



# The Barker



The *official* newsletter of

## The Lexington Alumni Association

P. O Box 263, Lexington, OK, 73051 <http://www.lexokalumni.org>

Once a Bulldog...ALWAYS a Bulldog!

*Volume 3, Number 1*

**Make plans to join us on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, for the next Alumni Reunion!**

### Leader of the Pack-*a message from your alumni President*

Greetings!

I just want to give you fair warning that this COULD be your last Alumni Reunion coming up in June, 2010. Why? Well, we are less than a year away and only one person has volunteered to be an officer for the next five-year period. Tom Yeary, **class of 1961**, has volunteered to be the Treasurer. Our President, Treasurer, and Ex-Officio members have all resigned for various reasons, leaving only Secretary, Sandy (Phillips) Bruehl, **class of 1983**, and me. Sandy has been an officer for the past four years and made it ABUNDANTLY CLEAR that she is NOT willing to continue for another term. I was first elected in 2000, meaning I will have been an officer for ten years. I am willing to become the Ex-Officio member, if asked, but that's as far as I'm willing to serve. I want to move on to other projects that will advance the school and its alumni. So, what does all that mean? It means that if nobody else steps up to volunteer to be an officer, the Lexington Alumni Association will cease to exist on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. There are provisions in our Articles of Incorporation for distribution of unused money that will be enacted. So, you ask what does it take to be an officer? Only three things. First, a computer. Only ONE of you has to have access to a computer. It's only for keeping up with the Alumni membership database. Second, you SHOULD live in the area, not necessarily in Lexington. You just need to be close enough to be able to meet with fellow officers and the school, if needed. The third qualification - a desire to see the Alumni Association continue. That's it. So, I ask you to talk to your friends and fellow classmates. It would make a good set of officers if most of them were from the same class, but that's certainly not a requirement.

I also ask that you go out and support the Bulldog sports team of your choice. We have a football team that is undefeated and ranked, for the first time in history, with a legitimate chance to go DEEP into the playoffs, if not win

### In the House-*news from Lexington Public Schools*

The doghouse welcomes seven new teachers for the 2009-2010 school year. The Alumni Association extends greetings to Christy Heisey, Angela Humbolt, Amanda Sullivan, Mark Savage, Jennifer Martin, Sheree Vinson and Marci Bean. Heisey, a Dibble High School and East Central University graduate, teaches prekindergarten. She is married to Matt and has two sons, Zechariah and Dylan. Humbolt teaches prekindergarten through third grade special education. She is married to Ivan and they have two daughters, Destiny and Faith. She is a graduate of Wanette High School and ECU. Sullivan is engaged to Zack Brown and teaches second grade. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma after graduating from Midlothian High School in south Dallas, Texas. Savage has been teaching at Wynnewood, but joins his wife at Lexington, where she has been teaching for the last five years. He teaches American history, as well as coaches cross-country, high school girls' basketball and track. He is a graduate of Stratford High School and is also an ECU grad. The Savages have an eighteen-year old daughter, Mariesa, and a nine-year old son, Jacob, who is a student in Lexington Schools. Another ECU grad, Martin graduated high school in Elmore City, Oklahoma. She is the Special Education Director. She has a daughter, Sunny Self, and a granddaughter, Mati Self. Vinson teaches first grade and is a graduate of Purcell High School and Northeastern State University. Her husband's name is Brock and they have a daughter, Brylee. As for Bean, you can read more about her in the "Congratulations to" section of this newsletter.

At the Cleveland County Fair, Kyle Hokett won the blue ribbon in the 4-H steer judging and in the individual 4-H livestock judging contests, while Cole Burchett (son of Carl and Ramona Brown Burchett, both from the **class of 1979**) brought home a blue ribbon for 4-H livestock judging. Kolton McDonald also brought home a blue ribbon for 4-H livestock judging. Konnor McDonald, Colby Sawyer, Tiffani Hinkle and Jacob Hyde won third

it all. Our cross-country team is one of the best in the state. Big improvements are expected by the softball and basketball teams, so go out and give them your support. If you'd like to make it to a game, but don't know the schedule, or you'd like to go support the football team in the playoffs, but don't know where, just send me an email. Go out and support our now **SIXTH**-ranked Bulldogs!

