

# Panhandle

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

April 2017

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Aggies  
Take  
Charge

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PHOTO BY DAN HUBBELL



## Dr. Dinger Named Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University selected Dr. Julie Dinger as the next Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs following a national search completed by a 15-member search committee. She will assume the position upon the July 1 retirement of current Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey. Dr. Dinger is currently the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs at Connors State College.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn said, “We are honored to have Dr. Dinger join the Panhandle team. She brings an energy with her that was inspirational to the campus during the interview process.”

At Panhandle State, Dr. Dinger will oversee all academic areas, recruitment, student housing, student activities, and financial aid.

Dr. Dinger earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Master of Arts degree in Sociology, and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Sociology from the University of Oklahoma.

Prior to her current post, Dr. Dinger served as Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs- Assessment and Curriculum, Division Chair of Social Sciences, and Sociology Instructor for Connors State College. In the classroom, Dr. Dinger has taught a range of sociology courses at both the University of Oklahoma and Connors State College.

Dr. Dinger has an impressive track record of community engagement.

She is married to Dr. Ryan Blanton. Dr. Blanton will join Panhandle State as the Vice President of Outreach in July. The couple has three children.

Dr. Dinger commented, “I am thrilled to join the Panhandle family. It is an honor to be asked to work with an excellent group of people at an institution with an amazing history of changing lives in so many positive ways. I’m really looking forward to joining the community and taking every opportunity to listen and learn about the great things we will do for our students together.” **P**



## Dr. Blanton Named Vice President of Outreach

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Dr. Ryan Blanton has been selected as the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Vice President of Outreach following a national search completed by a 20-member search committee. Dr. Blanton is currently the Associate Vice President for External Affairs at Connors State College and Executive Director of the Connors Development Foundation.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn said, “I am excited for the impact this position will make in the future of Panhandle State. Dr. Blanton brings an impressive record of attracting resources from private donors, creating economic development opportunities and securing grants.”

As Vice President of Outreach, Dr. Blanton will supervise a unit that includes alumni relations, development, special events, marketing, and career management. Dr. Blanton will help execute advancement, marketing, and enrollment management strategies in addition to providing leadership to secure public and private support to help fulfill the University’s mission.

Previously, Dr. Blanton served as the Southeastern Oklahoma Regional Outreach Coordinator for the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and as a Research Associate at the American Indian Diabetes Prevention Center and the Center for Health Ethics, Research, and Policy at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Blanton earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology, Master of Arts degree in Anthropology, and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Blanton is married to Dr. Julie Dinger. Dr. Dinger will join Panhandle State as the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs upon the July 1 retirement of current Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey. The couple has three children.

Dr. Blanton said, “I am honored to join the OPSU community and to be part of the growing regional impact of the University.” **P**



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# Good Bull Ride

By Dustin Martinez



*Originally from Guymon, Okla., Dustin Martinez is majoring in fine arts with an emphasis in sculpture and a minor in business. Dustin is a member of the Panhandle State Rodeo team and is an active member of the Images Art Club.*

*This essay was selected from a group of essays submitted by Dr. Ondyak's Freshman English classes. Students were asked to describe one of their favorite aspects of Panhandle State for an audience that has never visited the campus. The essays feature a number of different aspects on campus including the amazing people, places and events at the University.*

Oklahoma Panhandle State University's (OPSU) Rodeo team has made weekly practices simply a part of their routine, using it as a key for Aggie cowboys and cowgirls to better themselves alongside other teammates. The team's practices are never short from being filled with an array of people; from the outspoken, but kind-natured Allen McCloy who hauls stock 60-plus miles every week, to Robert Etbauer, the team's dry-humored and insightful head coach. These practices are where the team members gain confidence and become better in their event(s) by taking tools like repetition, along with constructive criticism and putting them to work in the arena. As I'm traveling to the first college rodeo of the year, I vividly recall OPSU's rough-stock practice on Tuesday and the feeling of gained confidence from hearing, "Good bull-ride".

Although a handful of others might like to disagree about rodeo practice on Tuesday's overcast and unusually chilly September day, Dylan Riggins and I both have positive and parallel thoughts from practice going into the weekend. The bulls that were offered for those of us who were practicing that day were every bit of what us bull-riders wanted. Every single loose-hided and fat-bellied bull that day jumped out into the dirt arena and spun hard! One by one a couple of my other buddies took their turns, each doing their job well and with an abundant amount of try. Up the line they went, with each bull blowing snot and looking for a cowboy to hook, until finally it was just Dylan and I left to ride.

Looking into the bucking chute behind me with my helmet halfway on, I reached and grabbed my mouthpiece from between my clenched teeth and yelled to Dylan who was just nodding his head, "Want it more than anyone here man!" Dylan's bull fired out of the metal bucking chute like a warship gun, throwing everything he could in his attempt to buck of the trying cowboy. For eight seconds the red, young, and slick-haired bucking bull

kicked, reared, and even rolled in the air until Riggins bailed off after hearing the buzzer, signifying he had made the required time. Now it was my time to have fun and do the thing that I love.

