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SWOSU Reach Higher Reconnect Event for Adult Degree Completion



J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Public Relations

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) will host a “Reach Higher” Reconnect event on June 15 at 5 p.m. in the Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford. The event is open to the community and designed for individuals who have completed college credit but have not yet earned a degree.

Attendees will have the opportunity to speak directly with admissions personnel and advisors to learn about their options for degree completion. Recent graduates of the Reach Higher program will share their experiences and how the program has positively impacted their lives. Onsite enrollment will be available. Dinner will be served, and each attendee will receive a gift.

The Reach Higher Adult Degree Completion program is aimed at adults who have successfully completed some college coursework but have not yet finished a degree.

The program offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership with a focus in one of four areas: business, education, psychology, or technology.

Dr. Todd Wiggen, coordinator of SWOSU’s Organizational Leadership program, stated, “This program really works for adults who, for whatever reason, did not finish their degree the first time around or have completed an associate degree and want to get their bachelor’s degree. We offer flexible enrollment and online coursework. Students can set their own pace in completing their degree.”

“I have many students who may only take a class or two each semester due to other obligations, and I have those who will load up as many classes as they can to finish rapidly. It truly is about the individual and what works for them.” As coordinator and advisor, Wiggen provides personalized advising to ensure students finish in the most efficient way possible.

The program also has some tremendous scholarship opportunities for the upcoming academic year. “I fully expect to be able to provide many scholarships for both existing and new students in the program,” stated Wiggen.

To RSVP for the Reach Higher Reconnect event, visit the website bit.ly/3wXtpo2. Contact Dr. Todd Wiggen at todd.wiggen@swosu.edu for any questions.



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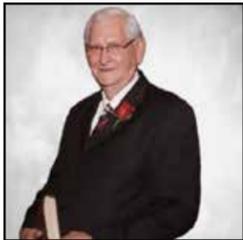


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Buck Nicholson

Darriel "Buck" Nicholson entered this world May 23rd, 1935, and was received into the arms of Jesus, his Savior, June 5th, 2024.



Buck was raised in a Christian home by loving and devoted parents Irvin and Nell Nicholson.

He always told of a man, named G.C Hill taking him rabbit hunting. Mr. Hill was never interested in hunting rabbits, but telling a young boy about Jesus. A few nights later during a revival, Buck asked Jesus into his heart to be his Lord and Savior.

Near the end of his senior year in high school, Buck surrendered to the Lord's call to preach the Gospel. His first public sermon was preached in his home church at Rocky, Oklahoma. When the invitation was given, a lady put her trust in the Lord. This marked the beginning of a 72 year faithful ministry.

On June 7th, 1957, Buck married Doris Patterson, and they began their 68 year journey together. During this time, he attended SWOSU and obtained a bachelor's degree. He later obtained a doctorate in theology.

He also started a monument company, which his family still owns and operates. In 2011, a radio based ministry, Spreading the Word, was founded. As its speaker, Brother Buck's messages can be heard around the World.

Buck enjoyed many activities, including spending time with his family, fishing, and antiquing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Harold, and daughter-in-law, Debra Nicholson, and a great grandchild.

Buck is survived by his wife Doris, and their three children: Robin Williams and husband Alvin, Mark Nicholson, and April Willoughby and husband Rodney.

He is also survived by 8 grandchildren: Levi, Baily, Nickie, Luke, Jakeb, Zack, Hope, and Wyatt, and 13 great grandkids, whom he loved dearly.

Mary Griffin

Mary Dale (Cavasos) Griffin was born February 22, 1940, to Lawrence Cavasos and Addie Lee (Espy) Cavasos on a farm SW of Leedey during a snowstorm and delivered by her oldest sister. Mary passed away May 27, 2024, in her Clinton residence surrounded by family.



Mary started her young life out in Clinton, OK and when she was two years old, she moved to California with her family. From early childhood through high school, Mary lived in both Oklahoma and California. She attended school in Wheatland, California.

She attended cosmetology school while in California. She worked in a Beauty Shop until she moved back to Oklahoma in 1978. She worked as a waitress at the Branding Iron Restaurant for several years while also running the Tradewinds Texaco until its closing in 1990.

