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**ALL-AMERICAN
EXCELLENCE**



/ATHLETICS/

OPSU RODEO TEAM HAS RECORD YEAR AT ANNUAL TOP HAND AUCTION

Oklahoma Panhandle State University's rodeo team had a record night at their Top Hand Auction this past Saturday. After deciding to cancel last year's due to concerns with COVID-19, both the team and the community were ready to come together to support the program.

The evening started with a dinner courtesy of Hunny's followed by the live auction. The auction entailed student-athletes paired together offering a day's worth of work to the buyers, and donation items to be sold after.

"The 2022 Top Hand auction was more successful than we could have ever hoped for! We are so thankful to the community for the support that they have shown. We wouldn't be able to have the success and opportunities for this program that we do, without this continued support and generosity!", said Assistant Coach Shelbie Rose.

The highlight of the night was the sale of two items whose proceeds went to the Craig Latham scholarship and the Cinch Bullock & Hadly McCormick scholarships. Panhandle State's rodeo team endured three losses to their program last year, and on Saturday night the community wrapped their arms around the team again in their honor. In true Panhandle fashion, the items were sold for a high amount then donated back to be sold again, twice.

Interim President, Dr. Ryan Blanton, commented, "It was an inspiring night to attend the Top Hand Auction after not having it last year. The tremendous support our community showed is unlike any other, and we couldn't be more appreciative of it! Thank you to all who support our University and our Rodeo program."

Once the auction was through, the dance floor was cleared for Ken Stonecipher and the Wooden Nickel Band to finish out the evening while the funds were collected. At the end of the night, the rodeo team raised over \$40,000 for the rodeo support fund and over \$20,000 for the two scholarship funds. **P**

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Community Partner: PTCI



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/ CAMPUS /

EVENTS ON CAMPUS & IN THE COMMUNITY





Oklahoma Panhandle State
University has Alumni in

28

different countries and all
50 States.





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among regional colleges in the west
-U.S. News & World Report, 2022
- **#5 Best Online RN to BSN Program**
in the state of Oklahoma
-RegisteredNursing.org, 2021
- **Great Companies to Work for 2021**
-Oklahoma Magazine, 2021
- **First and Only Public Hispanic Serving Institution**
in the state of Oklahoma



/ STAFF /

ROBERT **ETBAUER**

Panhandle State Rodeo legend Robert Etbauer has built various connections in the Goodwell area and across the country. Etbauer is originally from Ree Heights, South Dakota, and serves as the Head Rodeo Coach. In his eleventh year at Panhandle State, he enjoys coaching his students to be their best possible version of themselves. Etbauer started working as the assistant rodeo coach under Craig Latham until he had to step down due to his health. He then took over the role of Head Coach of Rodeo.

Etbauer attended Panhandle State in 1981-1983 & 1985-1986, studying Animal Science. He wanted to college rodeo, see new country, and spend the winter in a warmer climate. He was recruited by Doc Gardner & Phil Martin to rodeo for them.

Interim President Dr. Ryan Blanton stated, "I have heard from many students and alumni that one of the many reasons they came to Panhandle State was to be coached by Robert Etbauer. He is a man of few words, but his talents stretch far and wide. Panhandle State is better because of him."

Etbauer's favorite things about Panhandle State are the faculty and staff and the entire community, who all work together and give the rodeo team so much support.

Assistant Women's Rodeo Coach Shelbie Rose commented, "I have never met anyone that works as hard as Robert. He's always trying to make this program better. I am so grateful to get to coach alongside him. He goes far above what most coaches do, and you can tell that he really cares about our student-athletes and their success not only in the arena, but in life. I am thankful to have him as a colleague and friend."

He enjoys watching and spending time with his grandchildren Talon, Rally, and Ridge during his free time. His three children, Chancy, Trell, and Shade, were all on the rodeo team while they were students. "The rodeo team members all provide me with a lot of entertainment! There's always a lot of action going on, and that's just how I like it," says Etbauer **P**



/ STUDENT /

AUSTIN **JACOBS**

Senior Austin Jacobs came to Panhandle State to further his education and continue his baseball journey. Originally from West Sacramento, California, Jacobs found his way to Panhandle State because of the affordable education and athletics.

