

Clinton Rodeo Returns to Clinton Round Up Arena July 17th and 18th



CLINTON ROUNDUP RODEO

July 17 & 18
Adults - \$10
Kids 12U - \$5

**CLINTON RODEO
GROUNDS**
Rodeo Starts 8PM

The Clinton Rodeo presented by the Clinton Round up Club is returning to the Clinton Round Up Arena at Nance Rotary Park this upcoming July 17th and 18th. Along with the rodeo the Clinton Chamber of Commerce will host a Rodeo Parade on Saturday morning the weekend of the rodeo.

Scheduled performances for the Clinton Rodeo will begin at 8pm each night with tickets for adults priced at \$10 and tickets for children aged 12 and under priced at \$5 when purchased at the gate on the night of the event. Children aged 3 and under will be free. Advance tickets can however be purchased for a discount, \$7 for adults and \$3 for children, by purchasing through this year's Clinton Rodeo royalty candidates.

The royalty candidates this year include sweetheart candidate Emma Shannon; princess candidates Emma McIntosh and Brinkley Miller; and queen candidates Chloe Morris and Ally Townsley. For contact information to purchase advance tickets you can visit the Clinton Round-Up Club's facebook page.

The rodeo will feature bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, tie down roping, breakaway roping, barrel racing and team roping and is a IPRA, ACRA and KPRA sanctioned event. \$9,000 in added money will help pay cash prizes for the event winners.

There will also be several youth events hosted at the Clinton Rodeo including junior barrels for kids

aged 14 and under, pee wee barrels for kids aged 12 and under, and mutton bustin' for kids aged 5 and under and weighing under 50 pounds. Interested participants will be able to register on site with the club with mutton bustin' starting each night at 7:15pm.

Frisco Ave in Clinton will also shutdown at 10am on Saturday July, 18th for the Rodeo Parade in honor of the Clinton Rodeo. The Parade is free to enter and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce is encouraging all businesses, organizations, churches, teams, clubs, families, horses, floats, and side-by-side join them on Frisco Ave to "[show] off their western spirit!"

To sign up, contact the Clinton Chamber of Commerce by calling 580-323-2222.



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Wednesday

Partly Cloudy

H: 96° L: 75°
Thursday

Partly Cloudy

H: 99° L: 75°
Friday

Partly Cloudy

H: 100° L: 75°
Saturday

PM Storms

H: 96° L: 72°
Sunday

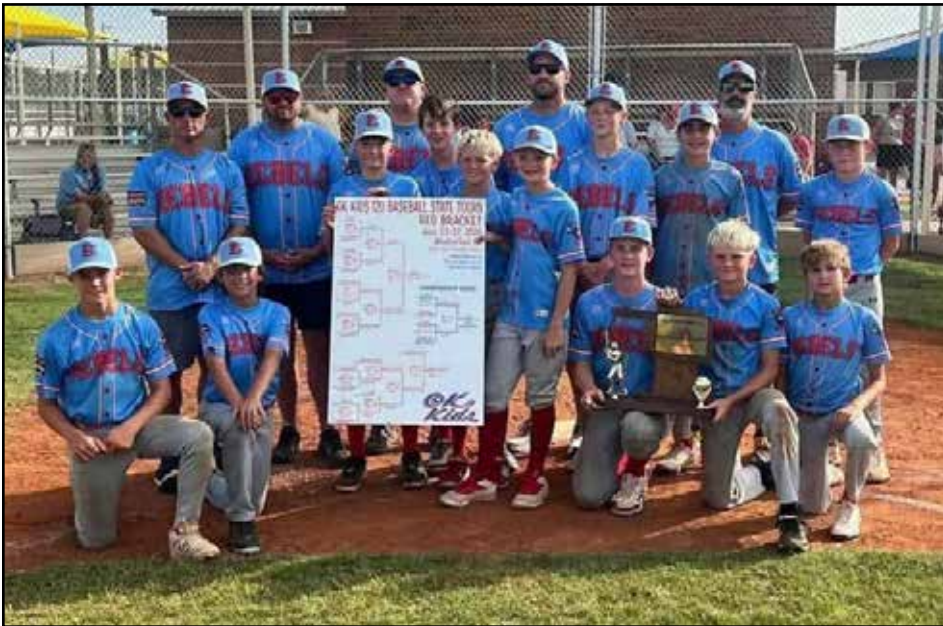
Mostly Sunny

H: 95° L: 71°
Monday

Mostly Sunny

H: 95° L: 74°
Tuesday

State Baseball Championship Games Sees Eight Teams Go Head-to-Head



The 12-and-Under State Baseball Tournament was hosted in Weatherford this last weekend. The Elgin Rebels (left) were crowned State Champions, while the Lookeba-Sickles Panthers (right) finished as Runner-Ups.

