



Eastern Statesman

EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE EST. 1908

Vol. 89 Issue 9

February 10, 2011

CAMPUS NEWS

Oklahoma is bombarded with snow



CHANDRA AKINS
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Editor

Eastern Oklahoma State College closed its doors on Feb. 1 due to what has been nicknamed by the Oklahomans as "Snow-pocalypse."

Late Monday night and early into Tuesday morning the beginnings of one of the worst blizzards to ever hit Oklahoma began to let itself be known state wide. The beginning sign was when the freezing rain began and then turned into sleet - only to be followed by a snow storm that would make people wonder if there was anything out there beyond the 5-feet of visibility.

There is, however, the comical side to this snow storm. On Jan. 31 the news began showing school closings as early as noon.

What is the comical side, you ask? There had not been any sign of precipitation as of yet. The sky was full of sunshine and the temperature was cold, but not a cloud in the sky for the better part of the day.

SEE WEATHER PAGE 2

"Snow-pocalypse" hits Oklahoma

Page 2



In this edition

'The Mix'	Pg. 2
News	Pg. 3
Opinion	Pg. 6
Alumni	Pg. 7

As Oklahoma has seen an unprecedented amount of snowfall, Eastern Oklahoma State College has seen an unexpected break from classes. Students, faculty and staff have been out of class for six days so far this semester. Classes resume Feb. 11 and forecasts predict better weather in the near future. *Statesman staff photo by Chandra Akins*

WEATHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

By 8 p.m., however, the temperatures began taking a dramatic decline. Eastern closed its doors due to inclement weather from Feb. 1 through Feb. 4.

Amazingly enough, when the doors opened again on Feb. 7 the state was preparing for another bout of snow that was due to hit late Tuesday night and, yes, it did hit and hit with a ven-

geance.

The freezing rain and sleet came first followed again by snow that would continue to fall until late into the morning on Wednesday.

Eastern again closed its doors due to the weather. Classes resume on Friday Feb. 11 for normal classes on all campuses.

One thing to remember about Oklahoma weather... always be prepared for the worst.



Above, Rebecca Moore, daughter of Statesman Assistant Editor Jackie Moore, gets pulled in her "sled" during the snow break. Below, a couple of dorm mattresses remain on the lawn of the White House. Students used the mattresses to slide down the hill during the snow. *Photos by Jackie Moore*



Snowfalls reached record totals over the past two weeks. Above, this reader photo was sent in by Lauren McAlester of Wilburton. Below, reader Diamond Mills sent in this photo of the snow beginning to melt (for the first time) at Robbers Cave.

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Published twice monthly from August through May by students of Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton, OK. Opinions expressed in the "Statesman" are not necessarily those of the Eastern student body, faculty or administration. Opinions expressed in articles,

columns or letters are those of the individual writers.

Members of the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association, Community College Journalism Association, Student Press Law Center and Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association.

Letters to the editor are not only welcomed, but encouraged. All letters must be able to be verified with

the authors phone number, address, and e-mail address. The editor reserves the right to edit to fit space limitations and to comply with libel laws and good taste.

The publication is issued by EOSC and is printed at a cost of about \$75 per page. Telephone is (918) 465-1714. E-mail: statesman@eosc.edu.

