



**McAlester High School Drum Line** *Story By Wayne Hanway*



The program October 13th was the McAlester High School Drum Line, identically clad in black sweatpants and hooded sweatshirts saying SMURD. While Carl Filskow speculated that stood for Southern



Methodist University Research Department, it actually is just DRUMS backward.

Members: Ryli Bland, Chris Mayhew, William

Long, Derek Traweek, Cheyenne Crosby, Chelsea Barton, Lindsey Patterson, Mackenzie Cook, Jon Fryer, Travis

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**McAlester High School Volleyball Coach Brooke Hall Returns to Coach**

At the Oct. 6th McAlester Rotary the program was presented by, McAlester High School Volleyball Coach Brooke Hall, who played volleyball at MHS and moved back here from Kansas to be the coach. She introduced several of her players. They are ranked #6 in the state and later in the day would be hosting the regional volleyball tournament, with high hopes of going to state.

Randy Saunier introduced new member Kacey Smith, who works for Ouachita Mountains Resource Conservation & Development. Her husband, Ben, works for Tenaska at Kiowa. They have one daughter, Kennedi, and are expecting

a second child.

Student guests from McAlester High School for October are Julia Wynn and Jeff Williams.

Brian Renegar had the winning ticket but drew a losing card. The pot is now up to \$2,400. Handshaker Loise Washington gave the dollar to Mary Shannon.

Guests were: Salvation Army Capt. Ric Swartz, guest of Wayne Hanway; Desiree Brown, guest of Brian Renegar; Kelli Yates, Rotary Ann of Brent Yates; and Mark Miller, son of Noble Miller.

*By Wayne Hanway*

**Eastern Oklahoma State College Makes a Difference**



Steve Smith

Steve Smith continued the theme of Eastern Oklahoma State College on September 22nd. Steve handed out the magazine "Eastern in Review". He had marked various magazines and awarded prizes to those with marked copies as he came to those sections in his program.

Steve reported that EOSC's nursing program has doubled in size this past year. Two year nursing courses are offered at several campuses, and they are almost to the point of providing a two year course in McAlester. Research shows that transfer students from two year programs do better than those who enter four year programs as freshmen.

Steve gave a power point overview of the institution. EOSC campuses are located at Wilburton, McAlester, Idabel, Antlers and Kiamichi.

Steve reported a \$25,000,000 budget for this year. Due to the Recovery and Reinvestment Act EOSC has received \$6 million in new money. All states are to receive the same level of stimulus funds for fiscal year 2011. It is important that EOSC received stimulus funds. Would have had to cut 8 to 10 positions. It was to be a hard decision, but stimulus made that unnecessary. President Obama has proposed \$12 billion over 10 yrs to support community colleges. Community colleges have influential supporters. Dr. Jill Biden is a community college educator. Dr. Martha Lanter, Undersecretary of Education, is a former chancellor in community college. Two year colleges are becoming more and more recognized for what they do nationally And we have supporters locally as well. Public and higher education are strongly supported by

Governor Brad Henry and Governor George Nigh spoke at last year's commencement. The Choctaw Nation has been very supportive of Eastern.

For fiscal year 2010 tuition fee increases stayed at \$94.50 per credit hour for two years. That comes to \$1417 for 15 hours. OU, by comparison charged \$215 per credit hour, and

Southeastern charged \$143. Ok was -6% below revenue projections for fiscal year 2010.

Enrollment is up. The recession has encouraged people, who are having difficulty finding employment, to go to school.

In Oklahoma OSU and OU get half the budget for higher education in the state and the remainder is split between the remaining 23 colleges and universities. Yet two year colleges serve half the students enrolled in higher education, are more affordable, have

smaller classes, provide better transition adjustments from high school to college, and

academically prepare students for continuing university education or for the workforce.

For every \$1 that is spent to support higher education, \$5.15 is put back into the economy. Over the past ten years financial support has been declining. State appropriations in 1988 were 75.3%, in 1990 - 69.3%, in 2008 - 49.5%.