Since this is our last time together before the holiday season, I just wanted to take a moment on behalf of my wife, Wanda, and myself to wish each and every one of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a VERY Merry Christmas and a joyous, prosperous and safe New Year!

Until next time, take care and **GO BULLDOGS.**

Thank you and God bless.



Greg Yeary, Class of 1976  
President, Lexington Alumni Association

## **In the pack:**

### **Our friends in memoriam.....**

Dorothy Enid (Hollowell) Waddle, 92, **class of 1935**, 5/19/1917-8/12/2009.

Elnora (Harryman) Lamb, 87, **class of 1939**, 10/6/1921-8/7/2009.

Kenneth A. Barker, 44, **class of 1986**, 1967-9/10/2009

### **Condolences to.....**

Kay (Scott) Talley, **class of 1955**, on the loss of her great-nephew, First Lt. David Timothy Wright, II, of Moore, Oklahoma. He was killed in action while serving his country in Afghanistan.

Juanita (Chandler) Cheatwood, **class of 1953**, and Betty (Hall) Cheatwood, **class of 1954**, on the loss of their sister-in-law, Mabel Lorraine (Cheatwood) Currie. Others mourning the loss are nephews, Billy, **class of 1972**, Terry,

place in the 4-H livestock judging. Garrison Duke won Grand Champion registered Angus heifer and Reserve Grand Champion registered Angus heifer, while Jacob Hyde placed third with his registered Angus heifer and finished fifth in the individual livestock judging contest. Dalton Duke won first place bred and owned Angus heifer and Logan Northcutt placed first for his Chianina commercial heifer. Coy Pfeiffer placed second with his angus heifer and second with his bred and owned heifer. He also won first in the individual FFA livestock judging contest. Congratulations to ALL!

### **Bull Pups...**

Congratulations to Kenzie Lawson, Logan McKiddy, Demi Blessu, Madeline Pack, Laura Beason, Morgan Clark, Anna Sample, Lindsey Barber, Kelsey Hockett, Shelby Ary (daughter of Travis Ary, **class of 1994**), Laura Beason (daughter of Ronnie Beason, **class of 1986**) and coaches Jay Sample, Kevin Hockett, Vanessa Lawson, Kylie Lawson and Carla Beason. As the Lexington Stingers, they were the pre-season, post-season and league champions in the South Central Girls Softball League.

Jacob Hyde received a 4-H jacket for being named the top male 4-H Fair exhibitor at the Cleveland County 4-H awards program. He also was presented with the Burns – Stowers PC Conservation of Natural Resources award, the Family – Consumer Science award, the New Hope Home and Community Education club sponsored \$50 savings bond and certificate and the third year Junior Record Book Award. Among the other winners included Coy Pfeiffer, who won the senior division Animal Science Award, the senior 4-H Agriculture Award, the Conservation of Natural Resources and Environmental Awareness Award, as well as the Senior Achievement award. McCauley Rhoades won the 4-H Agriculture Award and the Junior Record Book-fourth year. Receiving the Family – Consumer Science award was McKay Bronn, who also was presented the Junior Record Book Award-third year.

### **Bulldogs...**

Lexington High School's local Future Farmers of America officers took part in the 2009 Oklahoma FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) Conference. Those attending the conference at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, were Carly Smith, president; Aerial Smith, vice-president; Helsey Holsonbake, secretary; Jordyn Snow, treasurer; Coy Pfeiffer, reporter; Thad Mowdy, sentinel; and their advisor, Brent Smith (**class of 1972**).

Congratulations to high school cheerleaders, Ashlea Emery, Chelsea Renbarger and Callie Frazier, who

**class of 1975**, Larry, **class of 1977**, Craig, **class of 1979**, and Eric Cheatwood, **class of 1986**, and nieces Cheri (Cheatwood) Pruitt, **class of 1974**, Marsha (Cheatwood) Bell, **class of 1975**, and Arleen (Cheatwood) Blanchard, **class of 1983**.