Tax season brings on many stresses for filers



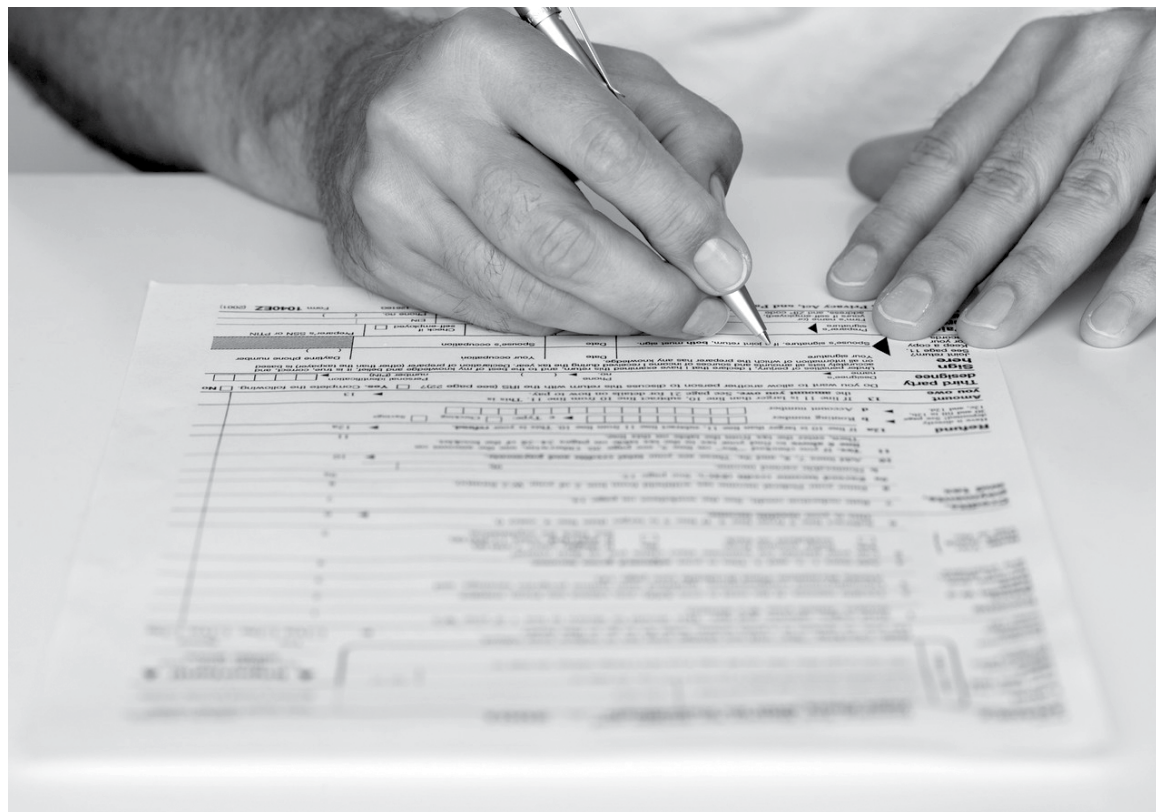
JULIE ELLIS

Staff Writer

Filing your taxes isn't as bad as it seems, although if you make one small mistake, you may have to pay for it and the mistake seems bigger than it is.

There are so many things you can do wrong, but don't worry, with a little help you can get through this little must-do. One of the questions you might ask is, where's the best place to go to file your taxes? To answer that question, if you don't want to do your taxes on your own, you can go to places like H&R Block or Jackson Hewitt, all you need for this is your social security number, if you are going to have dependants you'll need their social security number as well and their birth certificates (and be sure that those you are claiming aren't being claimed by anyone else), and if available, childcare records.

If you are a student then you will also need verification (such as bills or receipts) that you are paying loans or



that you are just paying to go to your college. If you have received forms 1098-T and/or 1098-E you will need to bring those as well. And last for this part you will need to bring verification of scholarships.

If you are working for someone you will need to bring your W-2 forms (this should be sent in the mail by your current or previous employer). If you are self-employed (you work for yourself) you must have

Schedules K-1, form 1099-MISC, and receipts or bills to verify anything that is not on the 1099-MISC form, records of all expenses (such as bills).

If you have a vehicle you will need to bring the follow-

ing information: Odometer readings from the first of the year and the end of the year total (that's how many miles you have driven), the total of miles that you have driven for business matters, the amounts of tolls and parking you have had to pay for the year.

For more information on what you will need to file your taxes you may go to any tax preparation business, or you can go to H&R Block's website at www.HRBlock.com.

