's students to navigate the pathway to homeownership and creates the foundation for financial responsibility. The Oklahoma Association of REALTORS® was pleased to support HB 2158, and our 14,000 members sincerely thank Representative Dick Lowe and Senator Brenda Stanley for prioritizing this legislation."

HB2158 was authored in the Senate by Sen. Brenda Stanley, R-Midwest City.

"In addition to ensuring Oklahoma students receive a quality education, we must provide them with tools for success as they transition into adulthood," Stanley said. "It was an honor to work with Representative Lowe on this legislation that ensures young adults in our state are introduced to budgeting, investing, retirement planning, credit scores, home ownership, and other subjects related to personal finances. I appreciate the governor for signing this measure that ensures the next generation is empowered to make wise financial decisions following the completion of this graduation requirement."

HB2158 will take effect July 1, 2025.

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The Weatherford Athletic Department honored 6 individuals, as well as the 2003 State Runner-up wrestling team, for their contributions to athletics at Weatherford High School with the 15th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony this past Friday. Among the honorees inducted into the hall of fame were Henry Frizzell, Mike Smith, Michael Roberson, Courtney Harper, Trent Ratterree and Brent Bell. Selected by committee, these individuals embody the ethos of a Weatherford Eagle. Here are brief summaries of the honorees.

Henry Frizzell, while not a native of Weatherford, helped secure funds in the early 80's with other Weatherford residents to purchase the land where Eagle Field now stands. Frizzell spent countless nights volunteering to the help maintain the field, which was originally called Jaycee Field in honor of the organization that Frizzell led that secured funding to make the field a reality.

Mike Smith, a graduate of Weatherford High School's class of 1972 as well as a former Eagle athlete, would go on to have a successful 42 year career teaching and coaching high school sports in Oklahoma and Texas. Smith retired in 2021 after coaching for 25 years in Wolfe City, Texas.

Michael Roberson, a graduate of Weatherford High School's Class of 1991, competed on the varsity basketball and baseball teams during his time at Weatherford High School. Roberson's accomplishments on the baseball diamond during

high school help secure his position at 3rd base during the 1991 All State Baseball game and he helped propel the Eagles to the State Quarterfinals during the 89-90 season.

Courtney Harper, a graduate of Weatherford High School's Class of 2008, was key a key member of Weatherford High School's undefeated State Championship basketball team of 2007. Harper would win several honors during her high school career including All State honors during her senior year. She would eventually play college basketball as SWOSU and UCO and was inducted into the Oklahoma Basketball Hall of Fame with the 2007 Weatherford Lady Eagles basketball team in 2017.

Trent Ratterree, a graduate of Weatherford High School's Class of 2007, was an All State athlete in basketball and track and field during his time at Weatherford High School. But it was his passion for Football that would lead him to become a walk on for the OU Football team. He was a three time winner of the Derrick Shepard Walk of of the Year award and he was also a semi-finalist for the Burlsworth Trophy.

Brent Bell, was a standout multi-sport athlete from 1975-1980, but it was his transition to coaching Weatherford Sports in 1984 that cemented his legacy. Having played a crucial role in developing 8 state championship teams and 26 state champion athletes during his tenure at Weatherford, his commitment to students Athletes is unwavering.

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Courtesy WHS Athletics Department
Weatherford High School recently announced that Coach Kyle Null will be taking the helm as the schools new Athletic Director. Null has been working with Weatherford High School for many years as a teacher and coach several years and is also the WHS Dean of Students.

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