This is the reason tuition fees have risen over the past 10 years. The value added to southeast Oklahoma by EOSC in 2008 was \$47 million. By 2018 this will be 215 million.

Now is the time for the next two years to take advantage of state and federal support.

New programs are being added like the Ammunition

## A Good New Year for Eastern Oklahoma State College



Ann Owens

On September 15th Ann Owens Presented a program about the Eastern Oklahoma State College Foundation and Alumni Association. Gene Walker and Evan McBride are Rotarians and Foundation members as well.

Ann reported that 2008 was not a good year for EOSC. They lost 26% of

their investments due to the stock market crash. EOSC has

since changed their investment advisors to Community Investments of Oklahoma. They currently have 2.2 million dollars invested. Ann Owens, as executive director of the foundation, decided to outsource bookkeeping functions, which gives added security and protection and allows her more time for other responsibilities.

Last year the Foundation provided \$250,000 in scholarships. Unfortunately, this year, 2009-2010, only \$200,000 will be available for scholarships. But plans are underway to rebuild the scholarship funds.

One plan is to contact donors to raise more funds.

See Good New Year on Page 3

## We're a Team! The Future of Rotary is in your Hands! *By Stephanie Swinnea*



A.C. Moncrief

September 1st, Governor A.C. Moncrief rose to a standing ovation. He said that Rotary is more than a club, that we in McAlester have a great group of leaders and are doing well. He couldn't believe that we raised \$80,000 for Rotary house, and that we do so much for the community.

Governor Moncrief shared some of his own history. He joined the Peace Corps when he was young. This required him to learn another language. He is still formed by that experience. He recently spoke to Rotary Governor from Africa and was able to speak his language. Meeting governors from around the globe helps put his duties in perspective. Though he has many clubs to govern, our district is largest in North America with 27 clubs, his African counterpart has to travel by air to reach those in his district.

The governor's phone ostensibly rang. He answered it and

passed on a message from the Rotary Club International President, "The future of Rotary is in your hands."

Governor Moncrief challenged us, "How many remember who sponsored you? How many are thankful? It's time to establish your own legacy. Invite others to be Rotarians."



When Governor Moncrief was football coach at Wilson, no one could remember Wilson's team ever beating Shawnee. As coach he focused on one thing that year, kicking. The big game between Wilson and Shawnee began. The first field goal was missed. One young Wilson player was hit in the back. He was asked if he was all right. The player said, "Yes sir, I'm just trying to get rid of the pain." They went on to win that game that year and next.

The governor said that we are all a part of Rotary and so many other things. We all make a difference. We are like a

See We're a Team! on Page 4

## Live United by Mobilizing the Caring Power of Our Community *By Wayne Hanway*

McAlester Rotarian Yvette Martin, Executive Director of United Way of Southeastern Oklahoma (UWSO), was both the program chair and the program on September 8th, so she was received with that less than thundering sound of applause that our club reserves for its own.

Undaunted, she presented her program, "Live United by Mobilizing the Caring Power of Our Community. UWSO serves 11 counties, partnering with thirteen different agencies. She reminded the club that United Way supports

and gets the word out about its agencies, and she listed them: 211, Red Cross, Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts (new agency), Camp PLEA, Girl Scouts, Hope House (new agency), Kiamichi Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, Kidz Cottage Child Advocacy Center, Legal Aid Services, Mercy Clinic, Oklahomans for Independent Living, and Salvation Army.

Yvette awarded Jim Henley a t-shirt after he correctly

See Live United on Page 4

## Fired Up For Football



Michael Martin, Bill Deplank and Dave Martin

Yvette Martin was the Program Chair and she introduced Haileyville High School Athletic Director and head football coach, Michael Martin.

Originally from Hartshorne, he coached in Canton, Texas for a few years, then left coaching until he returned to Haileyville. He was accompanied by baseball coach, Bill Deplank, and by Dave Martin, junior high head coach and assistant in all athletic fields.