As I crawled down onto my bull and slid my right hand into my rosin-covered bull-rope, I could feel adrenaline pulsating through my veins, common with bull riding. The unusual, yet oddly satisfying air of cattle manure and dust filled my nostrils and throat instantly when I took a deep breath of air as I nodded for the gate. "Go on and be gritty now Martinez", I hear one of my fellow teammates encourage while my bull made his first move out on the arena that was now my dancefloor. Fortunately, my practice bull for the day had a fantastic trip, spinning to the left, each round trying to get me a little closer to his baseball bat size horns. He made the rounds, and I made the moves, just us out there, two-stepping on a Tuesday afternoon having some fun. After making about five or six spins, the buffalo resembling bull made a lunge forward towards one of the bull-fighters, just at the right moment for me to get off safely and jump onto the fence. Short of breath and blessed that I had just made another safe bull ride I exited the arena with my rope in hand as I heard my coach say, "Good bull-ride."

Reminiscing and chatting about Tuesday's practice I asked Dylan how OPSU's rodeo practices have personally impacted his rodeo career. From his entire response these are the words that stuck out to me, "Panhandle has been a place where I get to come and be around people who have been or are the best in the game. It is an environment where everyone wants everyone to get better, but also makes sure we are tough while doing so. OPSU has definitely been what has helped shape me into the definition of a real "cowboy"." After thinking more and more about what Dylan said, I realize he and I have both gained similar things, ones which work hand in hand. Bettering oneself can be something that does more for a person than help them physically, it can be used as a key in gaining crucial elements such as confidence, allowing someone to do much more and go much further in whatever they desire. Take it from me. **P**



Dustin Martinez rides a bull during one of the weekly jackpots at the college arena in Goodwell.



District 3 Texas County Commissioner Jack Strain and crew received the 2017 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award in recognition of their work with Panhandle State. Strain is pictured here with his family from left to right: John and Kali Singer, Jack and Gwen Strain, and Jake and Heather Strain.

## Jack Strain Receives Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

**D**istrict 3 Texas County Commissioner Jack Strain and crew received the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award in recognition of their partnership with Oklahoma Panhandle State University. The award highlights successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and seeks to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

Commissioner Jack Strain has been actively involved in the continuing development of Panhandle State and has contributed to many of the infrastructure improvements on the campus and university farm. Notable contributions include site work for the construction of the Noble Cultural and Activity Center; work on the campus street system and parking lots in conjunction with the construction of the Science and Agriculture Building; improvement of the roads around the campus ballpark

complex; and improvement of the university farm roads. Most recently, Jack facilitated dirt work done at the site of the future Oklahoma Panhandle State University shooting range. This has enabled Panhandle State to qualify for a grant from the Department of Wildlife. The addition of the Shooting facility will allow Panhandle State to add academic Wildlife programs and shooting teams. Local shooting clubs and the local high school also benefit from this additional resource.

District 3 Commissioner Jack Strain is a Panhandle State graduate in accounting and serves on the OPSU Advisory Committee and the Panhandle Association of Alumni and Friends Board of Directors. Jack and his wife Gwen, also a Panhandle State graduate, handle the score clock and shot clock during OPSU home basketball games. Jack was an Alumni Hall of Fame Honoree in 2014.

Commissioner Strain and Oklahoma Panhandle State University have a model partnership that spans many years and has furthered the growth of Panhandle State and the surrounding Texas County Community.

Panhandle State President Dr. Faltyn said, "Jack Strain and his work are a blessing to the university and we are very proud of him as alumnus of Panhandle State. He does a great job for everyone in Texas county." **P**

# Aggie Family



Staff  
Abby Rice

**A**bbby Rice is a vital part of Academic Affairs at Panhandle State. For 20 years as of April 4, 2017, Abby has served under three different Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs as Administrative Assistant: Dr. Dale Goldsmith, Dr. Wayne Manning and Diane Murphey, and she looks forward to working with the next VP, Dr. Julie Dinger.

Abby started at Panhandle State as a traditional student and an Aggie cheerleader in the Fall of 1991. She was a student worker in Academic Affairs, ironically, in 1991 and a student worker in Financial Aid in 1992. She took a break from school for a while and then returned in December of 1994 where she worked full-time in the Business Office as the Assistant Payroll Clerk. She was then asked to interview for the Administrative Assistant position and started in April of 1997 and has been there ever since. During some of this time she took a few classes here and there and graduated with her Associates in Business Administration in December of 2009.

As the Administrative Assistant, Abby is in charge of schedule information for students. She makes edits to the general catalogue, does Panhandle State travel reimbursements and deals with adjunct payroll. She is also responsible for the higher regents reports that involve class data and professional staff. She takes the minutes for several campus committees, serves on the staff liaison committee, prepares cards for commencement and she prepares and compiles the student evaluations for the faculty surveys, athletic surveys and graduate surveys. On top of all of these responsibilities, she also helps assist the VP with anything that is needed. She is clearly highly involved in many areas of the mechanics keeping Panhandle State running.