Mary was talented in many ways and enjoyed gardening, ceramics, quilting, crocheting and painting. She also enjoyed traveling with Bill and loved her dogs and cats to the fullest.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers: Elmer Cavasos, Harvey Cavasos, and Earl Cavasos; two sisters: Ethel Mowles and Nina Dean Webb; longtime companion Bill Sorter; son-in-law Allen Russell; and grandson Josh Cook.

She is survived by two daughters: Janice Merrill and husband Kent; and Debra Russell, all of Clinton, OK; two sons: Lawrence Snider and wife Sandra, Clinton, OK; and Jack Snider and wife Mollie, Cordell, OK; sister Verna Mae Shelton of Thomas, OK; and 11 grandchildren: Janet Jones and husband Neal; Leanna King and husband Matt; Jeremy Fine and wife Jessica; Justin Snider and wife Courtney; Kim Weil and husband Cody; Chris Snider, Kyle Merrill, and Kalon Merrill.

She is also survived by 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Harold Miller

James Harold Miller was born October 23, 1942, to James Leonard Miller and Mary Magdeline (Reinke) Miller in Elk City OK, and he passed away Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital North in Oklahoma City, OK.



Harold was raised in Custer City where he graduated from Custer City High School in 1960. He married Zeida Frances Caldwell on November 12, 1960, in Thomas, OK. They made Custer City their forever home where they farmed and ranched their whole married life, together. James Harold Miller earned one of his highest achievements being a Centennial Farm in May of 2006.

He was a member of the Custer City First Christian Church where he served as Elder. He was a member of the Young Farmers of America where he did custom harvesting for several years with his family. He received the American Farmer Degree in 1962; he served on the Custer County Rural Water Board and was a board member for the Custer Co-Op for many years. He enjoyed playing cards especially Rook, fishing, hunting and supporting his grandchildren by going to stock shows and sporting events.

He is preceded in death by his parents James and Mary Miller

He is survived by his wife Zee, of the home, two daughters: Micki Urbanczyk and husband Mark, and Kathy Adcock, and one son Brandon Miller and wife Marci, all of Custer City, OK, and sister Alveta Taylor, Thomas, OK.

He is also survived by eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Reba Johnson

Reba Nell Johnson, 88, Elk City, OK was born on September 1, 1935, in Havana, AK, to Jasper and Ella (DeWitt) Owens. She went to walk the golden streets of Heaven on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Southern Plaza Assisted Living Center, Bethany, OK, surrounded by her loving family.



Reba married her best-friend and soul mate Donnie Gene Johnson Sr. on April 15, 1953 at Clinton, OK. He preceded her in death on September 30, 2019.

She enjoyed doing jigsaw puzzles, crocheting, quilting, cooking, reading, listening to music, and watching television, especially westerns. She could be found, spending time with her family and friends playing her favorite card game, Rook. Reba was a member of the 2nd and Adams Church of Christ, Elk City, Elk City, OK. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Reba is survived by one son Donnie Johnson Jr. and his wife Nancy of Elk City, OK; three daughters: Linda Sue Page and husband Jimmy, Hammon, OK; Debora Risinger and husband Gary, Elk City, OK; Barbara Ann King and husband Johnny, Yukon, OK; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents, four sisters: Esther Emerson, Mae Coppak, Leona Michaels, Lora Nail; and three brothers: Edward Owens, John Owens, and Charles Owens.

Carl Brewer

Carl Wayne Brewer, 57, of Odessa, TX, was born on March 19, 1967, in Sayre, OK. He is the son of Kenneth Gail and Loretta Ann (Harless) Brewer.



Carl went to ride the golden highway to heaven on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, TX, surrounded by his loving family.

He married his best friend Sheila Ann Chancellor on November 2, 1996, in Carter, OK.

Carl proudly served his country in the United States Army where he achieved the rank of Sargent. He was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, Army Lapel Button, National Defense Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/bronze star, Army Achievement Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia.

After serving his country for four years, Carl was honorably discharged in 1992.