Jerry Yeary, **class of 1965**, on the loss of his wife of 43 years, Margie. Also mourning the loss of their mother are Debbie (Yeary) Medina, **class of 1984**, Dee Dee Yeary, **class of 1985**, and Kiall Yeary, **class of 1990**. Others mourning include Jerry's brothers, Tom, **class of 1961**, Steve, **class of 1972**, and Greg Yeary, **class of 1976** (and your Alumni President).

Jack Rains, **class of 1967**, on the loss of his mother, Virginia Lucille Rains.

Dwight Haley, **class of 1971**, on the loss of his brother-in-law, Roger Stentz Whitaker. Also mourning the passing is Peggy (Kelly) Haley, **class of 1967**, who is married to Billy Haley, Dwight's brother and another of Roger's brothers-in-law.

Pamila (Bounds) Johnson, **class of 1971**, on the loss of her brother, Roger Dale Bounds.

Manuel Hobson, former student in the **class of 1973**, on the loss of his companion, Karleen Marie Sheppard.

Dwight N. Feuerborn, Jr., **class of 1976**, on the loss of his brother, Jeffrey Paul Feuerborn.

Brothers Terry, **class of 1977**, Timothy, **class of 1980**, Kevin, **class of 1983**, and Cary Rowland, **class of 1992**, on the loss of their father, Glenn "Red" Walker Rowland. Also mourning the loss is Red's sister-in-law, Carolyn Sue (Odom) Rowland, **class of 1955**.

Kari (McGregor) Spears, **class of 1979**, Shelly (McGregor) Bryan, **class of 1983**, and Megan (McGregor) Little, **class of 1985**, on the loss of their mother, Karen. Also mourning the loss or their grandmother are Broc Bryen, **class of 2008**, and current Lexington students, Alec and Cole Bryen.

Craig Wenthold, **class of 1984**, and Jennifer (Wenthold) Bramlett, **class of 1991**, on the loss of their father, Ralph. Also mourning the loss of their grandfather are Amanda, **class of 2001**, and Kimberly Wenthold, **class of 2002**.

Martin Nere, **class of 1986**, on the loss of his mother, Sharon Ilene Meier. Also mourning the passing is Sharon's brother, Randy Foote, **class of 1976**.

received All-American honors at Great Wolf Lodge cheer camp in Grapevine, Texas. For their outstanding effort throughout the week, the entire squad received a superior trophy on the last day of camp. Besides learning many new cheers and dance routines for the upcoming football season, the team spent the week enjoying water parks. The rest of the team includes Audessy White, Tia Parker, Peyton Pritchett, Nikki Melton, Megan Hemmerling, Emil Cole, Lauren Davis and Dallas Marlow.

Congratulations to Ryan Coker, **class of 2010**, on being one of fifty-three high school seniors to graduate from Youth Leadership Oklahoma's Class IX. You can read more about the class in Barker 2.4 (Spring/2009). Ryan is the son of Mike, **class of 1984**, and Tammi (Engdahl) Coker, **class of 1983**. He is the grandson of Gary, **class of 1963**, and Phyllis (Simpson) Holloway, **class of 1964**, and Bernice (Taylor) Broome, **class of 1940**.

Dillon Dodd, **class of 2010**, recently celebrated his eighteenth birthday in style. To start the celebration was a family glow-bowl party at Sooner Bowling Center in Norman. Among the attendees were Joeann (Beason) Dodd, **class of 1960**, and husband, Bobby, Robby Dodd, **class of 1985**, and his wife, Cathy. The celebration continued the next night with an all-night in-home party with his friends. Events included halo video game playing and hide-and-seek in the dark. Don Combs, **class of 1965**, and his wife, Sharon (Mayberry) Combs, **class of 1966**, sent a gift.

## Dogs at Play: *-sports and schedules*

Congratulations to the Lexington Rockets T-ball team for finishing the season with an 18-3 record.