Abby's hobbies include Zumba and spending time with her family. She loves to attend events and activities for her kids. Abby married Kiley Rice in November of 2016 after spending four years together. She likes to joke that they "now have seven kids collectively." Both of Abby's older kids, Lance Quintana and Nicole Evans, graduated from Panhandle State in May of 2014. She stated, "I am super proud to have both of them going through the same school. Now both of them are only one year short of their Doctorates of Chiropractic from Parker University in Dallas. She also has a daughter, Avery Evans, who is a freshman at Goodwell High School. Avery hopes to follow her mother and siblings at Panhandle State. **P**



Student  
Brandon Gipe

**O**klahoma Panhandle State University is filled with outgoing, successful students who make great impacts every day. One of these students is senior, Brandon Gipe. Brandon has been a student-athlete for Panhandle State's football team the past four years. During these four years, he has had an extremely important role on the Aggie defense. His friends, colleagues and teammates all see Brandon as a positive individual and see big things in his future as graduation approaches.

A native of Texhoma, Okla., Brandon is one of only two seniors on the football squad this year who went to high school in the Panhandle area. He is the oldest of three boys in his family, all of whom are currently attending college. The youngest attends Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and the second oldest is a sophomore here at Panhandle State. Brandon found his way to Panhandle State through his football scholarship, and completed his final season this past fall. Throughout the years, he has been a part of an Aggie defense that's been nationally recognized in competitiveness.

Brandon, no longer a player on the football team, has taken a position as a student-coach for the linebackers this spring season. He notes that his coaches and teammates have been a huge influence and made his college experience very enjoyable. He hopes to now pass on that impact by assisting his former teammates and leading by example in the classroom. Brandon is an excellent example of what it means to be a student-athlete in the classroom and on the field. He will be graduating with a Health and Physical Education degree this spring. Zachary Perez Clack, his longtime teammate and friend, states, "Brandon is hard-working, dedicated, approachable and overall a great person on and off the field."

Aside from football associations, he is also involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes on campus. In his spare time, Brandon really enjoys hanging out with his family as well as traveling with his friends and experiencing all that college has to offer.

With graduation in the near future, Brandon has a bright look ahead of him. He plans to further his education by attending graduate school in hopes of attaining a full-time coaching position at the collegiate level one day. When asked what his favorite aspect of Panhandle state was, Brandon quickly says, "I will never forget the family atmosphere I've had here." **P**



Faculty  
**Shawna Tucker**

**S**hawna Tucker is a panhandle native raised in Texhoma, Okla. After graduating from Texhoma High School, she went to Southwestern College where she completed her education degree and returned back to the Panhandle to teach. She has been teaching at Panhandle State for 19 years, “I love the area. All of my family are in the panhandle area, this is home to me!”

Shawna is very active on campus. Recently, she served on the the Vice President of Academic Affairs Searc Committee. She also is collaborating with faculty around campus to bring some exciting changes to the mathematics department that will benefit all majors on campus.

The Regents Math Pathway Task force was created years ago to help high schoolers transition into college mathematics flawlessly. Math faculty around the state have been collaborating together to provide education to students in a way more applicable to their degree. “The program we will implement at OPSU won’t look like the Pathways at OSU or OU. It will be designed to best serve students at OPSU.” The task force is excited to offer the first course in the Spring Semester of 2018. “We want to create success for students through projects that focus on problem solving and how to help students accomplish their chosen career path through inquiry based learning. Math is more than crunching numbers, it’s a way of thinking.”

In addition to the Regents Math Pathway Task Force, Shawna is working on the Complete College America Corequisite that effects the success of the student. The goal of this project is to create a course that combines the intermediate mathematics course and college algebra into a five-hour course that can be completed in one semester. Right now, work is being done on the logistical challenges of the course.

Outside of work, Shawna is equally as busy. She is married to Jim Tucker and together they have four kids. “We call it yours, mine, and theirs. We both have children from our first marriages and we adopted our niece.” The Tucker family lives in Elkhart, Kan. Shawna said, “I love what I do. The students and the people I work with are one of a kind, I am lucky to work with them.” Shawna Tucker is an amazing example of the high quality teachers at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, there is no limit to the effort that is put forth to see students succeed. **P**



Alumni  
**Trell Etbauer**

**I**t is no secret that the little town of Goodwell produces many top caliber athletes in the rodeo arena, and numerous Oklahoma Panhandle State University alumni have been named the best in the business. One of these highly decorated cowboys is Trell Etbauer.

Early in his professional career, Etbauer worked four events including the tie-down roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding and team roping. Although he has condensed his list of events, he still excels in the steer wrestling and calf roping, claiming numerous all-around titles in the process.

Etbauer has called Goodwell home for the majority of his life. He is a 2004 graduate of Goodwell High School and continued his education right at home, graduating from OPSU in 2008 with a Bachelor of Industrial Technology. During his time at Panhandle, Etbauer was a valued member of the rodeo team. He qualified for the short round at every college rodeo he entered, a statistic very few have accomplished. His success with the red and blue vest was under the direction of Coach Craig Latham.

“I loved my time at OPSU. I would go back in a heartbeat and do it all again. I loved rodeoing for Coach Latham and the Industrial Technology classes. It’s a great school,” Etbauer added, “I still enjoy practicing and competing with the college kids. They keep me sharp and practiced up.”