If you would like to, there are various ways to file your taxes online for example, TurboTax at www.TurboTax.com, www.jacksonhewitt.com, or you can go to H&R Block's website, I suggest you go to a professional business for help on filing your taxes, so you don't make a mistake, of course most times help doesn't come free, there's always a small fee.

Even then you must be careful, and be sure to keep all records, receipts, and information, it'll definitely help later on.

TOP 10 TAX TIPS FROM THE IRS

FROM IRS.GOV

It's that time of the year again. The income tax filing season has begun and important tax documents should be arriving in the mail. Even though your return is not due until April, getting an early start will make filing easier. Here are the Internal Revenue Service's top 10 tips that will help your tax filing process run smoother than ever this year.

1. Start gathering your records Round up any documents or forms you'll need when filing your taxes: receipts, canceled checks and other documents that support income or deductions you're claiming on your return.

2. Be on the lookout W-2s and 1099s will be coming soon; you'll need these to file your tax return.

3. Use Free File Let Free File do the hard work for you with brand-name tax software or online fillable forms. It's available exclusively at <http://www.irs.gov>. Everyone can find an option to prepare their tax return and e-file it for free. If you made \$58,000 or less, you qualify for free tax software that is offered through a private-public partnership with manufacturers. If you made more or are comfortable preparing your own tax return, there's Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic versions of IRS paper forms. Visit www.irs.gov/freefile to review your options.

4. Try IRS e-file After 21 years, IRS e-file has become the safe, easy and most common way to file a tax return. Last year, 70 percent of taxpayers - 99 million people - used IRS e-file. Starting in 2011, many tax preparers will be required to use e-file and will explain your filing options to you. This is your chance to give it a try. IRS e-file is approaching 1 billion returns processed safely and securely. If you owe taxes, you have payment options to file immediately and pay by the tax deadline. Best of all, combine e-file with direct deposit and you get your refund in as few as 10 days.

5. Consider other filing options There are many different options for filing your tax return. You can

prepare it yourself or go to a tax preparer. You may be eligible for free face-to-face help at an IRS office or volunteer site. Give yourself time to weigh all the different options and find the one that best suits your needs.

6. Consider Direct Deposit If you elect to have your refund directly deposited into your bank account, you'll receive it faster than waiting for a paper check.

7. Visit the IRS website again and again. The official IRS website is a great place to find everything you'll need to file your tax return: forms, publications, tips, answers to frequently asked questions and updates on tax law changes.

8. Remember this number: 17 Check out IRS Publication 17, Your

Federal Income Tax on the IRS website. It's a comprehensive collection of information for taxpayers highlighting everything you'll need to know when filing your return.

9. Review! Review! Review! Don't rush. We all make mistakes when we rush. Mistakes will slow down the processing of your return. Be sure to double-check all the Social Security Numbers and math calculations on your return as these are the most common errors made by taxpayers.

10. Don't panic! If you run into a problem, remember the IRS is here to help. Try <http://www.irs.gov> or call toll-free at 800-829-1040.

Oklahoma Execution of Jeffrey Matthews



CHANDRA AKINS

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Editor

Imagine yourself sitting on death row waiting for the day that your life will end. The Statesman is sitting behind the fence of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (D.O.C.) maximum security prison in McAlester, Oklahoma known far and wide as “Big Mac.”

January 11 will mark the second execution of the New Year. The Oklahoma State Penitentiary (O.S.P.) is preparing for the execution of convicted killer Jeffrey David Matthews, 38, tonight at 6 p.m.

Matthews was found guilty of the murder of his great-uncle, 77 year old Otis Earl Short, who was shot to death in his home during a robbery on Jan. 27, 1994. Matthews was convicted in Cleveland County of 1st Degree Murder on June 23, 1995.

The controversy surrounding this particular story has been overwhelming. Matthews still claims innocence that he was not involved in the murder of neither his uncle nor the brutal attack on his aunt the very same night.