He enjoyed working on cars, riding his motorcycles and spending time in his backyard pool during the summer. Carl really enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Carl is preceded in death by his father Kenneth Gail Brewer; two brothers; and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Cherishing his memory is his loving wife of twenty-seven years Sheila Ann Brewer of Odessa, Texas; four sons: Christopher Brewer of Odessa, Texas, Michael Brewer of Sayre, OK, Cody Brewer of Plainview, Texas, and Caleb Brewer of Midland, Texas; his mother Loretta Brewer of Burns Flat, OK; one brother Daniel Brewer of Dickinson, North Dakota; and one sister Amy Brewer of Burns Flat, OK.

Carl is also survived by five grandchildren, as well as numerous cousins, relatives and friends.

Wanda Williams

Wanda Lee Williams, 92, of Elk City, OK, was born on January 31, 1932, in Denison, TX. She is the daughter of Joe Henry and Jewel (Cherry) Sanford. She went to walk the golden streets of heaven on Friday, May 31, 2024 at Great Plains Regional Medical Center, Elk City, OK, surrounded by her loving family.



Wanda married the love of her life Arvin Junior Williams on December 9, 1982, in Waldron, Arkansas.

She was a member of the Assembly of God, Elk City. Wanda loved spending time with her family and friends and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cherishing her memory is her loving husband Arvin Junior Williams of Elk City, OK; two step-daughters: June Pruitt and her husband Muriel of Elk City, OK, Karen Sue Holley and her husband Blain of Elk City, OK; one son-in-law Ray Jones of Elk City, OK; seven grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; one sister Betty McWhite of Denver, CO; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Wanda is preceded in death by her parents Joe Henry and Jewel Sanford; and one step daughter, Patricia Jones.

Vacation Bible School 2024

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

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Date: July 15th-19th

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Age: Finished K-6th Grade

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

First Baptist Church

Date: July 22nd-25th

Age: Completed K-6th Grade

Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Register @ www.fbcweatherford.com

Pleasant View Mennonite Church

Hydro, OK

Date: July 8th-11th (Mon-Thu)

Time: 6:00pm-8:30pm

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SWODA Allocates Over \$2.7 Million in Grants for Rural Communities



Mary Peck / SWODA

SWODA executive director Debora Glasgow (pictured, left) presents Cynthia Gerhardt, Custer County Conservation District 88 manager, a REAP grant of \$88,357 for the purchase of a compact track loader.



Mary Peck / SWODA

SWODA Board trustee Anita Archer (pictured, right) presents Barbara Nurnberg, Corn mayor, and Chris Loewen, Corn city clerk, with a REAP grant of \$100,000 to purchase a garbage truck.



Mary Peck / SWODA

Mark Norton and Lisa Langely with "Elk City Meals on Wheels" were presented a CENA grant of \$9,995.94 for purchase of equipment.



Mary Peck / SWODA

Jeff Gose, Thomas mayor, was presented with a REAP grant of \$100,000 for a street overlay project.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Southwestern Oklahoma is poised for significant progress with the recent allocation of substantial funding for two critical programs aimed at bolstering rural development and enhancing nutrition assistance services. Local community leaders and partners from southwestern Oklahoma gathered at the South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA) in Burns Flat on April 19, where they were awarded crucial grants totaling \$2,753,015 for their area communities. The grants include \$2,590,909 from the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) and \$162,106 from the Community Expansion of Nutrition Assistance (CENA) program.

The announcement of these grants underscores the unwavering commitment of legislators from southwestern Oklahoma to the prosperity and well-being of their communities.

"We are very pleased to see this significant investment in the future of our communities," remarked Debora Glasgow, SWODA executive director. "The funding allocated by our legislators for REAP and CENA will have a tangible impact on the lives of residents, strengthening our local economies and enhancing the well-being of our most vulnerable populations. We want to thank our entities for coming to the event."

REAP, a cornerstone of support for rural communities since its establishment by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1996, continues to play a pivotal role in fostering economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents.

