

## Route 66 Classic Returns to Rader Park Ag Expo Center in Weatherford



Weatherford Ag Expo Center - North end of Rader Park

| Sheep/Goat Show            | FRI     | SAT     | Gilt/Barrow Show           |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------|
| \$25 PER HEAD<br>CASH ONLY | July 17 | July 18 | \$25 PER HEAD<br>CASH ONLY |
| 5:30 PM<br>CARDS DUE       |         |         | 5:00 PM<br>CARDS DUE       |
| 6:00 PM<br>SHOWMANSHIP     |         |         | 5:30 PM<br>SHOWMANSHIP     |

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**Todd Wilson** ☎(580)330-2773  
**Corey Pritchard** ☎(580)819-2172

**Alexander Shook**  
WOK Contributor

The annual Route 66 Classic Summer Showdown is scheduled to return on Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18, at the Weatherford Ag Expo Center on the north end of Rader Park.

Friday's sheep and goat expos will see up to five separate shows, with the first starting at 6 PM. The livestock presented will be divided by sex, weight, and other features. Among each category, the Top 3 Champions will be awarded up to \$500.

Starting at 5:30 PM, Saturday's swine expos will be divided up into 22 categories, primarily based on breed. The Top 5 Champions will be recognized at the end of each show, awarding these students with up to \$1,000.

Participation in the show will cost \$25 per animal (or head) registered, with an additional \$10 per reserved pin. Ringside photographers will be taking free photos of students showing off their livestock in both shows. Both days will feature concession stands, with Sullivan Supply on location to sell a wide array of grooming products. Additionally, all money put into the show will be paid back to students in one way or another.

"We have students that travel to Weatherford from Texas to Kansas for the 100% payback policy," explained Kelly Wilson, Vice Principal of Weatherford High School. "Even kids that don't win will be registered for door prizes, including brushes, supplements, and hair care products for their animals."

To register or to learn more, please scan the QR Code on the left. Students travelling from out-of-town will be given a discounted rate to stay at Lucille's Hotel.



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H: 91° L: 68°  
Wednesday

Partly Cloudy

H: 88° L: 69°  
Thursday

Partly Cloudy

H: 87° L: 70°  
Friday

Mostly Sunny

H: 93° L: 72°  
Saturday

Sunny

H: 98° L: 74°  
Sunday

Mostly Sunny

H: 98° L: 74°  
Monday

Partly Cloudy

H: 98° L: 73°  
Tuesday

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**Johnson Named RFBO’s Chief Impact Officer**



**Audrey Johnson**  
Marketing Specialist

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is pleased to welcome Jason Johnson to the organization as its new chief impact officer. In his role, Johnson will provide leadership to the Regional Food Bank's partner network along with the Food for Communities, Food for Health, Food for Kids and Food for Seniors Programs as well as the Regional Food Bank Food & Resource Center.

"The Regional Food Bank is excited to welcome Jason to our mission. He brings a proven track record of overseeing comprehensive initiatives and will bring a collaborative approach to our important work fighting hunger in Oklahoma," said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank.

Johnson has more than 20 years of experience across higher education leadership and the non-profit sector. Most recently, he served as vice president for student affairs at Oklahoma City Community College, where he led 13 departments and over 100 employees across three campuses and developed a data-driven

culture that boosted concurrent enrollment by 25%. His efforts included spearheading the college's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, which positioned the institution to achieve the Hispanic-Serving Institution designation. Jason holds a PhD in Educational Psychology and Social Foundations of Education.

"I am excited to join the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and contribute to an organization whose mission transforms lives every day. Fighting hunger is about more than providing meals, it is about creating opportunities for children to learn, adults to thrive in the workforce and families to build a stronger future," Johnson said. "I look forward to partnering with our staff, volunteers, donors and community organizations to advance innovative solutions that strengthen communities across Oklahoma."

Johnson joined the organization on Monday, June 22. Learn more about the Regional Food Bank by visiting rfbo.org.

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**WEST OK / GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS** - Over the past two months, a federal grand jury in Oklahoma City has charged 23 individuals with illegal reentry into the United States after previous deportation. The Office of the United State Attorney says four of those arrests occurred in Blaine County. If found guilty, the defendants face up to 20 years in federal prison, fines of up to \$250,000 each, and removal from the United States following completion of any imposed sentence.