Jacobs will graduate this spring with a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's in Psychology. "My favorite thing about OPSU is all the different opportunities here. The possibilities are endless, and the support from the community is unmatched," stated Jacobs.

Jacobs is very involved in athletics on campus. He is currently on three out of the seventeen sports teams offered at Panhandle State. He is on the Baseball team, the Cross Country team, and the Shooting Sports team.

Community service is a big deal for all athletics across campus. Austin said, "We've helped with different things for community service. We played with kids at recess, reading to them during class, hanging out, and playing board games at the retirement home. We were even part of helping paint all the hangers out in Guymon at the fairgrounds. I hope that OPSU athletics can keep these traditions going into the future as the community does a lot to help all of our sports programs."

Shooting Sports Coach JW Syzmore commented, "Austin came to me at the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester and asked if he could join the Shooting Sports Team. In our first meeting, I told him he is expected to put in the work in the classroom and the range. He did not disappoint! He is an excellent student and a coachable athlete in any sport he puts his mind to. His willingness to listen, follow directions, and take constructive criticism from me, as well as the other seasoned athletes on the team, is exemplary."

After graduation, Jacobs hopes to be accepted into the game warden academy in California. "However, the possibilities are endless, so who knows what I'll be doing," said Jacobs.

Jacobs is a true outdoorsman when it comes to downtime from all sports. "Outside of school and sports, during duck season, you will always find me duck hunting. Out of season, I like to golf, relax with my dogs and enjoy life." **P**



/ FACULTY /

BRANDI GRANETT

Raised in Princeton, New Jersey, Brandi Granett was surrounded by dairy and hay farms in the middle of New Jersey. Granett is the Instructional Designer at Panhandle State, while teaching Humanities 2000.

"I based my courses around how to create compelling social media content while using the classic rhetorical tools associated with writing arguments," says Granett.

Granett graduated from the University of Florida in 1994 with a degree in English. She completed her Master's in Fine Arts in Fiction at Sarah Lawrence in 1998 and proceeded to earn her Master's in Adult and Distance Education from Pennsylvania State University in 2007. She earned her Ph.D. in Creative Writing from Aberystwyth University in Wales in 2014.

"After years of teaching writing and doing instructional design and tech support on the side, I decided to flip the mix and focus more on learning new tools for developing great courses. The pandemic made many more positions remote, and when I saw the announcement at Panhandle, I thought it would be great to help build online learning at a school looking to grow in that area. I left my interview with Dean Stephens, Dr. Duren, and Professors Martin and Smith feeling like I just met friends; I knew I could find a home at Panhandle, even from so far away," says Granett.

One of Granett's favorite things about Panhandle State is how willing people are to help each other out. She loves the close-knit family feel of the community.

Some fun facts about Granett are that she loves to create various hobbies, being around her family, being around her pups, and archery. She loves to be on the archery range. She has competed on the USA Archery circuit since 2008, first with Olympic recurve and currently with compound. She has competed in Hungary, France, Switzerland, Canada, and other countries. **P**



/ ALUMNI /

DEBBIE SHARPE

Debbie Sharpe, originally from Springfield, CO, is the Director of the National Association for the Education of Young Children Accredited Preschool for the Springfield School District. On top of her responsibilities as Director, Sharpe teaches early childhood special education and is also teaching Pre-K general education this year. Sharpe is currently in her 35th year as an early childhood special education teacher.

Sharpe graduated from Panhandle State with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1987. After graduation, she earned a Master's in Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Colorado in 1992.

Sharpe chose Panhandle State for the heritage and family environment. These impressions ended up being her favorite things as a student. She commented, "My mentor at Panhandle State was Bob Wise. He was the Adult Education Director, and his office was responsible for all the campus Public Relations, photography, and the yearbook."

Sharpe knew she wanted to become a preschool teacher when she was 14-years old. When her high school home economics teacher, Sharon Christi, guided the class through developing a one-week long preschool. "We actually got to teach preschool! It changed my life!"

"I love when kids I have taught become good parents! Watching children find confidence in their skills and learn to love. Learning is the motivation of my heart," said Sharpe.