### **Junior high cross-country...**

The junior high girls team had twelve of the thirty-five runners in the Arbuckle Conference cross-country meet in Purcell. They all medaled. Congratulations to sixth graders, Rayne Caldwell, 35<sup>th</sup> place, Jullian Cornell, 34<sup>th</sup> place, Melissa Christy, 30<sup>th</sup> place and Leslie Gibson, who finished 15<sup>th</sup>. Katelynn Burge took 24<sup>th</sup> as a seventh grader and the eighth graders who medaled were McCauley Rhoades, 28<sup>th</sup> place, Deborah Strong, 23<sup>rd</sup> place, Paige Comer, 14<sup>th</sup> place, Karfena Karges, 13<sup>th</sup> place, Rachel Holasek, 12<sup>th</sup> place, Deann Newton, who finished in the fourth position, and T. K. Stapp, who finished 13<sup>th</sup>.

On the boys' side, three competed with twenty other runners and all three medaled. Seventh graders, Case Bliss and Joseph Newton, finished 18<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>,

## Congratulations to.....

Norman H, **class of 1956**, and Billie Sue (Phelps) Marcum, **class of 1959**, on their **50<sup>th</sup>** wedding anniversary! The couple was married on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1959, at the First Baptist Church in Lexington by the Reverend Jimmy Weston. Mr. Marcum retired after 29 years with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, and Mrs. Marcum was a medical transcriptionist and secretary for 25 years. If you'd like to send them a congratulatory card, their address is 3820 SE Fair Meadows Place, Topeka, Kansas.

Dean Thompson, **class of 1957**, and his wife, Patricia (Compton) Thompson, **class of 1960**, on their **50<sup>th</sup>** wedding anniversary! The couple was married July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1959, at the Spring Hill Freewill Baptist Church. The celebration was held in the Oklahoma City home of their daughter, Pam (Thompson) Dunlap, **class of 1983**, and her husband, Jim.

Shirley (Giroux) Coulter, **class of 1970**, and her husband, Ron, on receiving the Honorary 4-H Member award for their dedication to the Cleveland County 4-H program.

Tommy McGaha, **class of 1977**, on being presented a safety award certificate and gift card from the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma.

Rick Thomas, **class of 1978**, on being hired as Lexington's Athletic Director.

Donald Ray Beason, Jr., **class of 1983**, on his marriage to Maria Esmeralda De La Cruz.

Kimberly K. Dawley, **class of 1994**, on her engagement to Stan Palmore. The wedding is set for October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Thunderbird Chapel. Kim is employed at the First American Bank in Purcell, Oklahoma.

Marci (Morris) Bean, **class of 1994**, on her returning to Lexington High School; this time as a teacher! Marci is teaching sixth grade. She comes home to us from her latest teaching assignment, teaching prekindergarten at FBC Amarillo, Texas, where she taught from 2007. Before that, she taught fifth grade at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana, after having taught fifth and sixth grades in Oklahoma City Public Schools. After graduating from Lexington, Marci attended and graduated from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. She is married to Jason Bean and they have two children, Cooper, who is five, and three-year old Landri. Welcome home, Marci!

Jennifer Denae Dodd, **class of 2002**, on her marriage to Dustin Ashley Clardy. After a honeymoon in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, the happy couple established their life

respectively. Eighth grader, Cole Burchett (son of Carl and Ramona Brown Burchett, both from the **class of 1979**) brought home 5<sup>th</sup>.

The teams also competed in the Heart of Oklahoma Purcell Invitational, with four Lexington girls bringing home medals out of 85 entrants. On the boys' side, two medaled from a field of 85. You can read more about all the meets below and find out how the high schoolers did.

### Junior high softball...

The Lady Bulldogs junior high edition fell victim to the Purcell (little) Lady Dragons junior high edition by a 5-0 score.

### Taking a swing at softball...

As she begins her third season as their skipper, Coach Kindra Palacol's Lady Bulldog fast-pitch softball team opened the season looking for a much better finish than last year's disappointing 9-20 record. The season opener against Anadarko provided the Lady Bulldogs with a 5-1 loss in spite of a 2-for-three plate debut appearance for freshman Emilee Graddy.