This substantial funding injection, made possible through appropriations from the State Legislature, will empower regional councils of government such as SWODA to assist county, conservation districts and municipal projects benefiting populations of 7,000 or less.

Complementing the efforts of REAP, the Community Expansion of Nutrition Assistance (CENA) program serves as a vital resource in addressing food insecurity and enhancing nutrition services across Oklahoma. Funding for the program is made available through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. CENA aims to expand meal provisions at senior and community centers, facilitate home-delivered meals, and broaden essential services at senior centers throughout the state.

Please read below to see all recipients and uses relevant to WestOK Weekly readers.

For additional information on the grant awards and related initiatives, visit www.swoda.org. For media inquiries or additional information, please contact Debora Glasgow at 580-562-5022 or debora@swoda.org.

Beckham County REAP/CENA Recipients

- North Fork Conservation District
\$100,000 (REAP), purchase skid steer
- Beckham County Rural Water District #2
\$100,000 (REAP), shop addition
- Elk City Meals on Wheels
\$9,995.94 (CENA), purchase equipment
- City of Erick
\$100,000 (REAP), street overlay project
\$6,000 (CENA), purchase food for Senior Center
- City of Sayre
\$100,000 (REAP), street overlay
\$2,407.50 (CENA), Senior Center facility enhancement

Custer County REAP/CENA Recipients

- Custer County Conservation District
\$88,357 (REAP), purchase compact track loader
- Town of Butler
\$72,802 (REAP), purchase pickup,
- Town of Custer City
\$100,000 (REAP), waterline replacement project
\$9,437.50 (CENA), purchase food and utilities
- City of Thomas
\$100,000 (REAP), street overlay project
\$1,926 (CENA), food and equipment for Senior Center.
- City of Weatherford
\$2,407.50 (CENA), purchase Nutrition Site equipment

Washita County REAP/CENA Recipients

- Town of Burns Flat
\$95,250 (REAP), street overlay project
- Town of Canute Senior Citizens Center
\$7,178.37 (CENA), purchase supplies
- Cordell Senior Citizens Center
\$8,975 (CENA), purchase food
- Town of Corn
\$100,000 (REAP), purchase garbage truck
- Corn Senior Center
\$2,407 (CENA), enhancement
\$9,622.65 (CENA), food/equipment
- Town of Rocky
\$100,000 (REAP), purchase bunker gear and packs
\$2,407.50 (CENA), purchase Nutrition Site equipment
- Town of Sentinel
\$100,000 (REAP), waterline replacement project
\$9,437.60 (CENA), food for Senior Center
- Washita County Conservation District
\$71,839 (REAP), purchase truck with a flatbed

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS

Mike Smith
News Director

WOCS Announces Last Students of the Month for 2023-24 School Year

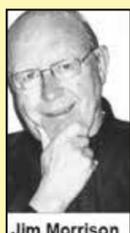


Provided by Jena Skarda / WOCS Admissions Counselor

Students of the Month for March (pictured, left) at Western Oklahoma Christian School in Clinton are Tytan House of Hydro (left) and Abigail Horn of Cordell. Students of the Month (pictured, right) for April are Darcy Funk of Clinton (left) and Emma Foster of Clinton. Dora Miller, Head of School, made the presentations. Students must show respect for their classmates, teachers, staff, demonstrate personal responsibility, and maintain a good attitude. Lucille's Roadhouse sponsors these awards.

HIGHER GROUND

Leveraging Your Life



“Don’t waste your life.” John Piper has written a book with those challenging words, exhorting us to not spend our lives on things that don’t really count. It is a difficult read in a culture bent on pleasuring ourselves to death. I’m sure I will be showing my age by this article, but maybe a few will take an inward look and examine their stewardship of that which God has given them.

I was privileged to grow up in a poor, yet stable home. From the ages of 7-14 I attended a community Sunday School, started by my dad and a couple of other farmers. No church or pastor was responsible. They ordered some David C. Cook materials for curriculum and occasionally a preacher would come by to deliver a sermon.

I was given a pocket-sized New Testament by my Sunday School teacher. This was my Bible for several years. There was no youth group, vacation Bible School, church camp, or mission trips. But amazingly, that little group was the foundation for a life that led me into the Kingdom. I didn’t know that I was underprivileged, as some would call it today.