Matthews’ last meal was a small Deep Dish Meat Lovers Pizza from Pizza Hut, Deep Fried Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce and 2 Hush Puppies with Vinegar Sauce from Long John Silver’s. The final meal cannot exceed \$15 per the D.O.C.

The room in which the witnessing of the execution is roughly about 18ft long by 8 ft wide with two rows of chairs, 12 in each row.



A view from the entrance of the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester. Oklahoma has executed two people so far in 2011. *Statesman staff photo by Chandra Akins*

There are windows behind these chairs that are completely blacked out where the victims’ family and/or friends are seated for the execution. The seats are all facing four, moderately sized, curtain covered windows. On the other side of these windows is where the actual execution will take place.

To say that the feeling in the room is ominous, is an understatement. The set time for the execution is 6 p.m. At about 5:50 p.m. the sound of death row changed.

Death row inmates began clanging their doors in their cells. The inmates will lie down on their backs in the floor of their cells and kick their cell doors in order to make the noise; this is their way of wishing safe passage to the inmate that is being executed.

There were 10 of the victim’s family, the inmate’s mother and five additional family/friends, five media representatives, Attorney General Scott Pruitt, Cleveland County Judge Tom Lucas, State Rep. Mike Ritze, DOC Director Justin Jones and lawyers and spiritual advisors of the inmate.

The curtains opened in the observation room and OSP Warden Randy Workman was standing next to Matthews as he was strapped to a gurney in the execution chamber. Workman asked Matthews if he had any last words.

“Yeah,” Matthews said. “Let my mother know I love her.”

Matthews’ mother, Dee Matthews, then responded and said: “I love you too.” Matthews continued and said: “Tiffany push forward again. I just want to

thank everyone for your support. I want to thank all my buddies on death row. I hear you banging. There is a letter to read and to the Short family too. I hate to see ya’ll in this situation, but I’m doing all right. I’m grateful. I learned a lot — got some accurate knowledge. Just sitting here kind of enjoying my last moments.

“I am fine and doing good. I want everyone to be fine and not having a sad day and go on and enjoy life. I think that Governor’s phone’s broke — he ain’t called yet.”

Matthews then laughed, and looked over at his mother, Dee, and said “I love you.” She responded and said “I love you.” The warden then said “Jeff, it’s time. Let the execution begin.”

Matthews then turned and looked at his mother,

(Warden) Workman asked Matthews if he had any last words.

“Yeah,” Matthews said. “Let my mother know I love her.”

Matthews’ mother, Dee Matthews, then responded and said: “I love you too.”

as the execution process began at 6:05, and said whispered “I love you.” She responded once again with “I love you.” Matthews smiled at her one last time then he began losing consciousness. His mother continued talking to him, saying “breathe, breathe, just breathe. You can do this. Breathe.”

At 6:09 p.m. the attending physician checked Matthews and pronounced time of death and the curtains closed.

Today there are so many people that do not understand that there are other avenues in life that could be traveled.

The crime rate today has gotten so high and there are more and more prisons filling up beyond what would be considered normal capacity. Teaching children at a young age to go to school and be honest is the first step in changing our country.

Teach our children that crime doesn’t pay...and stepping up and being parents instead of letting children raise themselves will change our country one step at a time.

GRAND OLD FLAG



The pictures above show the steps involved in replacing the old flag on Eastern Oklahoma State College's Wilburton campus. The flag, as shown in first two photos, was severely damaged and flying tattered and nearly upside down until the problem was noticed by an Eastern student who is also a veteran and some Eastern staff members. *Statesman photos by Julie Ellis*

OUT ON DVD

The Other Guys should have gone other direction



JACKIE MOORE
Assistant Editor

The Other Guys rated PG-13

Starring: Derek Jeter, Samuel L. Jackson, Dwayne Johnson, Eva Mendes, Will Ferrell, and Mark Walberg
Terry Hoitz (Mark Walberg) and Allen Gamble

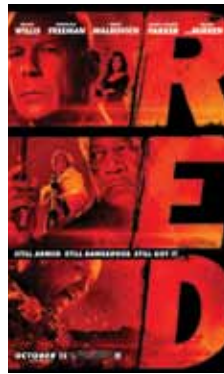


(Will Ferrell) are a mismatch from the beginning.