Oklahoma History - The “Medal of Honor”



Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The Medal of Honor began as a Civil War wartime decoration and evolved into the nation’s most exacting award for combat valor. Created by Congress in 1861 and signed by Abraham Lincoln to “promote the efficiency of the Navy” and became the symbol for the very values of the nation. The next year, The Army-specific Medal of Honor was approved and created in 1862, and thousands of recipients received the award. Over the next century, lawmakers and military leaders tightened the evidence required for nomination, redesigned the medal, revoked improperly issued awards, experimented with separate combat and noncombat versions in the Navy, and in 1963 fixed the modern combat standard that still governs the award today. Following the new guidelines, the Air Force was added with their own distinctive design featuring their coat of arms in 1965.

First, the Medal itself; Its light blue ribbon is instantly recognizable today, but it was new and exemplary when it was introduced during the Civil War. Congress first established the Medal of Honor for sailors and Marines in December 1861. Shortly after the Army’s version was approved, the first Army presentations came on March 25, 1863, when Secretary of War Edwin Stanton decorated six survivors of Andrews’ Raiders. The presentation was also changed and under current federal law, only the President presents the medal in the name of Congress to a service member whose gallantry and intrepidity rise above and beyond the call of duty in combat.

For years, many in service received the award with no validation backup. Not to say those weren’t earned, but in 1897, new rules were implemented that required eyewitness statements, recommendations

from someone other than the recipient, and a filing deadline. That governed the next several years as presentations continued under the new criteria. Then, in 1904, a couple of changes began again starting with the Army adopting the now familiar Gillespie redesign with the laurel wreath and the sky-blue ribbon.

In 1905, Theodore Roosevelt required formal presentation ceremonies. Then came one of the most consequential corrections in the award’s history: the Army review of 1916 and 1917, which removed 911 names from the roll after determining those medals had been improperly bestowed. Amidst backlash, the Medal continued to evolve with the Navy later introducing the Tiffany Cross in 1919 to mark combat heroism separately from noncombat heroism. That led to more controversy and discussions and ultimately, they abandoned it in 1942 by letting it fizzle out.

The decisive modern turn came in 1963, when Congress ended noncombat awards and wrote the three combat categories that still shape the medal today: 1) Actual Combat - The act must occur while a member of the U.S. Armed Forces is in actual combat with an enemy of the nation. 2) Personal Bravery – the deed must involve personal bravery or self-sacrifice that is clearly distinguishable from the risks inherent in the duty being performed. And 3) Above and Beyond – the heroism must be so extreme that it sets the individual apart from their comrades and justifies the highest honor. That set the official law that service members must distinguish themselves “through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.”

See HISTORY, Page 7

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

OKC Thunder-Themed “Book Bus” Travelling Down Route 66 This July



Provided by OKC Thunder / NBA

A kid exploring a stack of books with Rumble the Bison, the mascot of the Oklahoma City Thunder Basketball team.

**Rolling Thunder Book Bus Schedule
(July 2026):**

Tuesday, July 7
Arrowhead Center (Elk City)
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 8
Frisco Conference Center (Clinton)
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Wednesday, July 8:
Washita Theatre (New Cordell)
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, July 9
Centennial Park (Weatherford)
10 – 11 a.m.

Thursday, July 9
Hinton Public Library (Hinton)
1 -2 p.m.

The Rolling Thunder Book Bus, a statewide outreach program presented by American Fidelity Assurance Company, will be travelling to various community sites in Western Oklahoma this month. The Book Bus is a custom-built trailer truck that carries over 2,000 fiction and nonfiction books. The exterior of the Book Bus is decked out with Thunder colors and built-in television that allows us to showcase videos. Inside, you’ll find the shelves loaded with books, a locker with player autographs, jersey, player shoes and other Thunder memorabilia. The Book Bus has books for kindergarten through fifth-grade reading levels.