During her time at Panhandle State, Sharpe was primarily active as the Plainsman Yearbook Editor for two years working under Bob Wise. She saw him as a mentor, along with many other education instructors like Patricia Tinch, Dr. David Driscoll, Rachel Satterfield, and Dr. David Satterfield.

In her free time, Sharpe loves to quilt, read, and work as the free ranch hand for Mr. Sharpe. Her husband is the brand inspector for Baca County, and they have been married for over 37 years. A fun fact about Sharpe is she loves to be around family and discover new hobbies. **P**



Pictured: Valentina Allen, Brooke Morgan, Felipe Covarrubia, Jodle LaForce, Idalisia Agbaosi, Jesus Mesta, Vanessa Gonzalez, Cierra Phillips, and Senator Casey Murdock



/ CAMPUS /

PANHANDLE STATE STUDENTS ATTEND HIGHER EDUCATION DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Panhandle State students and employees represented Higher Education Day on February 15th. The students and employees who attended were Felipe Covarrubia, Kotle LaForce, Idalisia Agbaosi, Jesus Mesta, Vanessa Gonzalez, Cierra Phillips, Valentina Allen, Brooke Morgan, and Dr. Ryan Blanton.

The students and employees gathered with hundreds of people from other Oklahoma universities and colleges to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in Oklahoma.

OPSU students had the opportunity to visit Senator Casey Murdock and Representative Kenton Patzkowsky among other senators and representatives. They also were able to be pictured with Oklahoma governor Kevin Stitt.

“Visiting the Oklahoma Capitol was an incredibly positive experience. Not only did the people I travel with have stories that showed the importance of higher education but those that spoke at the forum as well as people we met seemed to have such a unique background with unified goals. Regardless of methods, we all shared similar beliefs about the impact a college degree can have and that was cool to be a part of.” says Idalisia Agbaosi

“Students, faculty and staff from Oklahoma’s public colleges and universities came together today at our State Capitol to highlight the value of a college degree,” said Regional University System of Oklahoma Chancellor Allison D. Garrett.

The speakers at the Higher Education Session in the afternoon included Governor Kevin Stitt, Secretary Ryan Walters, Speaker Charles McCall, Senator Roger Thompson, Representative Kevin Wallace, Senator Adam Pugh, State Regents Chair Jeffrey W. Hickman, and Chancellor Garrett.

For the next fiscal year, the State Regents are calling for \$40 million for critical workforce development initiatives, including funds to help assist meeting engineering, nursing, and teacher education workforce needs, increase physician residency capacity in the state, fund pre-collegiate STEM Summer Academies and provide scholarships for adult students returning to complete their college degree or earn an industry-recognized micro-credential or certificate.

Other priorities include requests to help provide fully fund the concurrent enrollment program for high school seniors and juniors (\$4 million), increase investments in need-based financial aid and scholarship programs (\$6.85 million), and provide additional funding for system operations (\$34.3 million), which will support campus operations and infrastructure; promote collaboration, innovation and efficiency initiatives among institutions; and strengthen the quality and experience of online education.

Interim President Dr. Ryan Blanton stated, “Our students at Panhandle State should always try to stay up-to-date on what our government is doing for Higher Education. Knowledge is power and the more we can keep ourselves educated, the better we can advocate for our students, faculty, and staff.” **P**



/ STUDENT /

PANHANDLE STATE ATTENDS 40TH ANNUAL USHLI CONFERENCE

Oklahoma Panhandle State University had twelve students attend the 40th annual United States Hispanic Leadership Institution (USHLI) Conference on February 17th and 18th. The students attended a series of sessions in which they heard from different guest speakers on leading in our Hispanic communities, the importance of the Latino vote, and educational sessions for Latino students focused on entering the workforce. OPSU's Hispanic Student Center sponsored twelve scholars to attend this year's conference and represent our unique university. As the only four-year Hispanic Serving Institution in the state of Oklahoma, it is critical that we continue to empower our young Hispanic leaders to better themselves, their families, and their communities.