Next up was the Chisholm Trail Classic in Mustang, where the team fell to Perry by a 6-0 count. Later the same day, Fletcher proved a little too much as Coach Palacol's team fell 3-0 for a 0-3 record to start the year. The coach said, though, that they have time to tighten up their play on defense and eliminate the errors that will make the team a contender.

The team lost to Perry by a 5-0 count and Anadarko 5-3 in a tournament in Tuttle.

Deer Creek was next and, again, errors would prove to be costly in an 8-5 loss to the Lady Antlers.

The Lady Bulldogs only gave up one error to Lone Grove at the next outing. However, the Lady Longhorns just out-hit the good girls, and won the game in four innings by a 6-0 count.

Next up was the chance for a little payback. a rematch with the Anadarko Lady Warriors. The game was much closer this time, but in the end, the Lady Bulldogs fell 5-3, dropping their season record to 0-6.

At the Marlow Festival, the Lady Bulldogs played the host school in the first game. In spite of Freshman Tia Parker's 2-3 hitting, the team was dealt an 8-0 loss. In game two, Junior Lacey Caskey had a 2-2 performance at the plate and Freshman Emilee Gaddy finished 1-2 and a good defensive effort, the Lady Donkeys won 3-0.

together in Idabel, where the bride teaches elementary education; while the groom, vocational agriculture. She is a 2007 graduate of East Central in Ada; and the groom, a 1999 graduate of Valliant High School, is a 2003 graduate of THE Oklahoma State University. Mrs. Clardy is the daughter of Robby Dodd, **class of 1985**, and his wife, Cathy. She is the granddaughter of Joann (Beason) Dodd, **class of 1960**, and her husband, Bobby.

Christopher R. K. Lawson, **class of 2003**, and Ashley Louise Hall, **class of 2007**, on their marriage.

Army National Guard Pvt. Crystal K. Holmes, **class of 2003**, on her graduation from basic combat training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C. During her nine weeks of training, Private Holmes studied the Army mission, history, physical fitness, tradition and core values. She also received instruction and practice combat skills, chemical warfare, rifle marksmanship, bayonet training, field tactics, military courtesy, military weapons, chemical warfare, armed and unarmed combat, field tactics, map reading, military courtesy, military justice system, foot marches, field training exercises, drill and ceremony.

Nathan Wayne Helvey, **class of 2004**, on his marriage to Lauren Nichole Fogarty. Also congratulations to him for auditioning for and being accepted into the United States Navy Band. Nathan is a student at the University of Oklahoma, majoring in music. After basic training, he will be attending the Navy School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia. The couple will make their home in Norman until Nathan finds out where he will be stationed. He is the son of Terry (Peery) Helvey, **class of 1981** and a former Alumni Association President. She is also a principal in Lexington Public Schools. The ceremony was held at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City (local architectural representation for the renovation of that building was provided by Greg Yeary, **class of 1976**, with TAParchitecture in Oklahoma City. The Prime Architect was from Minneapolis, Minnesota).

Andrea Kathleen Washburn, **class of 2004**, on her marriage to Deke Wade Chandler. The bride is a 2008 graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a BA in professional writing and a minor in criminology. She is currently a social worker with the Garvin County office of the Department of Human Services.

Lindsey Leigh Mounger, **class of 2006**, on her marriage to Bryan Thomas Wesley Mathis.

Dana Nicole Barton, **class of 2007**, on her marriage to Derek Cody Ferguson. The couple is making their home in Norman, where the groom is employed by Fowler Productions, and the bride is employed at Hobby Lobby. Dana will graduate with an associate degree from Hillsdale Freewill Baptist College in December. Dana is

After the slow start to the season, the Lady Bulldogs did manage to pick up their first win. Junior Lacey Caskey led the hitting with a 2-3 performance at the plate and scored two runs, while Freshman Lauren Davis finished 1-2 with two runs batted in to lead the offense. On defense, Junior Bailee Snow struck out nine batters on the mound as Coach Palacol's team beat the Bridge Creek Lady Bobcats by a 3-0 tally.