All of the books on board are purchased new and arranged by reading levels. A child’s visit to the Book Bus is free thanks to their presenting sponsor, the American Fidelity Assurance Company. On rare occasions, the bus has the privilege of hosting special guests like players and even Rumble the Bison. However, the vast majority of Book Bus visits take place without Thunder players, entertainers or other guests aboard. The Book Bus travels statewide, but during the school year, it is limited to a 30-mile radius in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The Book Bus often visits schools, museums, parks, libraries, community centers, and more.

All students in attendance will have the opportunity to go aboard the Book Bus and select a free book to take home. Prior to allowing students on the bus, a Thunder representative will speak with the group regarding the book selection process for approximately 5 minutes. Meeting with the kids ahead of time allows the Book Bus to familiarize attendees with the process and ensures their Book Bus visit runs as smoothly as possible. For more information about the Rolling Thunder Book, please, email BookBus@OkcThunder.com, visit their website at www.NBA.com/thunder, or call the Thunder’s NBA offices at 405-615-4010.



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CLINTON / SCHOOL SAFETY UPGRADES Clinton Public Schools Superintendent Nathan Meget highlighted upcoming plans to increase school safety during a recent Board of Education meeting. “When we talk school safety and security, we want to put some gates on the south side of CMS and CHS,” explained Meget, who went on to suggest installing some bollard vehicle guards. An additional measure will include updated signage to enhance safety within the district.

CLINTON / TORNADO BOWL PRESS BOX Clinton Public Schools Superintendent Nathan Meget provided an update on the future new press box at the Tornado Bowl to the Board of Education. “As far as the overall plans, we have visited with the radio station with Ashley Kelly, with our athletic directors and our coaches, and I think it's going to fit the needs we want,” explained Meget. “The ultimate goal is to put something on the other side for opposing teams, radio and coaches too, eventually; it may just be a manufactured piece that we set on the other side.” The initial estimate was set at \$1.9 million, but Meget explained that the price could change if additional work needs to be done to make the press box structurally safe, due to the structure being built on a hill. Construction plans have been sent off to GeoTech, with the school now waiting for a proper quote.

CUSTER CO / FATALITY - The Oklahoma Highway Patrol is currently investigating a fatal two-vehicle crash that happened Thursday, June 25, at the intersection of U.S. highway 183 and east 960 road in Custer County. According to OHP, the collision occurred around 4:55 p.m. Rodney Ray Neufeld, 75, of Custer City, and his passenger, Kathy Neufeld, 73, were both killed in the crash. Both were wearing seat belts. The driver of the other vehicle, 37-year-old Cody W. Stevens of Kingston, OK, was injured and is expected to survive. Troopers say the cause of the crash remains under investigation.

WEATHERFORD / PAGEANT - The Performing Arts Center on the Weatherford High School campus will be the site for the 2027 Miss Oklahoma Ultimate USA State Pageant. The event will be held January 29th-31st as contestants from across Oklahoma take the stage to compete for the opportunity to represent the state at the national pageant in Florida.

BURNS FLAT / SPACEPORT - A lot of progress is being made at the Oklahoma Spaceport in Burns Flat, now known as the “Infinity One Oklahoma Spaceport.” Senator Darcy Jech says more tenants are relocating to the site. “There’s a new tenant called HOP Aero, and that’s a startup rocket company,” explained Jech. “They’ve done several successful test fires with one of his rocket motors. They’re working with SWOSU on some team opportunities, and they even hired a SWOSU grad [from Corn] to be on their team.” Senator Jech expressed that the activity at the spaceport is good for rural Oklahoma. “Another company called Firewall Forward leased one of the buildings there, and they're moving their entire airplane piston motor operation from Colorado to the spaceport.” Jech explained. “They’re going to have approximately 10 to 15 full-time equivalents, so there’s [going to be] a lot of activity going on at that Spaceport.”