Director of the Hispanic Student Center Valentina Allen stated, "I am so proud that OPSU was represented again at this year's USHLI Conference. I have had the great privilege of meeting Dr. Juan Andrade Jr. the President of USHLI in person. He is such an inspirational leader to our community and I always look forward to our students hearing from him. These opportunities are critical to our students. They need to know that there are resources available and we are committed to assisting them succeed in higher education and the workforce." **P**

/ STUDENT /

THE SPRING 2022 STUDENT INTERNS ARE EXCITED FOR THEIR STUDENT TEACHING POSITIONS



The Spring 2022 interns for the College of Arts and Education at Panhandle State are excited to start their student teaching positions. The students will be teaching in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas.

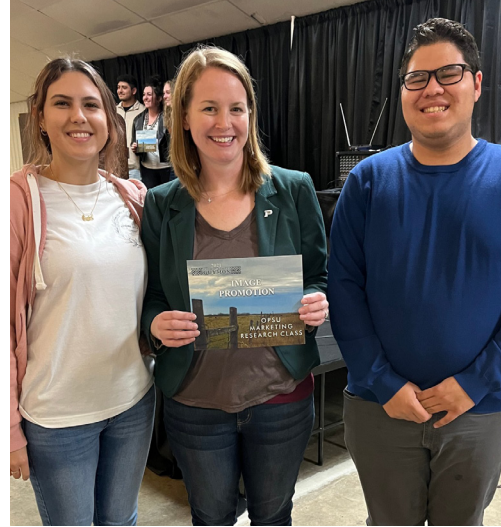
The student teachers for this semester include McKinlee Martin interning at MacArthur Elementary, Liberal, KS teaching 4th & 5th Math and Science; Karina Ruiz interning at Wright Elementary, Perryton, TX teaching 2nd grade; Alejandra Hernandez interning at Sunray Elementary, Sunray, TX teaching 1st grade; Brandi Powers interning at Texhoma Elementary, Texhoma, OK teaching 5th grade; Emily Elliott interning at Turpin School, Turpin, Ok teaching Elementary and Secondary PE; and Tanner 'TJ' Schmidt interning at North Park Elementary, Guymon, OK teaching 5th grade math.

Director of Teacher Education Shelly Worm commented, "We are so proud of our Spring 2022 interns. They have entered their internship in a time where things are changing minute by minute and day by day. Each of them has proven they have what it takes to adjust to these changes and meet the needs of their students. They are mid-way through their internship, and we are proud to have them representing the OPSU Teacher Education Program as a group of the next promising educators."

Student Intern TJ Schmidt stated, "Student teaching this semester has been an unbelievable eye-opening experience. The classroom where you get to put into practice the methodology that you have been taught is amazing. To see the classroom, you visualized come to life and individualize it with your students is a blessing. The classroom and OPSU have taught me that keeping teaching individualized and open-minded is the biggest influencer in a positive and effective teacher. Students are more willing to learn from you if you're willing to learn from them. By doing this you give each child a special place in your classroom and an important sense of belonging." **P**



Pictured: Ronnie Rey, Hope Luttrell, Abigail Colten, Kayli Grove, Whitney Davis, and Isabelle Ray



Pictured: Rachel Sanchez, Kim Smith, and Manuel Medina

/COMMUNITY/

PANHANDLE STATE RECOGNIZED AT MAIN STREET GUYMON AWARD CEREMONY

Panhandle State departments and individuals were presented recognition at the 2022 Main Street Guymon Awards Banquet on February 15th.

OPSU was recognized with the “Volunteer Development Award” because sports teams, clubs, and community members gave their time and energy to events and projects over the recent year.

Upward Bound, HALO, the Baseball team, the Soccer team, the Football team, and the Basketball team have worked on the community clean-up for many years in April and September. They have served and represented different countries at Pangaea, Main Street Guymon’s international event, and have been there whenever called on.

Baseball Coach Shawn Joy commented, “We are very grateful to be recognized by Main Street Guymon. Our guys love this community and really enjoy helping people out. We hope to be a positive example in our community.”

The OPSU Art Department was awarded for “Most Creative Fundraising Effort” in their efforts with the Ice Skating Rink in December. “Many thanks goes out to the City of Guymon and the Guymon Convention and Tourism board for thinking of us in this partnership. Thank you for all of the folks who came out for “Home for the Holidays” and skated with us,” stated Brent Shoulders.