Etbauer was the 2005 Collegiate National Champion Steer Wrestler and qualified for the Rose Bowl of college rodeo in 2006 and 2008 as well. Since graduation, Etbauer added to his already impressive resume in the arena. He is a four-time Bill Linderman Award winner. The Linderman Award is an honor for all-around cowboys, given to the cowboy who wins the most money at both ends of the arena (roughstock and timed event). He is a four-time qualifier to the Cinch Lazy E Timed Event Championships and captured the fastest round title in 2016. Etbauer also is a three-time Prairie Circuit All-Around Cowboy, 2015 All-Star Champion Calf Roper, 2014 Cheyenne Frontier Days All-Around Cowboy and the 2013 Greely Stampede Champion Steer Wrestler.

Always partial to Goodwell, Etbauer now hangs his hat in Gruver, Texas with his wife, Kaylee, and two-year-old daughter, Rally. The Etbauer Family are great supporters of Panhandle State and the Rodeo Team. **P**



The Panhandle State SOEA group received recognition for their outstanding work totaling five state awards at the recent Spring Convention.

## SOEA Earns State Awards

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oh, The Places You'll Go! rings true for many future educators and current Oklahoma Panhandle State University education majors as they prepare for and look forward to a career in teaching. Seventeen Panhandle State Aggies recently joined with fellow students from across Oklahoma for the "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" themed 2017 Outreach to Teach and the 2017 Spring Convention hosted by the Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) in Tulsa, Okla.

SOEA is the student branch of the Oklahoma Education Association (OEA). A pre-professional organization of undergraduate and graduate students currently preparing for careers in education, SOEA is one of the largest student organizations in Oklahoma with local student programs at over 25 university and college campuses.

SOEA's annual service project, Outreach to Teach, was March 3 at Andrew Jackson Elementary School in Tulsa. Panhandle State students gathered with fellow SOEA members to organize, clean, paint, landscape, and decorate Andrew Jackson Elementary. The students had a great time jazzing the school up with a Dr. Seuss theme.

Amber Hall said, "Outreach to Teach had such a huge impact on me in the fact that we did it for the kids. Everything we did was for the kids! Our particular group painted a mural on one of the walls inside of the school. It was yellow and had Dr. Seuss characters on it. In our classes at OPSU, we talk about classroom environment and just painting a small part of the wall yellow made everyone so happy! It is heart-warming to hear how the

students reacted to our work as they walked down the halls. It took a lot of patience, hard work, and time but it was well worth it!"

The following day, the group attended the spring convention at the Tulsa Public School's Wilson Teaching and Learning Academy in Tulsa, Okla. The convention featured key sessions led by Dr. Deborah Gist, Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent and Sabra Tucker, Oklahoma Retired Educator's Association (OREA) Executive Director as well as a variety of breakout sessions available to attend.

Junior Marcala Steckel commented on the trip, "I had a great time helping out at Andrew Jackson Elementary; the best part was seeing the student's and the teacher's reactions. At the convention, I learned what personality type I am through the true colors test. I feel like this is a resource I can use in my classroom someday."

During the convention, the Panhandle State SOEA group received recognition for their outstanding work totaling five state awards: Outstanding Chapter, Outstanding Website, Outstanding Advisor, Outstanding Local Leaders, and Outstanding Senior.

(continued on page 9)



During SOEA's annual service project, Panhandle State students helped paint this beautiful wall at an elementary school in Tulsa.



The group as a whole received recognition as an Outstanding Chapter as well as Outstanding Website recognition. Senior Sarah Brady, a double major studying Agriculture Education and Elementary Education, has maintained the group's website.

The Outstanding Advisor went to Dr. Cheng Hsien Wu. Dr. Wu is an Assistant Professor of Education at Panhandle.

Senior Ely Esquivel received the Outstanding Local Leaders award. She is majoring in elementary education with minors in business and physical science.

Senior Kaylee Carroll received the Outstanding Senior Award. Additionally, Carroll was recognized with a trophy for her year of service as the SOEA state cultural officer. Carroll is an elementary education major.

Assistant Professor of Education Jerry Mihelic said, "I am so proud of our group. They all are amazing and truly illustrate the level of excellence at Panhandle State University."

The following students attended the event from Panhandle State: Angelique Archer, Kathy Brooks, Kaylee Carroll, Ely Esquivel, Lizet Gutierrez, Amber Hall, Michele Mann, Nancy Melendez, Quinten Mirabel, Dakota Moon, Taryn Nelson, David Peebles, Kristina Simpson, Marcala Steckel, Taryna Strydom, Kelli Winters, and Andy Wray. SOEA advisors and Panhandle State education instructors Dr. Cheng Hsien Wu and Jerry Mihelic sponsored the trip.

This year's officers are President Ely Esquivel, Vice President Taryn Nelson, Treasurer Dakota Moon, and Secretary Kristina Simpson. **P**

## **Guymon Classroom Offering First Aid/CPR/AED Courses**

April 24 from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

May 22 from 6-10 p.m.

Guymon Classroom  
304 NW 5th Street  
Guymon, OK

Tuition is \$25  
Call 580.338.1380 to register

Students will receive American Heart  
Association Certification



Panhandle State is now offering a Welding Certification Program.

## **Panhandle State Offering Welding Certification Program**

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is excited to begin a new step in the Industrial Technology Program with a Welding Certification Program. This program allows for a standardized curriculum and assessment with readily available credentials for construction and maintenance. The program will be accredited via the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).