CLINTON / DUERKSEN - Clinton High School Vocal Music Director Kimberly Duerksen was recently honored with the Transformative Teacher Award at the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute. Duerksen is now the first rural teacher and first Clinton teacher to receive the prestigious honor. The award recognizes instructors who have made a profound impact on the lives and artistic journeys of their students through their dedication to their craft and commitment as educators.

CUSTER CO/BRIDGES-A Weatherford man is due back in Custer County District Court on August 13th for a preliminary hearing on a charge of first-degree manslaughter in commission of a misdemeanor. 25-year-old Jonathan David Bridges is charged with shooting and killing another person at 406 Texas Street in Weatherford in November of last year.

WEATHERFORD / TRAINING FACILITY- The Weatherford Regional Training Facility, located on Airport Road, will soon be renovated. “One area had a bunch of bathrooms and one shower. [Renovators are] going in and making two big bathrooms with ADA compliant showers, redoing a little kitchenette area that was in there, and then making the EOC larger,” explained Fire Chief Kory Selman. The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management is partially funding the project with grant funding through the American Rescue Plan Act.



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Happy Birthday Wishes for July 1 - Chelsie Austin, Billy Cling, JoJo Hardage, Jackie Helt, Debbie Kaufman, Katie Kennemer, Max McKinsey, Stephanie Peck, Caleb Shook, Bev Swaney, Dr. Paul Tisdal; **July 2** - Leticia Contreras, Jaqueatta Cummings, Taylor Exinia, Lois Griffin, Lois Heinrichs, Rachel Lundstrom, Mary Beth Mendez, Michael Perez, Myron Webb; **July 3** - Ellen Arnold, Taylor Carder, Cameron Hines, Ryan Merrill; **July 4** - Alicia Allen, Cheryl Bell, Riley Bryson, D’Arsi Christensen, DeWayne Crawley, Anita Fransen, Mary Lou Kaiser, Jenna Maddox, Haley Merrill, Kristine Moreno, Danny Rhodes; **July 5** - Alecia DePasa, Renae McGregor, Milburn Outhier, Dana VanHuss; **July 6** – Jenifer Edler, Jenn Gemaehlich, Allison Gossen, Trey Graybill, Eugene Hunnicutt, Campbell Jacobsma, Kadie Lucas, Ashley Oliver, Leslie Panana, Tiffany Parrish, Alicia Wingo, Scott Woodall; **July 7th** – Clausia Estala, Francisco Estala, Lylah-Ann Hanson, Ruth Kidd, Hollis Lee, Pat Pope, Allison Richardson, Daniel Rodriguez, Mike Roulet, Philip Smith, Brendon Stain, Doyle Taylor, Alex Tompkins, Dennis Vermillion.