The Marketing Research class won the “Best Image Promotions” award. They did over fifty positive social media reviews as part of Main Street Guymon’s push to get a better online presence for Guymon businesses. Smith is also a member of the Main Street Guymon Board of Directors.

Marketing Research Instructor Kim Smith stated, “It was wonderful to see OPSU recognized across many areas of campus at the award banquet. MSG holds a special place for me as I grew up watching my dad serve on the board in the early stages of the program’s development. It is an honor to give my time back to a community who shaped me into who I am today. It is an extra special moment when I am able to connect students to the community through projects like the online reviews with last fall’s Marketing Research class.”

Main Street Guymon Director Melyn Johnson commented, “Each time the coaches and teachers have their students volunteer within the community, they are teaching more than subjects. They teach individuals how to be better and more effective citizens in their community of choice. This is a lesson that we hope continues throughout their lifetime. Concerned and active citizens, no matter what age, make a community safer and more vibrant for everyone.” **P**



“Essence has been a vital part of our program and assisting in moving this program forward from the past.”

— Julie Allen,
Head Volleyball Coach



/ATHLETICS/

ESSENCE WEST NAMED NAIA ALL-AMERICAN SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

The NAIA announced the recipients of the 2021 Women’s Volleyball All-American teams. Essence West, a junior from Dallas, Texas, repeated as an honorable mention selection All-American.

Head Coach Julie Allen commented, “Essence has been a vital part of our program and assisting in moving this program forward from the past.” She continues, “West, along with her teammates, have a strong work ethic, dedication, and drive to get better each day. It was a joy to work with such amazing student-athletes.”

West received the All-American honorable mention her second year in a row at Panhandle State University. West provided the Aggies with 3.72 kills per set with a hitting percentage of .238 on the season. She is currently ranked 15th in the nation for kills per set, 18th in overall kills and, 26th for overall points earned. The Aggies completed this season 12-8, and overall, 20-12, finishing the conference placed 6th.

West stated, “I am beyond blessed to have been given this opportunity. None of this would have been possible without my mom & supportive family, club coach Tyrone Jenkins, and all those along the way that had faith in me. Most importantly, all Glory to God because nothing happens without Him. I’m grateful for my teammates because without their dedication and help, none of this would have even been possible. My teammates are definitely the foundation to helping me achieve my goals”

“Honestly, it’s just a once in a lifetime opportunity and I’m so very grateful that I can represent Oklahoma Panhandle State University in a positive light!”

West is majoring in Accounting and Business Administration. After graduation she plans to return to Dallas or Georgia to continue her education. Her dream career would be in radiology to be an ultrasound technician for infants. **P**



/ATHLETICS/

SOFTBALL TEAM SWEEP SEASON OPENER

The Oklahoma Panhandle State softball (4-0) team sweeps the University of the Southwest Mustangs(0-4) for their first series win of the year. Game one of the day was highlighted by a ten-run top of the 7th for the comeback win against the Mustangs.

The Aggies saw an exceptional all-around performance from the top to the bottom of the lineup. Sarah Conley and Kenley Yocom headlined the Aggie pitching staff for the day.

After a red-hot day, one of the four-game series, the Aggie bats seemed to have cooled off somewhat. However, the Mustangs would come out in game one to avoid a series sweep. Going on to score four runs in the first three innings while the Aggies struggled to get baserunners. The Aggies would not go down without a fight as they would put up ten runs in the top of the seventh to get their first lead of the day. They were getting started off the red hot bat of Yaya Jones with a lead-off single in the inning. Freshman Rylin Baker would come in the bottom half of the inning to secure the win for the Aggies.

Sophomore Kenley Yocom would go the distance in game two of the day getting the winning decision in a more Aggie like performance. The Aggie hitters settled in at the plate, belting numerous extra base hits in the contest. Aggie Upperclassman Adams, Jones, and Grove gave the Aggies the lead early in the contest. A lead they would never relinquish as they go on to win 6 to 1. **P**

/ATHLETICS/

AGGIE MEN'S BASKETBALL SECURES WIN IN OVERTIME



The Panhandle State Aggies men's basketball team completed the sweep of the Oklahoma City Stars with a final score of 102-104 in overtime. The Oklahoma City Stars came into Anchor D Arena with somewhat of a height advantage on the Aggies, yet that did not stop the Aggies from outrebounding the stars to the very end.