Coach Martin's goal is for his team to be competitive athletically. The students he works with are "a group of kids that you like being around, no constant discipline

issues, just good kids." The number of players this year is 38. Three years ago the number playing was 18. This year they will start five sophomores. These will have good experience when they are seniors.

School recently moved up in classification from Class B to Class A - 130 enrollment. They've gone from 8 man teams to 11. With 8 man football a team can't hide weak links. 11 is much better. The team has moved from the bottom of class A to the middle of class A. The team has some physical strength. In 2007 they earned the state power lifting championship.

One of their set backs is a cold going around school making a serious hit on attendance. They also had a fire

See Fired Up on Page 4

# McAlester Football This Year 4th in District

Coach Pratt is enthusiastic about McAlester's football program. Last year the team had only five senior students, making it a very young team. But this year, with seventeen seniors on board, the team is a powerhouse and expected to do well in competition. The students work hard, even practicing in exceptional heat. Though Coach Pratt is somewhat sympathetic to complaints of the heat, that former Coach now School Superintendent, Mr. Tom Condit, was not nearly as sympathetic.

This is Coach Pratt's fourth year at McAlester High School and he feels good about the progress the students have made in four years. Recently, after holding a ten day work camp here in McAlester, the teams went to Tulsa for a week of competition against other teams. They practiced for three days and competed the other three. Not only did this sharpen their competitive skills, but it provided insight into how the other teams operate.

At home practice is not all work. Often the teams and coaches are scrambled up for scrimmages. This adds some fun to the practices. Our teams will also compete in scrimmages with other schools. Wagner is the first scrimmage. Eighth grad to Varsity will participate in the day long scrimmages.

McAlester has four team captains and all have been

three-year starters. (1) Captain Jesse Patton, linebacker, #44, thinks the team is pretty good this year. Jesse had twenty-two tackles in one game against Ardmore. (2) Captain Matt (Burl) Eldridge, left guard, #55, had knee surgery last year but has come back. He benches 264. When asked if he was as good as his dad, he responded, "No, Better!" (3) Captain Caleb Carney, running back, #20, tackles with such force that he knocks his opponent out. He is Coach Carney's son. He tore up the field when he was a sophomore. We're waiting to see what he will do this year. (4) Captain Chance Carey, viper, #7, previously played as a free safety. A viper is a strong safety requiring greater speed, which Chance can deliver. He is also McAlester High School Student Body President. He is noted for losing a tooth in a game against Durant and saying, "Here, hold this," then went on and finished the game.

Coach Pratt stressed that the goal of the football program above all is to develop leadership and character skills in these young men. "Realistically, not many will go on to the next level of playing," he said. So the purpose of the game must be bigger than the game. At McAlester High School, it is.

See McAlester Football on Page 4

## Drum Line form Page 1



Scroggins, Maverik Thatcher, Evan Hutchings, Maggie White, Carmen Wiley, Karey Kincaid, and Tyler Mahan.

Rotary Club members set the bar high for the Drum Line's performance, doing a spirited rendition of Grandfather's Clock, with vigorous percussion. Then the drummers played three numbers: Hit the Groove, Dumpsters, and Jack, making the room shake and

overloading hearing aids..

Director Sean DeNike told the club that of this group, only two, Ryli Bland and Derek Traweek, are seniors, so they have lots of potential for doing well in competition over the next few years. DeNike saluted the work ethic of the group, commenting that in marching season, they start rehearsal at 7 a.m. He thanked the community for being very supportive, expressing great appreciation for the marching band's new uniforms.



## State College Makes a Difference form Page 1

Management and safety (Defense Ammunition Center) and Medical Laboratory Technicians. There is a waiting list for the nursing program. Every student already has a job promise when the graduate. We're also increasing online courses and making facility improvements. Dorms, apartments, swimming pool, field house, classroom library, baseball, White House, etc. Our campus appearance is much improved.

We are currently researching a fundraising campaign for a performing arts center. What we have now is not acceptable.