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Grocery <table><tr><td>American Beauty Pasta, 16oz. (All Varieties)</td><td>2 for \$3.00</td></tr><tr><td>Ragu Spaghetti Sauce (All Varieties)</td><td>2 for \$5.00</td></tr><tr><td>Smucker's Strawberry Spread, 20oz. Squeeze</td><td>\$2.98</td></tr><tr><td>Rotel Tomatoes and Green Chilis, 10oz. (All Varieties)</td><td>2 for \$4.00</td></tr><tr><td>Tree Top Apple Juice, 64oz.</td><td>\$3.78</td></tr><tr><td>JJ Pies (All Varieties)</td><td>\$0.69</td></tr><tr><td>Keebler Crackers (All Varieties)</td><td>2 for \$8.00</td></tr><tr><td>Cheez It's (All Varieties)</td><td>2 for \$8.00</td></tr><tr><td>Food Club Hamburger or Hot Dog Buns</td><td>2 for \$3.00</td></tr><tr><td>Velveeta, 2 lb. Box (All Varieties)</td><td>\$7.98</td></tr><tr><td>Crav'n Honey Grahams, 14.4oz.</td><td>2 for \$4.00</td></tr><tr><td>Hershey Milk Chocolate Bars, 4.4oz.</td><td>\$2.98</td></tr><tr><td>Food Club Marshmallows, 16oz.</td><td>2 for \$4.00</td></tr><tr><td>Wolf Brand Chili, 15oz. (All Varieties)</td><td>2 for \$4.00</td></tr><tr><td>On-The-Border Tortilla Chips</td><td>\$3.29</td></tr><tr><td>Food Club Cake Mix (All Varieties)</td><td>5 for \$5.00</td></tr><tr><td>Food Club Potato Chips (All Varieties)</td><td>2 for \$5.00</td></tr><tr><td>Pepsi & Mt. Dew, 24 Pack</td><td>\$9.99</td></tr></table>		American Beauty Pasta, 16oz. (All Varieties)	2 for \$3.00	Ragu Spaghetti Sauce (All Varieties)	2 for \$5.00	Smucker's Strawberry Spread, 20oz. Squeeze	\$2.98	Rotel Tomatoes and Green Chilis, 10oz. (All Varieties)	2 for \$4.00	Tree Top Apple Juice, 64oz.	\$3.78	JJ Pies (All Varieties)	\$0.69	Keebler Crackers (All Varieties)	2 for \$8.00	Cheez It's (All Varieties)	2 for \$8.00	Food Club Hamburger or Hot Dog Buns	2 for \$3.00	Velveeta, 2 lb. Box (All Varieties)	\$7.98	Crav'n Honey Grahams, 14.4oz.	2 for \$4.00	Hershey Milk Chocolate Bars, 4.4oz.	\$2.98	Food Club Marshmallows, 16oz.	2 for \$4.00	Wolf Brand Chili, 15oz. (All Varieties)	2 for \$4.00	On-The-Border Tortilla Chips	\$3.29	Food Club Cake Mix (All Varieties)	5 for \$5.00	Food Club Potato Chips (All Varieties)	2 for \$5.00	Pepsi & Mt. Dew, 24 Pack	\$9.99	Produce <table><tr><td>Cantaloupe</td><td>2 for \$5.00</td></tr><tr><td>Fancy Sweet Corn, 4 count tray pack</td><td>\$2.99</td></tr><tr><td>U.S. # 1 Russet Potatoes, 10lb. Bag</td><td>\$2.99</td></tr><tr><td>Blueberries-Blackberries-Raspberries, 6oz.</td><td>2 for \$5.00</td></tr><tr><td>Yellow or Zucchini Squash</td><td>\$1.49</td></tr><tr><td>Washington Red Cherries</td><td>\$3.49 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Seedless Watermelon</td><td>\$6.99 each</td></tr></table> Frozen <table><tr><td>Blue Bunny Ice Cream 46-48oz.</td><td>\$4.99</td></tr><tr><td>Ore Ida Frozen Potatoes (All Varieties)</td><td>\$3.98</td></tr><tr><td>Pictsweet Breaded Okra, 24oz.</td><td>\$3.98</td></tr><tr><td>Village Pie Maker Pies (All Varieties)</td><td>\$14.78</td></tr><tr><td>Cool Whip, 8oz. (All Varieties)</td><td>\$2.28</td></tr></table> Meat <table><tr><td>New York Strip Steak</td><td>\$15.99 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Trimmed Brisket</td><td>\$6.99 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Pork Spare Ribs</td><td>\$3.29 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops</td><td>\$2.99 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Opa's Smoked Sausage, 16oz. (All Varieties)</td><td>\$6.99</td></tr><tr><td>BarS Classic Franks, 12oz.</td><td>\$1.79</td></tr><tr><td>Jalapeno Poppers, 9oz.</td><td>\$5.19</td></tr></table> Dry Grocery <table><tr><td>Simply Done Heavy Duty Foil</td><td>\$2.98</td></tr><tr><td>Charking Charcoal, 15.4 lb. Bags (All Varieties)</td><td>\$5.98</td></tr><tr><td>Solo Paper Plates, 44 count</td><td>\$3.99</td></tr></table>	Cantaloupe	2 for \$5.00	Fancy Sweet Corn, 4 count tray pack	\$2.99	U.S. # 1 Russet Potatoes, 10lb. Bag	\$2.99	Blueberries-Blackberries-Raspberries, 6oz.	2 for \$5.00	Yellow or Zucchini Squash	\$1.49	Washington Red Cherries	\$3.49 lb.	Seedless Watermelon	\$6.99 each	Blue Bunny Ice Cream 46-48oz.	\$4.99	Ore Ida Frozen Potatoes (All Varieties)	\$3.98	Pictsweet Breaded Okra, 24oz.	\$3.98	Village Pie Maker Pies (All Varieties)	\$14.78	Cool Whip, 8oz. (All Varieties)	\$2.28	New York Strip Steak	\$15.99 lb.	Trimmed Brisket	\$6.99 lb.	Pork Spare Ribs	\$3.29 lb.	Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops	\$2.99 lb.	Opa's Smoked Sausage, 16oz. (All Varieties)	\$6.99	BarS Classic Franks, 12oz.	\$1.79	Jalapeno Poppers, 9oz.	\$5.19	Simply Done Heavy Duty Foil	\$2.98	Charking Charcoal, 15.4 lb. Bags (All Varieties)	\$5.98	Solo Paper Plates, 44 count	\$3.99
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Courtesy Medal of Honor Society
Staff Sergeant Melvin Morris, a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was presented his medal on March 18, 2014, at the White House by President Barack Obama.