**DRUMMOND / SHERIFF GRANTS** - All County Sheriff's Offices in Oklahoma have been awarded grant funding from Attorney General Gentner Drummond's office. In total, \$18 million have been awarded as part of an ongoing program created by the legislature in 2024 to improve statewide law enforcement services. Locally, Beckham and Custer Counties were awarded \$250,000 each and Washita County was awarded \$150,000. Among other things, funds can be used for training, technology, and equipment.

**THOMAS / PRESERVING WATER** - The Thomas Public Works Authority is requesting that all city water customers limit their water use to household needs only. The authority is currently replacing three water wells, according to Mayor Jeff Gose. "We received funding from the Department of Commerce to revitalize those wells and it's going to involve replacing the submersible pumps and putting in variable speed drives that will prolong the life of the pumps and also increase the productivity of each well," explained Gose. "We're very excited to get that done, but it is going to affect our residents for a brief amount of time, approximately 2 weeks." During this time, residents are asked to refrain from filling pools, sprinkling and irrigating lawns, and using water for non-essential reasons.

**CLINTON / EXIT 65 UPDATE** - Work continues on the Exit 65/65A road construction project in Clinton. "The traveling public should see paving of the eastbound lanes starting pretty quick, as well as the bridge completion on the three bridges that are being constructed right now," said Oklahoma Department of Transportation Division 5 Engineer Will Snipes. "I would estimate that traffic would probably be switched to that newly constructed side probably as early as this Fall. At that point, they're going to demolish the existing westbound lanes while traffic is on those newly constructed eastbound lanes." Snipes added that the contractor is on (or slightly ahead of) schedule for completion of the construction project.

**WEATHERFORD / AUTOZONE** - Weatherford Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell has revealed that construction of a new AutoZone has begun. It will be located just west of CJ's Southwest Tires. Creswell made the announcement during the monthly Economic Development Foundation Meeting.

**WEST OK / SINOR EMS** - Officials with Sinor EMS say the ambulance service will now permanently serve Burns Flat, Sentinel, Foss, and Dill City. "It is going to bring a lot of peace of mind to the citizens of these towns for us to be able to provide 24-7 support," expressed Communications and Marketing Manager Lindsey Spillman. "As it stands, we are going to be applying for an OSDH license to have a manned 24-7 station there in Burns Flat with a dedicated ambulance." Spillman says a 522 Ambulance Board of Trustees will be formed in the future to secure long-term stable and reliable funding for EMS coverage.

**WEST OK / WARD RACES** - There will be two City Commission races in Weatherford on the August ballot. One of those races is in Ward 1, where Drew Terrel is challenging incumbent Kendon Wood. "I just want to help with infrastructure, developing the city moving forward," Terrel shares when asked about his reason for running for the seat. "A lot of street projects, a lot of drainage things--It's something we have a lot of background in. It's my line of work, and I think it'd be beneficial to the city." The other city commission race is in Ward 3 and features incumbent Warren Goldmann facing Josh Adkinson.

**ODOT / MASON** - The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) says Brock Mason has been named District 5's newest Construction Engineer, formerly held by current Division Director Will Snipes. Mason will oversee highway and bridge construction in 11 counties across western Oklahoma and will assist in developing and executing the department's 8-year plan.

**LEEDEY / TIME CAPSULE** - Following America's 250-year celebration, the town of Leedey has revealed a new time capsule that will be accepting items for preservation. "From now until December 6th, we're asking community members and anyone who wants to participate to visit our town office here in Leedy and submit anything to the time capsule that you would like to," shared Chamber of Commerce President Chelsea Rounds. "We do want it to be in a Ziploc bag, and we want you to write your family's name on the outside of the Ziploc bag. Then, when we have our Christmas on Main Street, probably right before we do our tree lighting ceremony, we'll have a little closing of the time capsule ceremony." The new time capsule will be stored above ground. Officials opened a previous time capsule on July 4, 2026, that had been buried underground since 1976. However, many things were not recognizable after it had suffered damage from rainwater that got into the capsule.

**WEST OK / HOT CAR SAFETY** - With rising temperatures in the summertime, Sinor EMS Communications and Marketing Coordinator Lindsey Spillman would like to remind parents to refrain from leaving their children in vehicles. The interior temperature of cars rises rapidly, causing harm to children left unattended. "We see so much tragedy with thinking that, 'oh, it's just a couple of seconds I'm going to run in here,' or you just wanted to pick up this one item and you've been wanting it," expressed Spillman. "But it's so important to know that your child's body temperature can rise three to five times faster than an adult. Their core body temperature hits 104°F, and that's when heat stroke begins. At 107°F, organ failure begins."