Our scholarship program is vital. In Southeastern Oklahoma we have a suggested growth of 11% . Currently Southeast Oklahoma ranks last in the number of residents with a high school diploma and two years of college, and we rank first in the number of residents with a high school diploma and no college. There are 29,000+ 18 to 24 year olds living below minimum wage in Southeast Oklahoma. The average age of Eastern Students is 27.

If you don't progress, you decay. We need to be on the cutting edge. We need to be constantly changing. Just because we are in Southeast Oklahoma is no excuse for doing less, and we won't.

## Good New Year form Page 2

Scholarship gifts and endowments have been received, and more are welcome. Faculty employees and faculty also give to funds for various activities. Alumni have also been fund raising. There will be a fundraiser Mar. 27, the Sapphire Ball, held in the new Student Center. "Midlife Crisis Band" will play. Individuals can purchase tickets or sponsor something for the evening.

In celebration of the centennial last year a Centennial Plaza was created, with benches and lighting. Bricks were purchased by donors and more are still for sale. A Coffee Table book of Eastern Oklahoma State has also been

published to generate both funds and good publicity.

EOSC Homecoming celebration starts on Sat. Oct 31 thro Nov 7th, with a Carnival for children, Boo parade, Trunk or Treat and Chili Cook off. About 2000 to 2500 people will be in attendance. These activities create a bridge with Wilburton and McAlester Campuses.

Ann is putting together an alumni membership database. If you have information about alumni, please let Ann know so she can keep her records up to date. With improved records it will be possible establish local chapters of alumni all over the state to keep interest and support for EOSC alive.

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## **We're a Team! from Page 2**

team. We need to let people know when they are not here that they are missed. We need to have a good and thorough orientation and do it quickly. "If you don't you'll lose them. People need to be needed, to be involved," he said.

Governor Moncrief also encouraged the next president of our club to go to Montreal to the Rotary's international convention. The following year it will be in New Orleans. District Conference is in Rogers, Arkansas in Oct. He encouraged as many as could to attend the District Conference. It will start with a golf tournament. The Governor confessed that his golf game has a handicap of 3 – physical, psychological and emotional. There will also be skeet shooting and great entertainment – including Elvis!

"If you want to grow your club – think of it as a team," he continued. "In Rugby, if you are in a corner, you have to kick from the corner. Start from where you are. And have some fun with each other by starting a competition between teams to see how many guests each can bring. Losers have to serve others, etc." He noted that in McAlester we had already assigned members to teams to invite new people to our meetings. "Play, have fun, build teams and compete," he encouraged. "Service clubs are shrinking. Only

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## **Live United from Page 2**

guessed that she has been the UWSO director for 14 years.

United Way is not just about fundraising, Yvette said. It is about looking at problems and trying to do something about them. A good example of this was seen in the pictures she showed from the 2009 Day of Caring. Volunteers were seen putting in a porch and wheelchair ramp for an elderly person, scraping and painting a house, clearing brush, planting tomatoes and cucumbers, using donated makeup to do make-overs for nursing home residents, playing chess and swapping stories with nursing home residents, painting concession stands, removing dangerous old posts, weatherizing windows, and doing other things that make a difference and might not otherwise get done. In the process, the volunteers, and especially the young people, gained valuable lessons about the importance of giving.

The 45 programs offered by UWSO agencies fall into at least one of the three United Way areas of service: (1) helping children and youth succeed; (2) meeting basic human needs and building self-sufficiency; and (3) promoting health and healing.

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## **Fired Up from Page 2**

first week of August in their field house. Upon coming back from their summertime workouts, they discovered the fire. For the meantime, they have moved in portable buildings. They were till taking equipment off the UPS trucks when going to their first scrimmage. Construction has just begun on their new field house. The team will have to play away for some time.

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# **Attendance, Guests, Handshakers, *Plus the Great Big Pot***

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Attendance for October 13th was 31 members and 19 guests for a total of 50. Handshaker Tim Whipps passed the dollar to Jim Thompson. Steve Brock had the winning ticket in the drawing, but he did not find the Joker, so the pot now stands at more than \$2,475.