Courtesy Medal of Honor Society
Lt. Jack C. Montgomery, a WWII veteran. His Medal was presented on January 10, 1945 at the Oval Office by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Courtesy Medal of Honor Society
Specialist Five Dwight W. Birdwell, a veteran of the Vietnam War. Presented Medal on July 5, 2022, at the White House by President Joseph Biden, Jr.



Courtesy Medal of Honor Society
Second Lt. Ernest "Chief" Childers (highest rank Colonel), WWII. His medal was presented by Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers on the battlefield in Naples, Italy.

HISTORY

Continued from Page 3

With one more round of physical adjustments, by 1965, the branches of the military each had their own unique medal design. And for rulings, finally, in 2013, Congress set the current time limits for Medal of Honor recommendations: that individuals must receive a recommendation within three years of valorous action and that the Medal must be presented within five years.

Of the millions who have served the nation, more than 3,500 men and women have received this highest award for valor. The Oklahoma Historical Society lists a broad roster of Medal of Honor recipients that were either born in the state or have personal ties to it, with Governor Kevin Stitt stating there are 36 Medal of Honor recipients from Oklahoma. In 2024, these recipients were honored at the Oklahoma State Capitol with a dedicated Medal of Honor War Memorial and a permanent physical plaque honoring them in the Hall of Heroes. Out of the three living recipients, Specialist Dwight W. Birdwell (raised in Oklahoma) and SSgt Earl Plumlee (born in Clinton, OK) attended the event. Other memorials or foundations list Oklahoma-born or Oklahoma-accredited state recipients between 22-36 members, all coming from conflicts ranging from World War II to Afghanistan.

Let's look at four of these thirty-six Oklahoma figures whose stories illuminate the medal's evolution: Ernest Childers, Jack C. Montgomery, Melvin Morris, and Dwight W. Birdwell. Childers and Montgomery show the award in its World War II maturity. Morris and Birdwell show the later decades, when the nation revisited older cases and corrected honors.

Ernest Childers and Jack C. Montgomery were both Oklahoma Natives, both Native men, both graduates of Chilocco Indian Agricultural School, and both soldiers of the 180th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division in Italy.

Ernest Childers, born in Broken Arrow and a member of the Muscogee Nation, was a Second Lieutenant in Company C, 180th Infantry, when his unit came under intense fire near Oliveto, Italy, on September 22, 1943. Although he had already suffered a fractured instep, Childers advanced uphill with eight enlisted men, killed two snipers, destroyed two machine gun positions, and captured an enemy mortar observer. The National WWII Museum identifies him as the first Native American to receive the Medal of Honor in World War II. Official congressional remarks later noted that he also received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Jack C. Montgomery, born at Long in Sequoyah County and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, fought in the same regiment and same division. The moment he's honored for happened near Padiglione, Italy, on February 22, 1944. When he faced three enemy positions layered in depth just ahead of his platoon. Armed with an M1 rifle and grenades, he crawled forward, assaulted the nearest strongpoint, called artillery on a house sheltering more defenders, pressed the second position, and then charged the house itself across open ground. His official citation credits him with 11 enemy dead, 32 prisoners, and an unknown number of wounded before he was himself seriously wounded later the same day. VA history pages credit Montgomery with the Medal of Honor, two Silver Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

Melvin Morris, born in Okmulgee, was part of the Vietnam generation and the long politics of recognition. Serving near Chi Lang on September 17, 1969, Morris learned that a fellow team commander had been killed near an enemy bunker. He reorganized his men, pushed forward under fire, returned two wounded soldiers to friendly lines, then charged ahead alone, destroying enemy positions with grenades, eliminating four bunkers, and carrying his fallen comrades back while wounded three times.