**WEATHERFORD / TIF MEETING** - The Weatherford Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Review Committee has approved three at-large members to join the original six members (*Mark Harmon, Superintendent of Weatherford Public Schools; Jay Edelen, Superintendent of Western Technology Center; Ashley Ferguson of the Custer County Health Department; Jay Moore of Weatherford Planning & Zoning; Custer County Commissioner Bruce Walker; and Tim Miller of the Western Plains Library System*). Kim Ingram and Bob Bartman will represent the retail sector, and Garrett King from the SWOSU Foundation will also join as a committee member. "Basically, we're talking about the property that is along Eagle Road between the Home 2 Suites and the sewer treatment plant," Attorney Nate Ellis spoke about the potential TIF district and its location. "It's not necessarily an ideal piece of land as it sits right now, but certainly could be made that with the right sort of project incentives. [As for] the timeline for how long that lasts, it can last up to 25 full years, [which is] the maximum time permitted by statutes." The review committee will next meet on July 21st beginning at noon. It's believed the developer, based out of Dallas, will be in attendance to provide additional details surrounding the project.

**WEATHERFORD / SCHOOL DATES** - Officials with Weatherford Public Schools announced that online enrollment opens July 29th for returning students to the district. For new students, in-person enrollment will occur on August 4th at the Weatherford High School Library from 8:30am - 3:30pm. High school schedules will be available for pickup on August 7th from 9am - 11am for juniors and seniors, and from 1pm - 3pm for freshmen and sophomores. Schedule pick-ups for middle school students are scheduled for 2pm - 6pm on August 10th. An elementary "Meet the Teachers" event will be held on August 11th for Burcham, Stafford, and East Intermediate schools from 4pm - 7pm.

**WEATHERFORD / TAP GRANT UPDATE** - The city of Weatherford is working toward the beginning on a new sidewalk project, according to Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell. The sidewalk will go out to Rader Park all the way up to the Stafford Museum, as well as Main Street. Bids will be open on August 13th, with the awarding of bids planned for early September.

**WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!**



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**Happy Birthday Wishes for July 15th** – Vanessa Baileys, Chris Guthrie, Alecia Lay, Layla Lowrance, Aleesha Lustfield, Shaylee Maddox, Jade Mahan, Lee Miller, David Morris, Alison Page Bieberich, Jason Rivera, Jessie Silver, Jessica Spencer, Carl Spradlin, Betty Sturn, Addison Weaver, Jami Weaver; **July 16** – Carmen Arriaga, Lisa Gipson, MaKayla Morley, Paula Sawatzky, Mason Schmidt, Mason Schmidt, Juan Solis. **July 17** – Don Claussen, Norma Hale, Sandy Henderson, Angela King, Hannah Miller, Ken Snider, William Walker; **July 18** - Sidnie Arriaga, Vera Janzen, Christy Manhart, Vickie Mouse, Marquitta Moxley, Sonya Pearson, Lera Sawatzky, Louella Vaughn; **July 19** – Al Barrett, Bryce Butler, Ethel Cooper, Shaunda Garrison, Alicia Howell, Melanie Miller, Kody Robertson, Alfred Sawatzky, Jana Smith, Mica Tackitt, Kimberly Threadgill, Rose Walton; **July 20** - Celia Bailey, Kenny Carlisle, Martha Gillingham, James Ivy, Irene Jones, McKenzi Mendez, Eric Shepard, Ben Snider, Sierra Webb, David Wright; **July 21** - Sheila Cupp, Joaquin Jacob Gonzalez, Dennis Hill, Elisa Hines, Braden Lewis, Sheryl Settles, Luwynda Shawne, Tricia Sims Clothier, Britten Taylor, Coy Don Wilburn.

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| <div>Food Club Sour Cream, 8oz.</div>                                                                                             | <div>\$1.38</div>       | <div>Simply Done Fiber Plates, 32 count</div>                                                   | <div>\$4.39</div>                                                                                                                                                                       |
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# Oklahoma History: Eastern Oklahoma’s “UFO Frenzy” (1960-1969)

## Air And Ground Search Fails To Find ‘Glowing Ball’

By KATRICA COCHRAN

about five seconds,” Photographers thought the ball of light

Shortly before dawn Wednesday p.m. Jim Cochran reported. landed and scouted the roads and

morning, a brilliantly glowing The area in which they pin-pointed it is a field bounded by fields (in hip deep mud) on foot

ball of light sped over Wichita pointed it is a field bounded by fields (in hip deep mud) on foot

Falls, but by 1 p.m. the mysteri- Buffalo Road on the west, Fair- of daylight (it was about 4:30

ous object hadn’t been found. way on the east, Seymour High- a.m.) their search was fruitless.