Contrast that with the life of a young man I know, now 21, who is a single dad raising a little girl, age 1 and ½ with no car and an apartment with no furniture. He is working full-time trying to get his feet on the ground for a better life. He came from a home where his parents were divorced and have served time in prison from drug addiction. He didn’t drop of high school but finished with a GPA of 3.7. A moral mistake of fathering a child forced him to get a job to provide for his child, forgoing any college opportunity.

In a sermon by J.D. Greear, he used the parable of the talents as a basis for instructing us to examine our stewardship of the talents we have been given. To whom much has been given, much is required. But everyone of his servants were given something. Two the servants invested wisely and were able to double their investment for the master.

However, one of the servants hid his talents for fear of loss and added nothing for the master. The first two received a “Well Done” from the master while the fearful one received condemnation. Greear’s point was that we have all been given talents. He labeled them Time, Treasure and Talents or Giftedness. Are we leveraging them for the Kingdom? Granted, there are so many “good” causes that clamor for our resources that we become desensitized. But this must not blind us from the great needs of kingdom ministry.

Sometimes it is easier to give money than our time or talents. We crave our comfort and convenience. But when we became a follower of Jesus Christ, we forfeited the right to choose whom we will love. All God’s people were created in his image and are highly valued by him. Nothing we can do or not do that will make him love us more or less. Love is best identified not by an emotional feeling but by obedience. We love him (obey) because he first loved us.

Make an investment in someone’s life today, not looking for anything in return. C.T. Stubbs made the oft quoted statement: Only one life, will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last. Are you leveraging your resources for the Kingdom?

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

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ROJEM / HEARING - Western Oklahoma man Richard Rojem Jr. is scheduled for execution later this month in the 1984 kidnapping, rape, and murder of his stepdaughter. However, District 2 District Attorney Angela Marsee says a clemency hearing (at which Rojem’s sentence may be changed) will first be held on June 17th. Marsee says she plans to “request to the pardon and parole board to deny his clemency.” Rojem is currently scheduled for execution on June 27th.

WEATHERFORD / YMCA BUILDING - After the successful “Yes Weatherford” campaign election was held earlier this year, a new YMCA Community Center will soon be built in Weatherford. Mayor Mike Brown has announced that discussions with the YMCA are underway. The new facility is expected to contain indoor and outdoor aquatic, as well as a child care center. Additionally, Brown says the new facility could be upwards of 60,000 square feet, a step up from the current YMCA Facility’s measurements of about 48,000 square feet.

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CLINTON / WASTE DISPOSAL - Clinton City Council, acting as the solid waste authority has approved an amendment to a solid waste disposal contract with Republic Services, says City Manager Robert Johnston. Documents show the proposal is a 2-year disposal agreement with the first year, costing the city \$78 per ton and the second year costing \$82 per ton. The rate is based on Clinton publishing a request for proposal for privatization by the end of the first contracted year with Republic Services, which would be July 31, 2025.

CUSTER CO / WEEDON RETIREMENT - An Area District Judge says she plans to step down from the bench this year. District 2 Judge Jill Carpenter Weedon made the announcement, explaining that she is eligible for retirement after 25 years. Judge Weedon says her retirement becomes effective October 31st. Her replacement will be appointed by Governor Kevin Stitt. District 2 encompasses Custer, Beckham, Washita, Ellis, and Roger Mills counties.

