

## Coach Pratt Presents Annual Football Program

Coach Brian Pratt brought some members of the McAlester Buffalo Football Team with him for the annual look at the 2007 team.

Coach Pratt introduced Ameron Green, Jarred Billy, Talon Starkey, Josh Carney, Justin Klusak, Hunter Holden, and Chase Dickerson.

The Buffaloes have played one game at home and two "away," so far. However, the Buffs are 3-0 in their three games.

Last weekend they beat Tahlequah 42-27.

The next game against TSST is here, Sept. 21. The Buffs travel to Tulsa to play Hale on Sept. 28, then play Durant here on Oct. 5.

Bixby and Shawnee are both "there," on Oct. 12 and 18.

Edison is the last home game, on Oct. 26. The Ada game is there, Nov. 2.

With five other 5A teams and a sixth ranked team, Pratt considers this year's schedule as "tough," he said.

Coach Pratt told about the new Phys Ed facility, which has been "nice and cool" and has turf "like regular grass."

It is used by the band to march on. The weight room is on the west side.

"We appreciate your support," he said. Come and visit "anytime."

## And for Foundation, Ann Owens, Steve Smith Report Big Plans Being Made For Eastern



Ann Owens and Steve Smith

Ann Owens, new director of the Eastern Oklahoma State College Foundation, and Eastern President Steve Smith, gave the program, about Eastern, on Aug. 28.

The Foundation at Eastern was started in 1974, Ann said. It has \$3.3 million at this time.

Ann will be working to increase that figure.

The Eastern Alumni Association will have "Homecoming" on Oct. 28 with a fish fry, that all alumni are

invited to. An Eastern "Hall of Fame" ceremony will be on that weekend, with a parade on Saturday.

Steve said he feels very "positive" about the future of the McAlester campus of Eastern.

He said each department of the college has been analyzed, to help improve it.

Although McAlester and Wilburton have played a part in the growth of Eastern, Steve said he wants McAlester to be a big part of Eastern.

"It's about working together--teamwork--" he said.

This area "has a great technical school" and good high schools, there now is a "great college", he stated. It has a good Board of Regents.

The college gets state appropriations, but it needs "outside support,"

he said.

Student records will be online, so that students can enrol by computer,

and there will be re-bidding for a new Eastern Student Center.

Another big event will be a ceremony to honor Don McClenan, who started the Eastern Foundation.

He wrote 19 people for donations, 33 years ago, and 14 of them responded. A statue of him is being planned, Steve said.

## Eastern AD Tells Of Sports Honors And Degrees Offered

Coach Aric Thomas told us about Eastern State sports and coaches, as well as degrees offered, at EOSC, at our Aug. 21 meeting.

Aric is the Eastern Athletic Director and Baseball Coach.

Eastern has received national recognition for its cheerleaders when they won the title of National Champions. Eastern also won the College Softball World Series in 2005 and 2006, Thomas said, and the College Baseball World Series in 2001.

The area baseball and softball tournaments help recruiting, Aric noted. An assistant coach from Tennessee flew in for the Sun Belt Tournament, he

reported.

"McAlester has been a great place for baseball."

Later he added that baseball "is a small window" and that "Character is the big window."

The Athletic Director mentioned several Eastern men and womens' coaches,



Aric Thomas

# SWAT Team Talks Against Tobacco Products



Jamie Tippit

Jamie Tippit and three members of her local "SWAT Team" brought us a program on their battle against tobacco, last week.

Ms. Tippit outlined the work of her SWAT Tesms, (Students Working Against Tobacco.) Joining her were McAlester High School SWAT Team members Sara

Carpenter, Erica Miller, and Megan Billos.

The four said they are not "anti-smoking" as much as they are in "educating" young people of the dangers of tobacco, and the tactics they said many tobacco companies use to get their business. They made several charges against many of the tobacco companies.

On the average, 6,497 Oklahomans will die each year, due to tobacco use, they said. Seventh-six percent of those individuals started using tobacco before the age of 18.

Tobacco products contain over 4,000 chemicals, 43 cancer-causing toxins and 101 poisons. Most of these companies know that their products will addict teenagers, they added.

Ms. Tippit said tobacco can cause asthma and breathing disorders.

All but four schools in Pittsburg County have banned tobacco "24-7, which includes basketball and football games."

Ms. Tippit said that the City Council in McAlester wants to take a look at a "Youth Access to Tobacco Ordinance."

The ordinance would allow law enforcement to fine tobacco retailers caught selling to minors, and fine minors caught with tobacco products. City police would give a citation and the money goes back to the city.

There are some 125 SWAT Team members in Pittsburg County schools, she estimated.

She announced some fund-raisers for the SWAT Team. Red Ribbon Week is the last week in October and "The Great American Smoke Out" is Nov. 15. It will include a poster contest for county students. "Come out and join us," she said.



SWAT Team members Sara Carpenter, Erica Miller, and Megan Billos

## Sports Honors from Page 1

including Sheila Rowsey, Administrative Assistant; Sam Peraza, Assistant Baseball Coach; Brenton Duncan, Head Basketball Coach; Will Holiman, Assistant Basketball Coach; Andy Mace, Head Softball Coach and Women's Basketball Coach; Bobb Johnston, Assistant Softball Coach; Anita Hernandez, Assistant Women's Basketball; and Pat Thomas, Cheerleading.

Sports coaches teach not to make mistakes, Aric said.

Sports also teaches that if we have the time and effort available, we need to give back to the community."

"We try to get them ready for life," the Athletic Director said. "That's very important."

Thomas also said one team was recruited last year, and "all are playing this

year but one, who was injured."

There have been five associate degrees out of McAlester, Thomas said.

It is also the second year for the nursing program on the McAlester campus.

About one-third of the students are from McAlester.

Associate Degrees are offered from Eastern in General Studies, and in Psychology/Sociology. There is an AS offered in Business Administration, an AAS in Child Development, and an AAS in Administrative Office Technology.

Degrees also are offered from East Central at Ada; Southeastern at Durant; and from the OU Health Sciences Center at Norman.

"I love my work," Thomas said. "It is great for me and my family."

## Attendance, Visitors and Handshakers



New Member - Charles Neff

Attendance last week was 48, and the previous week was 60 for the football program. Team members were listed in the writeup of the program, and Billy Ray Holt was there.

Visitors from McAlester High School have been Akisha Kezal and Megan Billos.

On Aug. 28 there were 53.

New members introduced that day were Charles Neff, pastor of the Grand Avenue Methodist Church; and Vic Woods, Dean of the McAlester Campus of Eastern State College.

Charles said he came here from Tulsa. "It's a joy to be here," he said. "I feel at home already."

Vic gave the shortest talk by a new member. He said to call him or come by.

The bankers traded the dollar last week, Roi Nelson and Chad Barney. Mary Shannon had it the week before, and gave it to Richard Gorman.

And Mark Jordan gave it to Richard Lerblance on Aug. 28., Does that mean that the bankers and the politicians have all the cash?



New Member - Vic Woods