Morris eventually received the Medal of Honor in March 2014 as one of the 24 veterans recognized after a Defense Department review meant to address long standing disparities in earlier awards, the Valor Review. Army sources also credit him with the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, and Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, among other decorations.

Dwight W. Birdwell, though born in Amarillo, grew up in Bell in Adair County, graduated from Stilwell High School, and is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. On January 31, 1968, during the attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base in the opening hours of the Tet Offensive, Birdwell rescued his wounded tank commander, climbed into the exposed hatch of a disabled tank, and kept firing with the main gun, machine gun, rifle, and recovered helicopter weapons until he was wounded in the face, neck, chest, and arms. He refused evacuation, rallied other soldiers, redistributed ammunition, and helped hold the line. For that, he had originally received a Silver Star. More than fifty years later, after renewed review, that recognition was upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Official Army records also credit him with a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

Each individual that has received the reward is exemplary, and it's inspiring to have many from Oklahoma. Whose names you can see on the plaque and memorial at the Oklahoma State Capitol, the only U.S. state to feature a permanently installed plaque honoring its Congressional Medal of Honor recipients within its State Capitol building. It's on the second floor in the Hall of Heroes.

There is also the new and wonderful National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas that focuses on educating and celebrating the legacy of the Medal of Honor and its recipients. It's a 101,000-square foot architectural marvel that honors the over 3,000 recipients with interactive displays, a theater showing mini-documentaries of members, first-hand accounts from the recipients about their experiences, and other exhibits.

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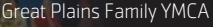
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Colby Bryer Named SWOSU's Coordinator of Advancement / Athletic Media and Operations



WELCOME

COLBY BRYER

COORDINATOR OF ADVANCEMENT, ATHLETIC MEDIA & OPERATIONS



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Athletics has announced the hiring of Colby Bryer as Coordinator of Advancement/ Athletic Media & Operations.

Bryer transitions into the full-time role after serving the SWOSU Office of Institutional Advancement/SWOSU Foundation, Inc. and SWOSU Athletic Department in multiple capacities since 2020, including as a student worker, graduate assistant and contract employee. He will now serve both areas full time as part of a collaborative position supporting institutional advancement and athletics.

In his new position, Bryer will support creative media and digital content initiatives for the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., SWOSU Athletic Association, SWOSU Alumni Association, and the SWOSU Athletic Department.

His responsibilities include graphic design, photography, videography, social media strategy, branding, donor communications and storytelling efforts that strengthen engagement with the Bulldog community. He will also provide support to SWOSU's gameday operations effort.

A native of Forgan, OK, Bryer earned both a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design (2024) and a Master of Education in Sports Management (2026) from SWOSU. During his time on the Hilltop, Bryer has played a key role in expanding the visibility of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. and Bulldog Athletics through creative content and strategic communication while also contributing to marketing and outreach initiatives across the university. Bryer also serves as a Video Coordinator for the Great American Conference, assisting with championship events throughout the league

Meyer Adds ABCA/Rawlings All-Region Honor



AMERICAN BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

ALL-REGION

SECOND TEAM

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Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Baseball senior third baseman Landon Meyer collected his third all-region honor of the postseason after being named a Second Team ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Division II Central All-Region selection.

The American Baseball Coaches Association recognition adds to Meyer's postseason resume after he previously earned First Team All-Central Region honors from both the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) and the Division II Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA).

Meyer, a First Team All-GAC selection and SWOSU's team MVP, turned in one of the top offensive seasons in the Great American Conference in 2026.

He started all 48 games for the Bulldogs while batting .349 with 61 runs scored, 10 home runs, 45 RBI, and nine doubles.

His 61 runs scored led the GAC, while his team-leading 10 home runs ranked tied for 10th in the conference. Meyer also recorded 18 multi-hit games, drove in runs in 25 contests, and earned GAC Player of the Week honors once during the season.

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