Witnesses to the light were con- way on the north and Farm Road At daybreak several city patrol

vinced it landed in a field west 300 on the south. cars and Texas Highway Patrol

of the city. However, a ground Cochran, along with Dale Terry, cars were cruising the bounding

The Witchita Falls Times

A report focused on search operations around Fort Sill and Wichita Falls for a “brilliant light” seen around 1 a.m (September 28, 1960).



Photograph by Alan Smith / Tulsa, OK

This photo shows a multi-colored, disc-shaped object the Air Force classified as a real, structured craft roughly 30 feet wide.

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

From the Army artillery ranges of Fort Sill to the granite peaks of the Wichita Mountains, the Lawton area became a hotspot for strange aerial sightings in the 1960s. Locals in Lawton and nearby communities reported mysterious lights and disks hovering in the wide Oklahoma skies.

Reports of unidentified flying objects in the Lawton/Fort Sill region did not go ignored by authorities. Project “Blue Book,” the U.S. Air Force’s official UFO investigation program, dispatched personnel to inquire into these sightings. Throughout the 1960s, Blue Book logged dozens of Oklahoma cases, from odd lights tracked on radar at Tinker Air Force Base in 1965 to unusual objects reported near the Red River. In fact, declassified records show that Oklahoma generated hundreds of case files during the Blue Book years. Many incidents received prosaic explanations, but a few stood out as truly puzzling.

In one report, observers counted as many as eight saucer-like objects at once, some appearing to spin “like a top” before streaking away at tremendous speed. Police and highway patrolmen joined astonished citizens in witnessing the multicolored lights. On August 3, 1965, an Oklahoma state trooper even radioed in reports of UFOs over Lawton, as well as the towns of Turley and Erick, during this statewide “Flap”. The outbreak was so widespread that it spanned at least four Midwestern states, and even law enforcement officers in Kansas, Texas and New Mexico filed similar reports.

Eyewitnesses struggled to find words for what they saw. “They’re hard to describe,” admitted one Ardmore resident, comparing the objects’ motion to a spinning top. Many felt a mix of wonder and unease. “It sure gives you a weird feeling to stand here and watch those things just play around up there. Sorta makes you wonder if they’re watching us,” one onlooker remarked as several luminous “flying cones” danced in the night sky.

Local radio stations fielded a barrage of calls, and at least one station hosted an impromptu talk show as dozens of people gathered with binoculars and a telescope in a parking lot to collectively gaze at the mysterious lights.

Another recorded sighting involved a multicolored disc, which was filmed in Tulsa on August 2, 1965. Multiple witnesses saw the object change from white to red to blue-green; Project Blue Book analysts agreed the photo showed a real 30-foot object less than a mile away, though they noted it resembled the effect of photographing a bright revolving light.

Blue Book personnel also scrutinized physical evidence when available. During the 1965 statewide sightings, an enterprising teenager in Tulsa managed to snap a now-famous photograph of a glowing saucer. Alan Smith, 14, took a snapshot of a “multi-colored UFO” that hovered low over his suburban backyard in the early hours of August 2, 1965. The color photo – showing a luminous disc against the night – was published in newspapers and even Life magazine. The Air Force’s Photo Analysis Division at Wright-Patterson AFB examined the image for Project Blue Book and concluded the object was a material craft roughly 30 feet in diameter at close range. However, they cautiously suggested the appearance “resembled the effect obtained by photographing a multi-colored revolving filter flood light”. In other words, Blue Book left the Tulsa photo officially unexplained but hinted it might have been a clever hoax or optical illusion.

UFOs were observed in another town 50 or 100 miles away, simply because there was little to obstruct the view across the plains. The Ardmore sightings, for example, were confirmed by witnesses as far north as Norman and as far south as Texas. A single bright object at 20,000 feet could be spotted over half the state. This regional visibility meant that once excitement began, every unusual light had many sets of eyes on it – and multiple reports from different locations made the phenomenon harder to dismiss.