The four level curriculum is broken down into modules and students can certify after each module in each level. Students must score a 70% or higher to receive certification in written and performance exams. Written exams may be taken online. Classes will meet once a week and the program can be completed in two years.

The program will prepare students to take the state certification exam. Additionally, it combines well with the Associates in Applied Science with a Metal Technology option. Approximately \$23,000 of equipment has been purchased for the program.

The program is sponsored by Associated General Contractors of Oklahoma (AGC).

Program classes include: Welding Safety, Oxyfuel Cutting, Plasma Arc Cutting, Air Carbon Arc Cutting and Gouging, Base Metal Preparation, Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Joint Fit-up and Alignment, Welding Symbols, Reading Welding Detail Drawings, Gas Metal Arc Welding, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding, Flux Core Arc Welding, Weld Quality, Physical Characteristics and Mechanical Properties of Metal, Preheating and Postheating of Metals, and Soldering and Brazing.

For more information, contact the Panhandle State Industrial Technology Department at 580.349.1448. **P**



The Schlochtermeier family has created a very special orphan calf program to help farmers and ranchers affected by the recent devastating fires.

## Helping Hands and Hearts

By Annawynn Drury

**T**hroughout the month of March, fires swept across the plains of Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas affecting hundreds of families and homes as they spread. The greatest loss was endured by the agriculturalists who lost their means to survive as hundreds of crops, baled hay and livestock became encircled and engulfed by the fires. The unpredictable devastation began so quickly that many farmers and ranchers were left without warning as they raced to save their homes, fields and cattle. Many men and women worked through the night to protect their land and their neighbor's land from ruin.

When the smoke had settled, the most amazing series of events took place as farmers and ranchers from all over America donated baled hay, medicine and other supplies to those that were left with nothing after the fire. Currently, donations are still being received in the affected areas giving farmers and ranchers the ability to recover from such an impactful loss. Efforts to help those affected also came from students at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Students asked for donations for food and supplies for the responders to the fires that worked to control the fire round the clock without stopping to rest. Panhandle State sophomore Reagan Schlochtermeier and her family helped create a very special relief program to take care of the orphaned calves.

Originally from Meade, Kan., Reagan and her older brother Taten are currently attending Panhandle State following in the footsteps of their older sister, Panhandle State graduate Ashlynn Schlochtermeier. Both Reagan and Taten are studying Agriculture Business.

Following the recent massive fires and devastation, the Schlochtermeier family teamed up with the Boggs family in Meade to develop a program to take care of orphaned calves that lost their mothers in the fire. "We actually came up with the idea because the Boggs had

family affected by the fire and we all knew these ranchers didn't have time to care for these sick and burned babies." The program became recognized almost overnight with 4-H families from all over Kansas and Oklahoma taking in calves to care for them. "The support just continues to grow, it's amazing! We have taken in about 96 calves from the Clark County Area, the youngest only four days old, but at my house we currently care for seven calves," said Reagan.

She explained that so many of the cattle temporarily adopted were so badly burned that only a few cattle would go to a family at one time so the family could provide the most love, care and attention as possible. "Our goal is just to save them and get them healed up properly." Together the families have inspired surrounding communities to become involved, and the result has been incredible. "We had to put seven of the calves down due to how badly they were burned but out of 90 calves, that is pretty good."

The support this project is receiving is phenomenal. Across the country, farmers and ranchers are donating time, help and resources however they can. Reagan said, "There are so many good people out there! Last weekend, we had the Michigan Convoy at our house with eight semi loads of hay, milk replacer, medicine and feed. 4-H clubs from across the country have sent us donations to provide care for the orphaned calves. Veterinarians have offered to provide medicine and services, whatever we need, someone has offered to provide it."

Reagan and her family rely on the land and are centered in the ag community in Meade and they understand the importance of relying on each other when times become tough. "The main reason we are doing this is to help the ranchers who lost everything in the fire. One rancher lost 725 of his 840 head of cows. You can't buy these pedigrees at the sale barn, they were the success of generations and generations of work put into making these cows produce the highest quality calves. We have put a great deal of effort into saving the little heifer calves so these ranchers don't have to start from the very bottom again."

It is amazing how a small, close knit community is leaving such a massive impact on ranchers throughout Kansas. "We knew we had to get involved in this program because my family and another family from Meade saw the need for it. In all reality, I think it has brought the country together, and showed us really just how many good people there are."

Throughout this massive devastation and loss of land and livelihood, the Schlochtermeier and Boggs families have demonstrated a resilience known only to the agriculture community. The Orphaned Calf Relief of Southwest Kansas is still receiving donations. Through the work of this program, ranchers now have the ability to recover what they worked so hard for thanks to the donations and efforts of families of farmers and ranchers across the nation. Please visit the Orphaned Calf Relief Of SW Kansas page on facebook for more information on how you can help. **P**



Panhandle State graduate Jake Strain serves physical therapy patients around the area.

## Start Here, Go Anywhere

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**S**tart here, go anywhere” is a phrase proven true for countless Oklahoma Panhandle State University students since the school got its start in 1909. The mission of the University is “to provide higher education primarily for people of the Oklahoma Panhandle through academic programs, cultural enrichment, lifelong learning experiences, and public service activities” and this friendly campus nestled in Goodwell is doing that very thing.