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Happy Birthday Wishes for June 12th - Mindy Cash, H.R. Cornell, Brandi Estrada, Susan Gates, Victoria Gonzalez, Crystal Hamons, Carlewchee Hutto, Meisha Johnson, Jon Stinks, Fern Patrick, Chris Post, Richelle Ridling, Anna Ross, Javan Shaw; **June 13th** - Paige Barnes, Letha Brown, Kale Ellis, Sue Meacham, Antonio Mejia, Alicia Huss; **June 14th** - Tyler Bowman, Darlene Cardwell, Steve Crane, John Gerber, Amanda Greer, Andy Janning, Gina Leonard, Lillian McCaskill, Mark Roark, Cody Wilburn; **June 15th** - Brad Berrong, Charlotte Burton, Joe Chittum, Bo Felch, Jocelyn Gooch, Karen Harris, Addison Hoffman, Ellen Johnson, Joyce Sloan; **June 16th** - Dylan Biggs, Larry Dowty, Nicholas Gere, Jesse Hampton, Kayla Harris, Shelby Maggard, Denene Naufeld, Brooke Poeling, Corey Shirey, Jean Simpson, Kayla Thompson; **June 17th** - Katyn Albert, Amy Felgener, Erin Giles Dixie Palmer, Barri Hope Ryan, McKenzie Smith, Wannie Whiteshield; **June 18th** - Kambri Buckner, David Burton, LaDonna Cook, Mark Ferguson, Gary Fox, Libby Gregston, Kaitlin Keuhne, Julie Schneberger, Tara Vaughan.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
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Oklahoma History: Troy Ruttman, the Indy 500's Youngest Winner



Courtesy Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum

Troy Ruttman in his #55 Bowes Seal Fast Special. This photo was taken one year out from his AAA Sprint Car Championships.



"Doctor Indy" / Indianapolis 500 Historian

Ruttman's winning car from the 1952 Indianapolis 500 on display at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The year is 1945: sounds of roaring engines and baking dirt blanket a small, dusty quarter-mile oval track in Southern California. A mix of locals and curious onlookers gather captivated as a surprise spectacle paves the course, burning rubber and shattering beliefs.

Troy Ruckman, a dynamo from Mooreland, Oklahoma, was 15 years old at the time when he pushed his family's roadster to its limit during the race, winning 19 of 21 events, securing the title at the Ash Can Derby. Due to his age, Ruttman had to lie and enter in under his cousin's birth certificate to be eligible.

A few years later, at 17 and again lying about his age, he won the California Roadster Association championship, claiming the title and moving through the United Racing Association circuit with more success. The young prodigy was heralded as the most prolific racing talent ever on the racing scene.

Troy Ruttman, born on March 11, 1930, was a remarkable driver, who burst onto the racing scene with a rapid rise to prominence for his breakneck pacing and sheer dominance for several years in Southern California's circuit. In 1951, he won his first feature event in Salem, Indiana in a AAA sprint car race before continuing on to win the Midwest AAA Spring car championship.

He went on to win 2 more AAA Sprint Car championships over the next three seasons, competing in 51 races of which he won 16 and placed in the top three 28 times.

His prowess earned him the opportunity to drive the No. 98 car owned by racing legend J.C. Agajanian in the Indianapolis 500. Fast forward to May 30th, 1952, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway filled with the anticipation of over 150,000 spectators. Under the falling sun, long shadows stretched across the bleachers, attempting to cool the excitement stemming from the crowd as all eyes were on Ruttman's towering 6'3," 250-pound figure in his fiery red and cream Agajanian Special. Ruttman was 22 years and 2 months old as he synced up the ignition, adding to the thunderous roar in the air.

Moments later, the race began and after a grueling 492 laps, Ruttman took the lead from Bill Vukovich 8 laps from the finish. The crowd erupted, rising in disbelief as the young superstar held on to win the Indianapolis 500, the Greatest Spectacle in Racing. Not only was he the youngest driver to win the race, but he also set a record with an average speed of 128.933 mph. His win solidified his legend and to this day, he remains the youngest ever winner of the event. Shortly after his famous race, Ruttman got into an accident in a sprint car race in Iowa where he suffered a severe break in his arm.

The recuperation time was hard on him and after 2 years, he returned to racing but was not quite the same. Despite never winning another race, Ruttman's career continued with great placements and showings as he won the USAC Track Stock Car division title with points in 1956 and finished in the Top 10 five times in the NASCAR Grand National Series.

His victory at the Indianapolis 500 also earned him points to be the first of a small group of drivers qualified to compete at a FIA World Drivers' Championship race in the 1950-1960 period. He used that opportunity to compete in the 1958 French Grand Prix gathering 9.5 World Driver's points. Ruttman finished second overall in the three-stage Monza 500-mile Invitational Race of Two Worlds in Italy.