Lawton’s proximity to the Texas border also put it near Sheppard Air Force Base and other military sites, widening the potential range of aerial activities (or anomalies) that locals might witness. All these factors combined to make the Lawton/Fort Sill corridor a perfect stage for the UFO drama of the 1960s.

On the night of September 28, 1960, residents just across the Texas border saw a “brilliant ball of light” fall silently near Wichita Falls, an event so bizarre it prompted a Blue Book inquiry (some speculated it was a downed space capsule). And during the great 1965 flap, Blue Book’s analysts famously tried to explain the multicolored formations as misidentified stars and planets. The Air Force secretary claimed the previous nights’ UFO reports were merely Jupiter or bright stars like Rigel and Capella, but local astronomers swiftly refuted that explanation – those stars “were on the other side of the earth at the time,” the Oklahoma City planetarium curator noted in disbelief.

When the furor of the 1960s UFO wave finally subsided, it fell to Project Blue Book to issue a verdict. Project Blue Book, headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, had been systematically collecting and analyzing UFO reports since 1952. By the time it ended in 1969, Blue Book had cataloged 12,618 sightings, of which 701 remained officially “Unidentified.” The Air Force’s conclusions, announced as Blue Book wrapped up, were clear: “no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security.” Moreover, investigators found “no evidence” of technological abilities beyond current science and “no evidence indicating” any sightings were extraterrestrial vehicles. In short, Blue Book found no proof of alien visitation in Oklahoma or anywhere else. The unexplained cases were chalked up to insufficient data or likely misperceptions, and the official stance was that no further USAF inquiry was warranted.

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**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

There’s more to life than just getting by. It’s about the people we meet, the experiences we share, and the fondness we feel as we look back at the windy paths our lives took. These life aspects are the fundamental backbone of River Valley Skilled Nursing & Therapy in Clinton, OK. The on-site and experienced staff don’t call it a job; they call it a lifestyle.

With 24/7 skilled staff, the care given to the residents at River Valley is unmatched. Care that checks off each component of wellness and health. Every member at River Valley is licensed, certified, and specialized. From therapy services conducted by occupational and speech language therapists to physician services to dietary services overseen by registered dietitians to nursing services that include focused care for diabetes management,

IV Therapy, Respiratory Services, cardiac care, Mobile Lab services, and more, the sheer work put into surrounding residents with highly sought-after medical professionals is staggering.

Every section, service, and activity has been hand-picked to provide residents with the highest level of happiness and support they can receive. Alongside top-of-the-line medical care, River Valley hosts a robust set of community options for their members so they can continue to make real connections and record more experiences with each other.

Community options include church services, a beauty salon with barber services, an activity calendar, and an active resident council where residents ensure their voices can be heard. The council focuses on enjoying fellowship and providing “constructive input that helps govern activity choices, dining options and more.”

The only qualified person to run your life is you, and that should apply to the care you seek and the way you spend your time. River Valley Skilled Nursing & Therapy understands that, and as part of their ongoing mission to create comfortable environments with access to the best suite of care professionals and “to [serve] people with compassion and dignity”, they work hand-in-hand with residents to schedule appoints and provide transportation to and from those appointments with doctors, labs, and radiology.

“River Valley focuses on long term care, as well as care after hospital stays when physical, occupational or speech therapy and skilled nursing is recommended before going home.”

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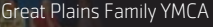
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## Seniors Freya Sala and Landon Meyer Headline SWOSU Athletics 2025-2026 Year-End Awards

SWOSU ATHLETICS 2025-26

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FREYA SALA  
FEMALE ATHLETE

LANDON MEYER  
MALE ATHLETE

CAMERON TURNER  
FEMALE SCHOLAR ATHLETE

RYAN CARLISLE  
MALE SCHOLAR ATHLETE

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Jon Chidester  
SWOSU Media Relations

The SWOSU Athletic Department has named Freya Sala (women's golf) and Landon Meyer (baseball) its 2025-26 Athletes of the Year, officially bringing the 2025-26 athletic season to a close.

Presented by Lucille's Hotel & Restaurant and ASAP General Stores, the Better in Blue Athletic Banquet was held in late April to celebrate Bulldog Athletics' accomplishments throughout the 2025-26 academic year. At the banquet, it was announced that the Athlete of the Year recipients would be revealed following the completion of the athletic season. The event also recognized Cameron Turner as the Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Ryan Carlisle as the Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton and ASAP Energy Inc. President Rick Koch also presented the Cecil Perkins Service Award to Mark McLean in recognition of his longtime support of Bulldog Athletics.