It’s not uncommon at all for students in the School of Science, Math, and Nursing at Panhandle State to have their sights set on continuing their education in pursuit of becoming a doctor or veterinarian among many other careers after they obtain their bachelor’s degree.

Abigail Gordon recently completed her bachelor’s degree in Biology at Panhandle State and now has her sights on the future.

Gordon said, “Furthering my education beyond a bachelor’s degree has always been my plan, and I am very happy to say that I was accepted into the Langston University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. I have dreamed about this opportunity for so long, and I am very grateful that God allowed me to experience this achievement.”

Originally from Texhoma, Okla., Gordon was very familiar with the area and Panhandle State was a great fit for her.

“OPSU was a huge stepping stone to this acceptance. The small class sizes provided me with good opportunities to learn and the availability of professors enabled me to receive personal attention and help when needed.”

Dr. Jake Strain has a story similar to Gordon’s having graduated from high school locally and choosing to attend Panhandle State. Strain was born and raised in Goodwell.

“Panhandle State has always been home to me. I love it here.”

A scholarship to play basketball for the Aggies, combined with academic scholarships and Jake’s relationship with his family, made the decision to stay close to home an easy one.

“I am really, really family oriented. My mom and dad both went here (Panhandle State). My dad was on the rodeo team and my mom played softball. This University had a huge part in shaping them into who they are.”

That decision to become an Aggie set Jake on the path he is on today. He originally had medical school in mind when he began classes as a freshman majoring in biology. That was before a knee injury his sophomore year began to steer his path towards physical therapy school.

What started out as therapy for his knee injury with Eric Johnson at Elite Physical Therapy in Guymon, Okla. turned into a job for Jake as a technician at the clinic. It wasn’t until the spring of Jake’s senior year at Panhandle State and much discussion with his family that he made the decision to apply for Physical Therapy school at Langston University.

He was accepted and began classes in June just a month after graduating from Panhandle State. The rest is history.

Jake and Eric are now in a partnership at Elite Physical Therapy where they currently serve three outpatient clinics, three hospitals, two skilled nursing facilities, one nursing home, local schools, and a home health agency.

For Dr. Strain his favorite thing about the profession is, “We are different than a lot of other medical professions that may have a total face time with a patient of 30 minutes. We get to spend a lot of face time with our patients. We get to see them at their worst physical time and get them back to their best again. It is rewarding.”

Dr. Strain spoke about his time at Panhandle State and how he gets to give back to the place where it all started. “Some of the best friendships and memories came from here. We see a lot of the Panhandle State athletes. It has been cool to contribute back to here.”

Not only has Dr. Strain given back to the student-athletes whom he can relate to, but he also has invested countless hours in the lives of students as they begin their journey to physical therapy school with observation hours and internships at Elite Physical Therapy.

Abigail Gordon is one of those students Dr. Strain has invested in. “There are a lot of people who have to observe and you can tell who is going to be good. You can tell by their passion. Abigail is that way. She came to observe on her own time, multiple times. She will make a really good physical therapist. She loves people and she loves helping them. She is very passionate about building that foundational relationship with people. You can tell that she cares.”

Students continue to fulfill their dreams at this university they become so fond of. **P**



Aggies Jake Regier and Payson Slater spend their summers coaching youth teams throughout the Panhandle area. The Honey Badgers have grown to a group of five teams for young boys and girls to expand their basketball skills.

## Faith, Family, and Basketball Bring Panhandle Players Together

By Annawynn Drury

**W**hile most seniors anxiously await graduation day and see it as the starting point for getting out in the world and making a mark, some find their calling earlier in life. The latter rings true for Jake Regier and a special group of basketball players.

Jake is a junior at Oklahoma Panhandle State University studying physical education with a minor in education. He grew up near Forgan, Okla., so he is no stranger to the Panhandle. Jake is very involved on and off campus. He is a shooting guard on the basketball team and has been on the team for three years. “Some of my favorite memories from this year were the new teammates that I grew close to and playing with some of my best friends who are from the area.”

On top of being a full time student-athlete, Jake recently got married to Monti (Sappenfield) Regier. She plays on the women’s basketball team and these two are a dynamic duo for Aggie Athletics. “It has been an amazing experience to travel with her and play college basketball at the same time.” Jake married into a family of athletes,

“When I married Monti, I gained many nieces and nephews as she is the second youngest of eight kids. One of my nephews, Jaedon Whitfield, is on the basketball team with me, so I joke that we have the first uncle/nephew duo in college basketball. In addition to his athletic involvement, Jake is the youth director at Victory Memorial United Methodist Church in Guymon, Okla. “I work with some amazing youth every week.” He also serves as the Vice President of the Association of Student Athletics at Panhandle State.

Jake looks forward to graduation in May 2018. He plans to stay in the Panhandle area and give back to the community by coaching and teaching. “I love this area and I hope to give back to the kids what so many teachers and coaches gave to me.” What is most amazing is he is not waiting until graduation to make a difference.

Currently, Jake and Payson Slater, another Aggie Basketball player and an active leader in his church in Hooker, Okla., started a basketball program in the summer called the Honey Badgers. The two athletes gather the best players from the Panhandle and Northwest Oklahoma area and take them to tournaments throughout the summer to compete at higher levels while getting exposure and playing time logged in the summer. The Honey Badgers adopted the philosophy of “Faith. Family. Basketball” and provide an excellent outlet for the panhandle youth in the summer months. Jake said, “The motto helps us as leaders and the kids remember to keep our priorities in the right order.”

