

As Area 'Catches The Centennial Spirit'

Big Plans Being Made For Eastern College Centennial



Steve Smith and Ann Owens
Photo by George Lampton

There are big plans for the Centennial of Eastern Oklahoma State College, according to President Steve Smith and Regents' Chairman Ann Owens, both Rotarians.

Former Gov. George Nigh will be the main speaker, as plans develop for the Centennial Plaza, a history book about Eastern is being published, and the Alumni Association will honor the

founder of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, who is an Eastern alum.

Steve gave a quiz about the history of Eastern, with prizes for the right answers. The school was created one year after statehood, on May 28, 1908, and was originally called the School of Mines and Metallurgy.

In 1924 it added teacher training and extension courses. Then in 1927, with the mining industry declining, it granted degrees from the University of Oklahoma, in lieu of degrees from the School of Mines and Metallurgy.

Later that same year the school changed its name to Eastern See Eastern College, on Page 2

Coach Tells About This Year's Buffalo Team



Bryan Pratt

McAlester High School Football Coach Bryan Pratt told us about this year's football team, at our Aug. 26 meeting.

Although the Buffaloes lost to Durant and Broken in their two home games this year, the Buffs had a 9-3 record last year.

There are seven seniors, for the smallest senior class in a number of years. But the team "lost a bunch of kids" last year and the 60-70 who are out, "really work hard," Coach Pratt said.

The coach said there are about 20 juniors and some 35

freshmen and sophomores out. "We're young," he said. But this year's team "plays well."



The coach introduced Taylor Sossaman and Brady May, two of the team captains. Jordan Lane is the other captain, but he was sick and was not able to attend.

Seven or eight players "go both ways," he said. "We are eager and ready to get things started."

See Buffalo Team, on Page 2

Club Gets Report on Career Tour And Baseball At EOSC

Business Coordinator Barbara Gilbertson of Eastern Oklahoma State College and Eastern's Athletic Director Aric Thomas split up a program on Sept. 2, telling us about

the annual Career & College Tour for the fall, coming up at the McAlester Expo Center Oct. 30, and Eastern baseball and other Sports.

Ms. Gilbertson, coordinator for Eastern Business Training and Continuing Education, first told about the first Career and College Tour, which drew almost 1,000 Eighth Grade students from Pittsburg and Latimer County schools.

In addition to the largest student activity ever held in this area,

the students came from 26 school districts, along with over 100 volunteers and 85 exhibitors at the spring event.

Nicole Cook and Ms. Gilbertson told about the fall tour. They said the exhibits will be "clustered" together, with dental exhibits together, doctors' exhibits, pharmacy exhibits, and those sponsored by nursing programs.

Exhibitors, students and school personnel all have been "very positive" about the first Career & College Tour, they said. Partners are the college, "Gear Up," Kiamichi Technology Center, the city of McAlester, the McAlester Economic Development Service,

See EOSC, on Page 2

Eastern College from Page 1

Oklahoma State College and emphasized vocational instruction relating to various trades and industries.

By 1941, it had become Eastern Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and its Board of Regents' activities were done by the State Board of Agriculture.

The Regents returned in 1972 when the name of the school was changed again, to Eastern Oklahoma State College.

A state-of-the-art branch facility was opened in McAlester in 1998. Eastern also offers classes in Anters and at the branch campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Idabel.

The Wilburton campus is located on 97 acres, and an additional 3,647 acres are used for Eastern's Farm Operations.

Ann Owens said that news releases have been going out to area newspapers about the Centennial plans. And Smith and Owens mentioned a newsletter that will be going out, telling about the centennial.

A carnival, the evening of Oct. 30 is to host "about 2,000" area children, Ms. Owens said.

One of the goals is lighting for the sports fields, which is underway, Steve said. Another is support for the Fine Arts Program.

The Centennial Plaza will feature engraved bricks with the names of faculty, staff, students, Alumni Friends and Business Supporters. About 25 bricks have been sold, but the goal is 100, Ms. Owens said. Benches and lamp posts also are available.

A Homecoming Parade is part of the Centennial plans, and a "Hall of Fame Dinner."

A bust will be unveiled of Don McClanen of Clayton, founder of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Sen. and Mrs. Richard Lerblance have presented a "Baby Grand Piano" to the Eastern Music Department in honor of his mother.

State Rep. Lisa J. Billy from Purcell will be the Julian Rothbaum Lectureship Series speaker for this year, on Oct 8 at 11 a.m.

The state Speaker of the House also is to speak at Eastern on Sept. 30.

President Smith said he would like to develop Eastern's work with the Rural Enterprise Association, into a Business Technology Center, to help develop industry in the area.

The McAlester Campus of Eastern is "moving and shaking," the Eastern President said. It will soon need another building, he told the club members.

EOOSC from Page 1

McAlester Regional Health Center and the Choctaw Nation.

The tour helps students know what type of work is available when the students get out of high school, they related, and it helps educate and "retain" a "future workforce" the women said.

"Set-up time" is from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29. Businesses which donate \$200 or more, will be recognized as a "participating sponsor."

Thomas told about Homecoming and urged fans to "go out and see" the Sun Belt games, because it brings "people who would not normally be here."

The Eastern gym has had a "makeover" and it "looks like a

brand new place," he said. "The college also is working on lights and surfacing."

The baseball team finished "15th in the country" last year. He listed some of the better known players. He has assisted 35 to move on and play at the collegiate or professional levels. Included are Chase Utley with the Phillies, Reggie Willits with the Angels, Jason Bartlett with the Rays, and Josh Fields with the White Sox.

"We've got a great group; they are great kids," he related. Last year, 27 of 28 were from Oklahoma," he said.

Thomas said that Brenton Duncan is the Men's Basketball Coach and Andy Mace is the coach for Women's Basketball and Softball.

Buffalo Team, from Page 1

The Buffaloes had five games at home and five away. They have played two at home and their game Sept. 19 is at Ardmore.

On Sept. 26 they play Coweta at home. Oct. 3 they play Tulsa

Edison in Tulsa. Oct. 10 they play Stilwell at home.

On Oct. 16, on a Thursday night, they play Tulsa Central in Tulsa. The next game is also away, with Tahlequah, Oct. 24. They play Tulsa East Central at home Oct. 31. Their final regular game is Nov. 7 at Ada.

Attendance, Guests and Handshakers *And the Big Pot*

Last week, there were 39 present. Sally Davis was a guest of Steve Smith. The previous week, 44 were present. Susan Chalk of Wal-Mart was a guest of Yvette Martin. Donnie Livingston was a guest of Gary Boyd. On Aug. 26, 49 were present. Dorothy Chatenay was a guest of Jack. Vic Wheeler was a guest of Helen. Marty House was a guest of Steve Brock. Carri May was a guest of Ronnie. And Sally Davis was a guest of Steve Smith.

The oldtimers tried to corner the dollar market that week, as Carl Filskow gave the buck to Roy Bynum. The women lost out, as Mark Jordan gave the dollar to Bob Thornton last week; and Richard Gorman gave it to Gary Boyd, on the week in-between.

Doug Auld, Shayne Javersak, and George Lambert showed how to draw the wrong card, for the Big Pot.