After retiring in 1964, Ruttman established a motorcycle and snowmobile business in Detroit. In 1992, he was inducted into the Indianapolis 500 Hall of Fame and the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame in 1993. A few years later, he unfortunately passed of lung cancer on May 19, 1997, just a month before a planned celebration of "Troy Ruttman Day" in his hometown Mooreland, Oklahoma. His passing marked the end of an era. His life, full of high octane, record-breaking victories and low personal struggles encapsulated a dynamic figure in racing always pursuant of the need for speed.

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<p>ACKLEY PARK</p> <p>FRIDAY: 5PM-9PM CAR PHOTO OP [AT] MUSEUM 7:30 CAR CRUISE 8PM SATURDAY: 9AM-3PM ART SHOW [AT] MUSEUM 9-3</p>	<p>VENDOR INFO</p> <p>CONTACT ELK CITY CHAMBER</p> <p>580.225.0207</p> <p>102 S. MAIN STREET</p>

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Dr. Reem Atawia (SWOSU) Honored with Early Career Educator Award



J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Public Relations

Dr. Reem Atawia from the Southwestern

Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) College of Pharmacy has recently been awarded the prestigious Early Career Educator Award during the 2024 American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) meeting. It recognizes Atawia's significant contributions to pharmacology education and her innovative approaches in the field.

The ASPET is a scientific organization with 4,000 members who conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research. Their work contributes to the development of new medicines and therapeutic agents to fight current and emerging diseases.

During the meeting, Atawia served as a judge, evaluation groundbreaking research. She also served as a co-chair in the workshop, "Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Dynamic Pharmacology Education," which addressed the rise of generative AI chatbots in healthcare and explored the benefits and challenges of using AI. In her presentation, "Optimizing Prompt Keywords for Pharm Education Excellence," Atawia provided her insights and expertise on the innovative use of artificial intelligence in pharmacology education, engaging with peers on this transformative topic.

Atawia's recognition at ASPET 2024 demonstrates her dedication to advancing educational methods and her leadership in integrating cutting-edge technology into the learning environment. The SWOSU community is proud of her achievements and anticipates her continued contributions to the field.

Dr. Reem Atawia presents her "Pharmacology Educators Early Career Award" (pictured, left), given to her during the 2024 ASPET Meeting (pictured, right).

Western Oklahoma Christian School Now Accepting Fall Enrollments

Jena Skarda
WOCs Admissions Counselor

Western Oklahoma Christian School (WOCs)

is excited to announce that enrollment is open for the upcoming fall semester, which is set to begin on August 8. Serving a diverse community of students, WOCs offers comprehensive educational programs at its three campuses in Weatherford, Clinton, and Elk City.

At the Weatherford campus, WOCs provides education for students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, while the Clinton and Elk City campuses cater to children from age three through sixth grade.

The three-year-old program was added last year at the Clinton campus and this year will be the inaugural year in Elk City. For the fall semester, the Weatherford campus has added fifth grade and has moved to CrossPointe Church, 701 N. Daniel, with plans for a building project to begin soon.

"I encourage families to consider what WOCs has to offer. There is no better investment than in your child's future," said Jena Skarda, WOCs Admissions Counselor.

Why Choose WOCs?

Western Oklahoma Christian School stands out with its array of exceptional features designed to foster academic excellence and personal growth:

- **God-Centered Curriculum:** God is the cornerstone of our curriculum, providing a solid foundation of faith with an inter-denominational focus.

- **Flexible Pre-K Programs:** Choose between half-day or full-day Pre-K options that best suit your child's needs.

- **Small Class Sizes:** Personalized attention and a supportive learning environment. WOCs's Pre-K and Kindergarten classes have a limit of 14 students, and Grades 1-6 have a limit of 18 students.

- **Challenging Curriculum:** Rigorous academics to prepare students for future success. Classes in music, art, computer, and P.E. (including basketball and track) offer additional experiences.