Terry after shooting Derek Jeter at the biggest game of the season is punished by being partners with Allen Gamble, who can't shoot a gun and is mainly a paper pusher instead of a cop. Even though this movie has a few funny parts in it I really did not like it and would not buy it for my library. If you like Will Ferrell it's a great movie but personally I did not care for it. I give it two thumbs down.

RED rated PG-13
Starring: Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich, Mary-Louis Parker, and Helen Mirren
Frank (Bruce Willis) is retired from the CIA and is getting a government

pension check. Every time he receives one he calls in to talk to Sarah (Mary-Louis Parker) and he becomes taken with her. But when the CIA wants to kill Frank he decides to take a chance and see Sarah. Even though he ends up kidnapping her, for her safety of course, they begin to fall for each other. Then Frank decides to get his band of CIA group back together.



This movie is hilarious and action packed. I give it two thumbs up.

Shrek Forever After rated PG

Staring: Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Julie Andrews, Jon Hamm, John Cleese, and a all star cast.

After being married to Fiona (Cameron Diaz) and having three kids, Shrek (Mike Meyers) is wondering if this was the right move to make. At their kids first birthday party he finally loses it and explodes on the crowd. Fiona ask Shrek if he is happy or not. Not getting the answer she wants she leaves him to think about

it. Rumpelstiltskin (Walt Dohrn) making Shrek a deal to good to be true rewinds time to where Shrek is not married or has any children. It's a race against time to fix what he has done. I did not care for this

Shrek. I personally think that they should have stopped after three when they had the kids. But that's just my opinion.

I give it two thumbs down.



E-mail us your thoughts and opinions:
statesman@eosc.edu

Going to school and raising a family is tough, but satisfying

EASTERN Eastern president was raised by a single-mother attending nursing school

JACKIE MOORE
Assistant Editor

Recently it came to my attention that there are a lot of people going to college that are single parents.

Did you know that even our president of Eastern Oklahoma State College was raised by a single mother that attended college?

I recently sat down with President Dr. Smith and discussed what it was like for him.

"I was 12-years old when my mother started college at Kiamichi Tech in McAlester," Dr. Smith stated. "She received her Licensed Practical Nurses licenses."

When Dr. Smith was in the seventh grade he start-

ed delivering newspapers to help bring in money to help out his mother. "She would go to school from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and then work a swing shift."

Growing up with his mother and sister Dr. Smith grew close to his grandfather, "He was the closest thing that I had as a father."

As time went on, Dr. Smith was ready to attend college. At 17, he found himself in college at NSU

then attended OSU.

Receiving a total of four degrees which range from, he soared through college, and found himself at Eastern for the last three and a half years as the President of Eastern.

So for all the single parent's out there who are attending college, know that you are not alone in your journey.

Somewhere there is someone else that is on the same one as you are, and

even though it seems as if it is hard and you want to give up don't, the reward is there at home.

It's in the little faces that you see every day. I know that personally, I have two little girls and when it seems like I want to just throw in the towel and give up.

I look at their smiling faces and remember not only am I doing this to get a great job, I am also doing it for them.

Valentine's Day is a celebration of love and affection

JACKIE MOORE
Assistant Editor

Valentine's Day is an annual commemoration held on Feb. 14 celebrating love and affection between intimate companions. This is the definition that Wikipedia encyclopedia gives.

For many people it's a dash to the florist to get those expensive roses for that someone special. For others it's how much they can spend and what jewelry they can find to make her eyes light up.

As for little kids, it is how many cards they get and how pretty they can make their "mailbox" for collecting cards.