Monti Regier who is also very involved on and off the court helped create a girl’s league of Honey Badgers that

travel and compete during the summer. Together, Jake, Monti, Payson and another Aggie athlete Jace Kerr have expanded the program and coach in the summer months. “It has been a blessing to be around the best basketball players in the Panhandle and Northwest Oklahoma every summer,” Jake commented. In all, there are four boys’ teams with players who come from all across the Oklahoma Panhandle and Northwest Oklahoma.

The work these students have put into the community has sparked such a powerful change, Jaedon Whitfield, Dee Alston, Chandler Bryer and Bowen Nyberg, who are all on the Panhandle State Men’s Basketball Team, were part of the original Honey Badgers Team. This group of young men really illustrate the importance of teamwork on and off the court. Jake’s high school friend, Jace Kerr, transferred to Panhandle State from the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) so they all could play together this last year. Jace actively works with the Honey Badgers team and helped coach them the last two summers.

Erin Whitfield, Jaedon’s mother and Monti’s sister, has supported the Honey Badgers from the start. She celebrates with them, seeing a community’s dream come true. “All of these boys have had a dream of playing together in college and building a program that all the local people can be proud of.” It is amazing how the hard work of these young men and women brings a community together. Addison Munsch, another Aggie Women’s Basketball star went to school with Jaedon at Boise City. The athletic community at Panhandle State pulls the small towns of the panhandle together to play as one and create opportunity for the youth across the panhandle.

Dr. Tim Faltyn, Panhandle State’s President, recognizes the work of these young men and women and accredits their success to the hard work and dedication each student athlete puts in. “The thing I love about athletics is that it teaches young men and women how important it is to make good decisions. They learn that if they make good decisions in the dorms, classrooms, in who they hang out with, in their spending, in their relationships with teammates and others, that good things can happen...just like on the court. This story is proof that for students who have found their passion in life, it is a lot more about momentum than motivation. You can change the world when you get things moving in the right direction and make decisions to sustain the momentum you’ve built.”

Jake, Payson and their growing group of Honey Badgers are great examples of the high quality students found at Panhandle State. They have created a momentum that is quickly moving in the right direction, and will leave an impact on the community for years to come. **P**



The Honey Badgers offer teams for boys and girls throughout the Panhandle area.



Members of the Guymon Fire Department were one of three first-responder crews to receive supplies from the Aggie Baseball collection drive.

## Campus Community Comes Together to Aid in Wildfire Relief Efforts

By Panhandle State Sports Information

In the aftermath of the devastating wildfires that ravaged the Panhandles of Texas and western Oklahoma in early March, the Aggie Family at Panhandle State University united to help gather supplies for those in the direct line of impact.

Members of the Panhandle State baseball team held a collection drive before Spring Break to gather drinks, snacks and other necessities for local first responders and emergency crews. The team delivered cases of water and Gatorade as well as snacks, Chap Stick, baby wipes and eyewash to three area fire departments involved with the wildfire containment.

Head Coach Jason Miner saw the need and initiated the two-day drive quickly with the help of Panhandle State Vice President Diane Murphey, who made posters to generate fast action across campus. Over the two-day span, students, faculty and staff collected enough supplies to disperse among the Goodwell, Guymon and Texhoma Fire Departments.

Tenoch Ramon, Goodwell Fire Chief, said, "We greatly appreciate all of the supplies collected by OPSU. Having the support of the community really means a lot to our firefighters, and we would like to thank the students and employees of OPSU for thinking of us during this wildfire season."

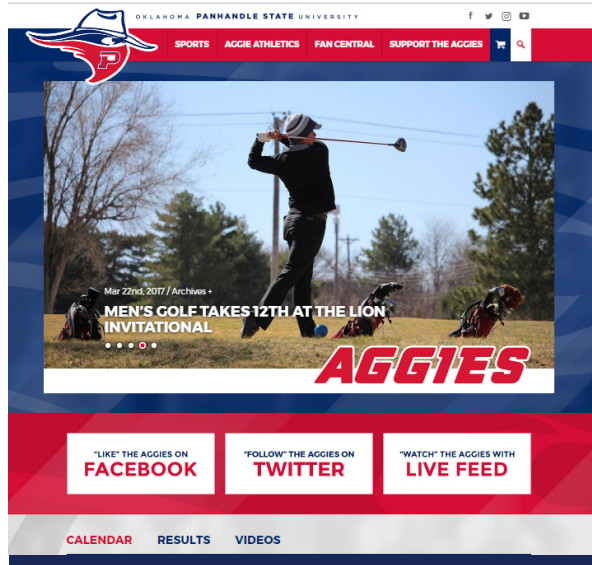
Miner's inspiration came from a Facebook post he saw stating that some of the fire departments were in need of supplies to help them fight the wildfires. "It was a tragedy that struck our area, and we wanted to help out in any way possible." With his team leaving for an out-of-state tournament, Miner was grateful for the active assistance of others on campus saying, "We

didn't have long to collect items, but Diane (Murphey) stepped up and helped get the word out and take it to the departments around campus while we were on the road. We thank her for helping us with that."