While significant production came from the Aggies' two top scorers in Rayquan Elliott and Jalen Thomas they can't take all the credit. Auston Chatman would go for a season-high with 17 points and finish with his first double-double of the season by bringing down an additional ten boards. Reyes Ludi-Herrera was also instrumental in the win as he began to see the starting rotation. Going 2 for 3 from beyond the arc in crucial moments for the Aggies as the Stars made a late push for the lead towards the end.

"I'm very proud of how we stayed connected. We knew that we hadn't come close to playing our best basketball yet, and everyone contributed. The guys stepped up and made the big plays. We BELIEVED in each other. OCU is very talented and very well-coached. We had to play our best to beat them, and we did. This is another HUGE week for us as we go on our last regular-season road trip. USAO and Texas Wesleyan are excellent teams." **P**

/COMMUNITY/

PTCI MAKES CONTRIBUTION TO BATTLE OF THE DUGOUTS



Panhandle State's Battle of the Dugouts continues as the baseball and softball programs look to remodel their complexes over the coming years. The Battle is amongst both programs' past teammates, coaches, and families. The Battle of the Dugouts campaign also asks all Aggies to help with our baseball and softball programs by investing back into our future.

The Aggie baseball and softball teams were recently graced with a donation from PTCI. The contribution will go towards the remodel of the baseball and softball complex. The complex between both fields will house both teams' locker rooms, coach's offices, concessions stand, and indoor batting cages. This design looks to give back to two programs that give so much to the community.

Jason Epp with PTCI commented, "PTCI is proud to help make this project a reality, continuing our partnership with Oklahoma Panhandle State University to enhance education and student life at the Goodwell campus."

Head Coach Shawn Joy is excited to see the changes coming to the baseball and softball fields and the campus. "The addition of the Aggie Baseball and Softball complex will bring a new atmosphere to the programs. Giving a first-rate experience to the student-athletes," he stated.

Softball Head Coach Marc Benjamin is on the same page as Joy. "I am excited for the battle of the dugouts campaign and want to build a better future for Aggie Softball," Benjamin commented. **P**



/ATHLETICS/

OPSU RODEO SET OUT FOR A CHANCE AT \$2 MILLION

Panhandle State's rodeo team is proud to have three members qualify for The American: Semi-Finals. Assistant Women's Rodeo Coach Shelbie Rose will lead the way with seniors Beau Peterson and Quint Bell alongside her.

Coach Rose stated, "It's a really great opportunity to have a chance to rope for that much money. I'm excited to compete, and even more excited to have 2 of our athletes competing there as well."

The American is a legendary event held at the AT&T Stadium for cowboys and cowgirls to compete for life-changing money. In previous years, each event winner was awarded \$100,000 and if qualifying as a "contender" they were eligible to take home the \$1 million purse. This year the jackpot is \$2 million because last year a contender did not win the million, so it was carried over.

Robert Etbauer, Head Rodeo Coach, said, "We have great kids on our team that work hard every day! Having Shelbie qualify alongside Beau and Quint shows that we all like to win! We can't wait to watch them get their shot at The American!"

This year is the first time in the history of The American, that Breakaway roping will also be eligible to win the \$2 million bonus. Peterson commented, "This is a huge opportunity for breakaway ropers, and I'm excited to rope for this amount of money. This is one of the biggest stages for professional athletes to compete on, and I'm happy to be a part of it."

Bell, Peterson, and Rose earned their spots in Semi-Finals by winning at a "qualifier" throughout the year. In past years, there have been over 4,000 entries but only 700 over those to make the Semi-Finals. Bell will compete in the Tie-Down Roping starting Sunday, February 20th, at the Cowtown Coliseum in Fort Worth, Texas. While Rose and Peterson will compete in the Breakaway in their two rounds Tuesday, February 22nd, through Thursday, February 24. At the end of those two rounds, the top contestants in each event will compete in the "Contender Round" for their spot in the Top 10 that will go on to compete in the AT&T Stadium.

Make sure to tune into the Inspiration Channel to watch Panhandle State's cowboy and cowgirls take their chance to win \$2 million. **P**



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**CENTURY
CLUB**



**ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL
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