**Female Athlete of the Year**  
**Freya Sala • Senior • Mexico City, Mexico**

Sala capped one of the finest seasons in SWOSU Women's Golf history by repeating as a unanimous First Team All-Great American Conference selection, earning another WGA All-Central Region honor, and collecting her second WGA Second Team All-America award. She also earned GAC Women's Golfer of the Week honors once during the season, bringing her career total to four. Ranked fourth in the Central Region with a 74.6 scoring average, Sala recorded nine top-10 finishes and six top-five finishes during the 2025-26 campaign. She captured the first NCAA Central Regional individual championship by a Lady Bulldog golfer while helping SWOSU secure the program's second NCAA Central Regional team championship. Sala later led the Lady Bulldogs to a tie for ninth at the NCAA Championships, where she finished tied for 10th individually. She became just the second Lady Bulldog to earn multiple All-America honors in a career, the first to do so in consecutive seasons, and remains the program's only two-time Second Team All-American. Sala is the fourth women's golfer to be named SWOSU Female Athlete of the Year.

**Male Athlete of the Year**  
**Landon Meyer • Senior • Lincoln, Nebraska**

Meyer capped an outstanding senior season by earning First Team All-Great American Conference honors and all-region recognition from three organizations: the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA), the Division II Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA), and the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA). He was also named SWOSU Baseball's Most Valuable Player and earned GAC Player of the Week honors once during the season. Meyer 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, and he was one of just two players in the conference to total at least 60 hits and 60 runs scored during the regular season. Meyer also recorded 18 multi-hit games and drove in runs in 25 contests. Meyer is the ninth from SWOSU Baseball to be named Male Athlete of the Year.

**Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year**  
**Cameron Turner • Senior • Edmond, OK**

Turner concluded a four-year career with SWOSU Volleyball after appearing in 113 matches and 419 sets as a Bulldog. Turner first earned GAC Academic Honor Roll recognition as a sophomore before becoming a two-time Great American Conference Elite Scholar Athlete, an honor awarded to the student-athlete with the highest GPA in each sport among those with at least 70 completed credit hours. She is a three-time College Sports Communicators Academic All-District selection and a two-time Division II Athletics Directors Association Academic Achievement Award recipient, with a third honor expected later this summer. Turner graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA as a Health Sciences major while serving as SWOSU's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) president.

**Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year**  
**Ryan Carlisle • Senior • Arapaho, OK**

Carlisle concluded his two-year Bulldog career this spring by earning All-Great American Conference Honorable Mention honors. A two-time GAC Academic Honor Roll selection, he also distinguished himself in the classroom as a Golf Coaches Association of America All-America Scholar, a College Sports Communicators Academic All-District selection, and a Division II Athletics Directors Association Academic Achievement Award recipient. Carlisle is in line to receive repeat recognition from all three organizations this summer. He graduated with a 3.97 GPA as a Health and Physical Education major.

SWOSU also recognized the second class of Kai Alpha Sigma inductees during the banquet. As a member of the National College Athlete Honor Society, SWOSU Athletics annually honors student-athletes who have demonstrated excellence in both the classroom and competition. To be inducted into Kai Alpha Sigma, student-athletes must have completed at least 90 credit hours while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher. SWOSU Faculty Athletics Representative Dr. Bo Pagliasotti presented medals to the 38 inductees.

Teams also awarded their Most Valuable Players at the awards ceremony. Those MVPs were:

|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Volleyball.....         | Hailey Smith                 |
| Soccer.....             | Saoirse Hourigan             |
| Cross Country.....      | Madison Radke                |
| Track & Field.....      | Rylee LaRue                  |
| Football.....           | Cameron Guyton               |
| Cheer.....              | Brooklynn Morris             |
| Mascot.....             | Miguel Box                   |
| Men's Basketball.....   | Tobias Roland                |
| Women's Basketball..... | Landry Allen                 |
| Women's Rodeo.....      | Cheyenne VandeStouwe         |
| Horse of the Year.....  | Bambi, owned by Braylee Ward |
| Men's Rodeo.....        | Heston Harrison              |
| Horse of the Year.....  | Sid, owned by Jaylyn Hash    |
| Women's Golf.....       | Maria Velilla                |
| Men's Golf.....         | Conrado Diaz Ermacora        |
| Softball.....           | Maddie Rahon                 |
| Baseball.....           | Landon Meyer                 |

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