But did you know that this day was originally named after one or more early Christian martyrs

named Valentine and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 500 A.D.?

The holiday was actually deleted from the Roman Calendar of Saints in 1969 by Pope Paul VI.

But people still observe Valentine's Day for many different reasons.

There are marriage proposals, weddings, and other romantic things that happen on this day. The most popular gift, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, is the greeting card.

So whether you are a person that likes to send yourself flowers, or you love making gifts for all your friends, remember this day they way you want to.

Valentine's Day is about love so spread some around.

What would you do: Active Shooter

JACKIE MOORE
Assistant Editor

On Jan. 17 campus police at Eastern Oklahoma State College conducted an Active Shooter Drill. Moving from one building to the next officer's checked to see if procedures were being met and to make sure all building monitors were doing their job.

"With a total of 97% success rate this drill went off without a hitch," Mike Nowlin Coordinator of Public Safety stated. In the upcoming weeks there will be another drill when all college students are in class and the campus will be filled.

So what do you do in the event there is an active shooter on campus? If you are in class and the call comes in, listen to your instructor and to the building monitors. If you are crossing campus and you observe someone carrying a gun or acting suspicious, either hide or reach a building as soon as possible. "It's like I just released a rabid dog into a class room, are you going to just sit there or are you going to protect yourself?" Nowlin



Eastern Coordinator of Public Safety, Mike Nowlin, checks the doors during an Active Shooter drill held Jan. 17. *Statesman staff photo by Jackie Moore*

said to a group of staff at the conclusion of one drill.

In May of 2007 the House Education and Labor Committee Hearing on Campus Safety was held. Chairman George Miller stated "In the wake of the horrific and senseless violence at Virginia Tech, we must do everything we can do to ensure that our nation's college campuses are safe learning environments for students, faculty, and staff members."

During this meeting the Committee on Education and Labor learned how Congress can help prevent our schools and colleges

from these attacks and how better to recover from these tragedies. Virginia's Representative Robert C. Scott said "In light of the recent incidents at Virginia, colleges and universities, we need to explore every possible avenue toward determining what can be done to prevent these events in the future." Active Shooter Drill's were put into place.

Stay safe on campus, if you see a student or anyone with a gun or acting suspicious call campus police or the nearest faculty member. Then get yourself somewhere safe.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

Eastern Alumni making an impact on the world

*Rita Grego Hodges***BY MIKE CATHEY (EOSC 1983 OF INDIANOLA)**

No one knows more about family and has the credentials to be the Ellis County (Waxahachie, Texas) Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences than Rita Grego Hodges (EOSC 1970 of Wilburton).

You see, not only does Rita have a masters in Early Childhood Education from Texas A&M University, a Bachelors of Science in Home Economics from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and an associate degree in Psychology from Eastern Oklahoma State College, but she is a mother and grandmother. Rita also hails from a Wilburton family of 12 siblings, all 12 attended Eastern, with 10 having earned degrees on the EOSC campus.

"I am still in contact on a regular basis with several of my Eastern classmates who have become lifelong friends," explains Grego. "While at Eastern, I tried to meet and interact with as many of my fellow students as possible. Little did I realize I would be in a career that is very people-oriented."

While at EOSC, Rita was involved in stage band, choir, Student Senate, dorm council, Who's Who Among American Junior College Students, Mesdemoiselles Service Organization (president), two campus

musical productions, the Student Education Association, Mu Alpha Theta, Newman Club for Catholic Students and was on the Dean's Honor Roll.

"My most/best memories are related to music and specifically Bob Pratt and the chorus/musicals. Bob Pratt was a genius and I was VERY fortunate to have known/studied under him."

After graduation from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Rita began her career teaching junior and senior high school Home Economics at Tushka Public Schools. After five years as public school educator, Rita moved to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, serving as County Extension agent-Home Economics and 4-H Clubs in Henrietta, Texas for 7 ½ years.