Panhandle State's President Dr. Tim Faltyn was proud to see the response from the university saying, "It is our job to lead and be a resource for the people of our region. It was amazing to witness what can be accomplished in such a short amount of time when people who care about others jump into action."

Many individuals and groups within the Panhandle State Family contributed to the effort, with some going the extra mile by tying Bible verses and words of encouragement to the Gatorade and water bottles.

Texhoma Fire Chief Caleb Clinesmith offered appreciation for the items delivered, "The Texhoma Fire Department would like to thank Panhandle State and the Aggie baseball team for the donations. We couldn't do our job without the great support of our community." **P**

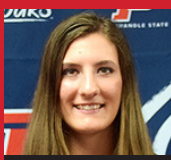


## Athletics Website Receives Facelift

Submitted by Panhandle State Sports Information

Building on the success of the university's rebranding efforts, the Panhandle State Sports Information Office has spent the last four months working with Sidearm Sports to create a fresh new look for the athletics website. The site contains the same great information as before, with a bright new design and a few new features that hope to bring fans even closer to the action. The site also contains a newly designed online store including great Aggies gear and gifts with the latest logo designs. Visit [opsuaggies.com](http://opsuaggies.com) and let us know what you think! **P**

# February - March Athletes of the Week



Emily Worley

**WEEK 21:** JAN 30-FEB 6  
**Sport:** Softball



Samuel Beattie

**WEEK 21:** JAN 30-FEB 6  
**WEEK 22:** FEB 6-12  
**Sport:** Baseball



Anyssa Barbosa

**WEEK 22:** FEB 6-12  
**Sport:** Softball



Taylor Jacobson

**WEEK 23:** FEB 13-19  
**Sport:** Women's Rodeo



Bridget Merrigan

**WEEK 23:** FEB 13-19  
**Sport:** Women's Rodeo



Josh Frost

**WEEK 23:** FEB 13-19  
**Sport:** Men's Rodeo



Jesslin Lamont

**WEEK 24:** FEB 20-26  
**Sport:** Equestrian



Zane Grigsby

**WEEK 24:** FEB 20-26  
**Sport:** Baseball



Randi Buchanan

**WEEK 25:** FEB 27-MAR 5  
**Sport:** Women's Rodeo



Will Carpenter

**WEEK 25:** FEB 27-MAR 5  
**Sport:** Men's Rodeo



Ashley Ogle

**WEEK 26:** MAR 6-12  
**Sport:** Women's Golf



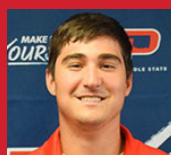
Ruben Figueiredo

**WEEK 26:** MAR 6-12  
**WEEK 28:** MAR 20-26  
**Sport:** Men's Golf



Madison Heathington

**WEEK 27:** MAR 13-19  
**Sport:** Softball



B.J. Henry

**WEEK 27:** MAR 13-19  
**Sport:** Baseball



A.J. Husband

**WEEK 28:** MAR 20-26  
**Sport:** Softball

# Athletics



The 2017 Belly Open will take place July 7-8 at the Sunset Hills Golf Course in Guymon.

## 2017 Belly Open Golf Tournament Set for July

Submitted by Panhandle State Sports Information

This year's Belly Open Golf Tournament will take place July 7-8 in Guymon, Okla. The annual athletics fundraiser hopes to increase participation by offering a later date during the summer. The new two-day format will allow both golfers and non-golfers alike an opportunity to enjoy the fun event and show their support for Aggie athletics.

Friday evening brings both worlds together starting with a nine-hole skins game at the Sunset Hills Golf Course. The three-man, alternate-shot competition will kick off the event at 5:30 p.m. with registration open at 4:30 p.m. Participants, spectators and guests are then invited to the Hitch Arena Building, where a catered dinner, social hour and silent auction will start at 8 p.m. You don't need to be a golfer to come and enjoy the great food, live music and bid on some outstanding items for a great cause.

On Saturday, golfers will return to Sunset Hills for the main event, an 18-hole three-man scramble with cash prizes and side games available throughout the course. Registration opens at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at nine. A light lunch will be included at the turn and each participant will receive a small gift for participating.

The cost is \$75 per person for the tournament on Saturday and \$25 per person to enjoy Friday's festivities. A cash prize will be awarded to the teams with the three lowest scores on Saturday: \$750 first place, \$500 second place, \$250 third place. Folks not interested in golfing can still take part in the dinner, social and silent auction, as tickets for that event will be sold separately at \$25 each. Contact Russell Gaskamp for more information at 580-349-1332/rgaskamp@opsu.edu. **P**

# CONGRATULATIONS



Senior, Madison Heathington - C

MARCH 12-19  
.833 BA .875 OBP 3 RBI



## HITTERS OF THE WEEK



Senior, Anyssa Barbosa - UTI

FEBRUARY 7-12  
.600 BA 9 HITS 12 RBI

\*NOTE: A complete listing of the Aggie Athlete of the Week recipients and their accomplishments is available at [opsuaggies.com](http://opsuaggies.com)

**2017**

# COMMENCEMENT

**SATURDAY**

**10  
AM**

**MAY 20**

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