- **Convenient Locations:** We have campuses in Clinton, Weatherford, and Elk City.

In addition to its strong academic program, WOCs offers numerous services to support both students and families:

- **Scholarships:** Applications are available once a student has been accepted to the school (due July 1).

- **Financial Flexibility:** Tuition payment plans to ease financial planning.

- **Extended Care:** Before and after school care programs for added convenience.

- **Community Engagement:** There are opportunities for students and families to participate in community service projects.

- **Transportation:** Bus routes travel to our various campuses.

Enrollment Process

The application for admission is available on the WOCs website at www.wocs.org. To ensure the best fit for each family, the enrollment process includes a family interview. This personalized approach helps build strong relationships between the school and its families, fostering a collaborative and nurturing educational environment. The last step in the enrollment process is enrolling online.

Founded in 1987 with its original campus in Clinton, WOCs expanded to Weatherford in 2006, and Elk City in 2011. Over the years, WOCs has remained committed to its mission of providing a high-quality, Bible-based education. The school is accredited by the Association for Christian Schools International and the Oklahoma State Department of Education through the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Committee.

Contact Information

For more details on enrollment or to start the application process, please visit the WOCs website at www.wocs.org or contact the administrative office in Clinton at 580-323-9150.

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- WEATHERFORD: PRE-K- 5TH
- ELK CITY: 3-YR OLD- 6TH

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INFO: 580.323.9150

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SWOSU Women's Rodeo Eye Upcoming College National Finals Rodeo



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Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Five total competitors from the SWOSU rodeo program are set to compete at the 2024 College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) held June 9-15 at the Ford Wyoming Center in Casper.

All details of the event, including tickets, times, and streaming options can be found by visiting the official website, www.cnfr.com.

SWOSU Women's Rodeo was crowned the 2024 Central Plains Region Champs for the third time in four years and will send four from the team to compete – Hadley Tate, Libby Berger, Cheyenne VandeStouwe, and Braylee Ward. The team enters the CNFR having won their past three rodeos to close out the regular season. They've won five total this year, out of 10 events, and have finished outside of the top-3 just once.

VandeStouwe claimed the Central Plains Region Women's All-Around title and was the reserve champion in Goat Tying. She will make her second straight appearance at the CNFR after qualifying for the short round last year and finishing seventh in the average.

Meanwhile, a trio of barrel racers – who have each won at least one event this season – will represent SWOSU with Tate, Berger, and Ward all set to ride. Tate too was the region's reserve champion while Berger was fourth and Ward fifth.

Berger was T-15 last year at the CNFR in barrels and will also be making her second trip upcoming. Tate and Ward will both be competing at the national rodeo for the first time.

Dustin Sanchez, the lone cowboy on the CNFR qualifying list, makes his second straight appearance while at SWOSU in bull riding. He ended as the No. 4-ranked rider in the region.

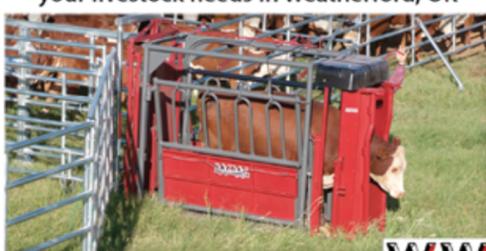
SWOSU Rodeo has a long tradition of success at the CNFR, with six team and 23 individual National Championships to their credit. The latest champion came two years ago (2022) when Sadie Wolaver took home a gold buckle in Barrel Racing.

Last year, the women's team finished in fourth place. They've now finished inside the top-4 in three consecutive years after runner up placings in 2021 and '22.

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Kit Mohr / USSSA Senior Photographer

The Weatherford Summer Softball Boosters in conjunction with the City of Weatherford and Big Show Productions, presented a banner to the team who traveled the longest distance to the 16B "Road to the Show" tournament site, which was held at the Weatherford Softball Complex as well as the Southwestern softball field.

The True North Trailblazers traveled 2,025 miles from Vancouver, British Columbia. Pictured with the team include Big Show Production staff, Weatherford Summer Booster Club members as well as some local players that played in this year's tournament.

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