Attendance: Oct. 6th 42 members and 13 guests. Randy Saunier introduced new member Kacey Smith, who works for Ouachita Mountains Resource Conservation & Development. Her husband, Ben, works for Tenaska at Kiowa. They have one daughter, Kennedi, and are expecting a second child. Student guests from McAlester High School for October are Julia Wynn and Jeff Williams. Brian Renegar had the winning ticket but drew a losing card. The pot is now up to \$2,400. Handshaker Loise Washington gave the dollar to Mary Shannon. Guests were: Salvation Army Capt. Ric Swartz, guest of Wayne Hanway; Desiree Brown, guest of Brian Renegar; Kelli Yates, Rotary Ann of Brent Yates; and Mark Miller, son of Noble Miller.

Attendance for September 22nd Guests 2 Members 37 Total

Rotary is increasing, but that is from rising membership overseas. We need to find fun ways to bring people in. We need to have a new signature project, perhaps a parade of homes, or a cook out to explain Rotary and what is required of its members. Medical and other professionals are good Rotary candidates. Think of those you know and can invite. Remember that Rotary matters, that the money given to be a Paul Harris Fellow contributes to clean water for people around the world. Remember that 25% of our world lives on \$1.25 per day. Rotary is making a difference, making an impact on a world-side scale. The Secretary General of the UN, speaking of Rotary, said, "Single greatest partner with our organization is Rotary."

"One man started the Polio Project," the governor continued. "We hope to finish the project in the next three years – to have polio eradicated. Then we will take on a new project. There will be large funds remaining that can be used for the new project. Bill Gates heavily funds the polio project. He has pledged to keep funding coming for a new project. We have a great club. Let's keep rotary great."

And in closing, Governor Moncrief said, "Don't forget. The future of Rotary is in your hands."

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In answering questions from club members, Yvette explained that each United Way agency has to make an annual application for funding, which is reviewed by an allocation committee. The committee interviews representatives from each agency and committee members often take a further look at agency programs in action. Yvette is not a voting member of the committee.

Another question was how donations have been doing recently. Yvette noted that nationally, nonprofit funding has been down by thirty to fifty percent in the past year, but UWSO's funding has held steady. Since they have added two new agencies to their list (Boy Scouts returned after an absence of some years), the need to keep funding up is important.

Speaking in support of the need for keeping up United Way funding, Lynn Edwards, director of Boys & Girls Club of McAlester (BGCM), said that they have been a United Way agency since about 1960. He told club members that BGCM has seen its budget requirements increase about fifty percent in the past five years, and the need for increased funding is critical.

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Channel 9 did a story about the fire on sports blitz. This is a handicap but will not a sidetrack them from their goal. The team's new nickname is "road warriors". They are in a 10 team district now. Talahina is toughest challenge, the team to beat in Class A. Oct 16, a Friday night, they play at Savannah, their biggest rivalry and best attended game. Everyone in attendance was invited to come enjoy the game.

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39 Invocation was given by Wayne Hanway

Attendance for September 15th Membership present 34 + Guest = 35 Guest Chandra Hensley brought by Larry Auld Handshaker - Shayne Javersak

Attendance for September 8th was 40 In the drawing, Karl Scifres had the right number, but drew the ace of clubs. Carl Filskow was the secret handshaker and passed the dollar to Jim Thompson. Student guests for McAlester High School were Kaitlin Kirby and Tucker Olsen.

Attendance for September 1st 39 Members 1 member in waiting 3 guests Total of 43. Invocation by Bob Thornton

Attendance: August 18 36 Members present. Steve Smith brought 4 guests. Mary Shannon, program chair this week, brought 6 guests, Coach Pratt and his four team captains plus Tom Condict all of the McAlester Public Schools. Kelly Yates, Rotary Ann of Bert Yates was present. And Kacy Smith, preparatory member, was present for a total of 12 guests. Overall attendance for August 18 was 48.