She then became the County Extension agent-Family and Consumer Sciences for 18 years in Kaufman, Texas. Also during this time, Rita taught child development on a part time basis at Trinity Valley Community College in Terrell, Texas.

During 2004 and 2005, Rita moved with her husband, Lynn (who is a Food and Drug Administration/Public Health training officer), to Washington D.C. Here she worked on the United States Department of Agriculture's meat and poultry hotline, answering

food safety questions for consumers, assisting in research and writing consumer fact sheets.

After returning to Texas in late 2005 Rita rejoined the Texas AgriLife Extension Service where she remains today providing great family and consumer science support to the citizens of Ellis County Texas.

Mike Cathey is a lifetime member of the EOSC Alumni Association. While at Eastern, Cathey was also a staff writer for The Statesman and the Vice President of the Student Senate. Cathey is also a graduate of The University of Oklahoma and resides in Chicago, Ill.



Rita Grego Hodges



Bill Grego Sr. now 91 of Wilburton and the late Helen Grego who passed away during 2010 are the parents of twelve children who have all attended Eastern Oklahoma State College ten of the children having graduated from EOSC. Rita Grego Hodges shared "I would like to express that my mom and dad constantly telling us of the importance of an education is the reason we all went to Eastern." Grego Family pictured here with EOSC graduation years: Back row, left to right: Christine Grego Trammell (1983) Loretta Grego Hendley(1978) Jan Grego Dailey (1973) John Grego, Jim Grego (1975), Joe Grego(1980), Theresa Grego McGehee. Front row: Bill Grego Jr.(1966), Rita Grego Hodges(1970), Bill Grego Sr., Mary Grego Tosett(1968), Kathy Grego Moore(1972). Tom Grego (1979) deceased.

Marine conditions Eastern's athletes



CHANDRA AKINS
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Editor

From the looks of the basketball teams, the cheerleaders and the baseball team, they are thankful that they were able to start conditioning before the holiday season hit.

Rudy Reyes made a commitment to helping others by helping to educate them in his training methods. Reyes made a visit to Eastern Oklahoma State College in November of 2010 to work with athletes on campus in what Reyes calls "conditioning."

Reyes' focus is on several levels of fitness training are not stationed only around physical fitness but also the spirit, the body and over all wellness.

Reyes hit the mats with the cheer squad and Dean of Students Dr. Sally Davis for several days to do the extreme conditioning program that would help them to see the rewards of staying healthy on all levels.

As Reyes conditioned other athletes, there were

students standing in line early to start the rigorous, physical, and mental training that was in store for them.

Athletics Director and men's baseball coach Aric Thomas was right there with his team working out and feeling the burn.

Reyes overcame a physical trial in his life at an early age. At the age of 2, he had to wear metal leg braces and corrective shoes.

This did not stop Reyes from pushing himself to the limits and being able to prove to himself and everyone around him that he would not be held back in anything physical.

The athletes that were on campus and stayed involved with the conditioning that Reyes brought them to understand were very deeply involved.

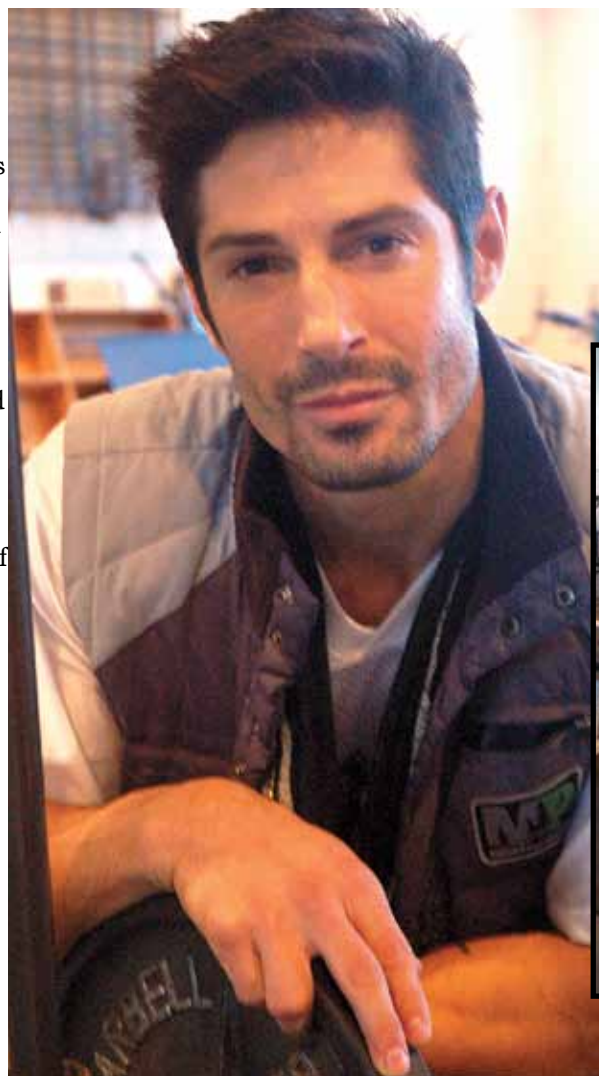
Walking around the weight room and seeing these athletes push not only their bodies but their minds to the full limits of what Reyes brought to

them, was quite a picture to behold.

The athletes, Thomas and Davis were involved head on and did not walk away from any of the challenges that were laid at their feet.

Reyes' outlook on life is a very strong part of his everyday life. He is always on the run and never side steps a challenge.

Dr. Davis assures the *Statesman* that Reyes will be back to visit Eastern again in the near future.



Rudy Reyes has visited Eastern's Wilburton campus this academic year to visit, inspire and condition Eastern students and athletes. Dean of Students Dr. Sally Davis says that Reyes will visit the campus again in the future. *Statesman* staff photos by Chandra Akins



Eastern baseball ranked in preseason Top 10

EASTERN PRESS RELEASE

As the Eastern Oklahoma State College baseball team gets ready to open up the 2011 season, three publications have marked the Mountaineers as a top 10 team. Collegiate Baseball ranked the Mountaineers 5th, the NJCAA had them 7th and Perfect Game picked them 9th.

The Collegiate Baseball and Perfect Game rankings are unique because they rank all junior college teams regardless of affiliation Eastern Coach Aric Thomas

said. This includes all three Divisions of the NJCAA and also teams that are not included in the NJCAA affiliation.

The Eastern baseball team has now been ranked in the top 15 in the country five of the past six seasons.

Once again the Mountaineers will play one of the toughest schedules in the country. Listed on the schedule are 23 games against ranked opponents. Preseason ranked opponents includes Grayson

County College, Howard College, Northeast Texas Community College, Cowley County Community College, Western Oklahoma State College, Connors State College and Seminole State College.

Perfect Game also released its top 200 Junior College Prospects for the 2011 Major League Baseball Draft. Jonathan Gray is tabbed the 35th best prospect in the country. Gray is a freshman right handed pitcher from Chandler, OK. He was selected by the Kan-

sas City Royals in the 2010 draft in the 13th round.

Mason Justice is listed at number 46. Justice went to Holland Hall High School and was drafted in the 21st round of the 2010 draft by the Boston Red Sox.

Eastern players included in Collegiate Baseballs "Top Junior College Players Spotlited Across USA" were right handed pitchers Jonathan Gray, Jesse Baird and multi position players Brandon Bargas (left handed pitcher and outfield) and Chris Munoz (shortstop and

relief pitcher).

To see the official NJCAA Poll click:

http://www.njcaa.org/sports_polls.cfm?category=Polls&sid=7&divid=1&slid=3

To see the Collegiate Baseball Poll click:

<http://www.collegiatebaseball.com/polls/njcaa/currentpolldiv1.htm>

To see the Perfect Game Poll click:

<http://www.perfectgame.org/Articles/View.aspx?article=5185>