There was no time to celebrate the victory, however, as the team travelled to Elgin. The team jumped off to a quick 5-0 lead, but was unable to maintain it as the Lady Owls gave up three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to eek out a 6-5 victory. Sophomore Stormy Wigley and Freshman Lauren Davis each finished the game with a 2-3 outing, Davis driving in one run.

The "Battle for the Bridge", softball edition, was next on the schedule, as Purcell came calling. The Lady Bulldogs mustered only two hits on offense and the defense committed five errors, and the Lady Dragons took home a 10-0 victory to claim bragging rights to the James C. Nance Bridge, at least temporarily.

Against Blanchard, the hitting woes continued as they managed only one hit on their way to their second consecutive 10-0 loss, dropping their record to 1-11.

The next outing had Coach Palacol's team at Noble. Sparked by Lacey Caskey's 2-3 outing at the plate, with a pair of RBIs, the Lady Bulldogs picked up their second win of the season with a 6-1 beat down of the Lady Bears. Nikki Melton picked up the win with her performance in the circle.

The girls picked up their third win of the season, beating Bridge Creek by a 3-0 score.

The Lady Bulldogs fell victim to the Bethany Lady Broncos by an 8-0 score on the Bethany field.

Seven errors, combined with only three hits at the plate, proved to be fatal to the team when they hosted Little Axe, as the Lady Indians chopped down the girls by an 8-0 count. Caskey finished 1-2 at the plate to pace Lexington.

The team next travelled to ASA Hall of Fame Stadium for the Hall of Fame Shootout. In game one, the Lady Blue Devils from Ringling beat Lexington 7-0. The second game saw Sophomore Patricia Cooksy lead the team at the plate with a 2-2 game that included a single and a double with one run scored, but the Lady Redskins won the game 8-3.

The Newcastle Lady Racers came to Lexington and threw a three-hitter against the locals and left town with an 8-0

the daughter of Charles, **class of 1976**, and Joyce Barton, **class of 1979**.

Crystal Henderson, **class of 2009**, on being one of 86 students awarded a Skill Point Certificate at this year's National Leadership and Skill Conference. She won the certificate in Prepared Speech while she was a student at Mid-America Technology Center in Wayne, Oklahoma. It is the nation's highest award given the Conference. Industry leaders representing over 1,100 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions recognized the students for their demonstrated excellence in 91 hands-on occupational and leadership contests, like criminal justice, aviation maintenance, robotics and public speaking.

Tyler Todd, **class of 2009**, has started classes at Oklahoma City Community College after having spent the summer working for Cleveland County Commissioner, Rusty Sullivan.

Jackson Ewing, **class of 2009**, made his post high school acting debut. The drama student at the University of Oklahoma won the part of Thenardier, the true villain of the Sooner Theatre's 2009 Young Producers production of "Les Miserables" this past summer.

James Loyd Briscoe, **class of 2009**, on being named a 2009 Academic All-Stater by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. He received an Academic All-State scholarship by the Oklahoma Publishing Company.

Noah Easton, **class of 2009**, on being selected as one of 25 students from across the United States to receive an \$8,000 scholarship award from the Johnson Controls Foundation. He will use the scholarship toward tuition at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, where he is studying pre-medicine. The scholarship is offered by the philanthropic arm of Johnson Controls, Inc., to children of Johnson Controls U.S. employees. Noah's dad, Mark Easton, **class of 1973**, is a UPG Senior Model Maker for Johnson Controls' Building Efficiency business in Norman. Twenty-five students receive four-year scholarships applied in \$2,000 increments and twenty students are chosen for a one-year \$2,000 scholarship. The scholarships are awarded based on academic, leadership and civic achievements. Incidentally, you can read more about Mark Easton's recent marriage in Barker 2.4.

### Sniffing around.....

Virginia Dayle (Giroux) Hughes, **class of 1942**, attended the book signing for *Buckhead, O.T. The History of a Community and its People* held at the offices of *The*

victory.

The team started off in trouble at Tuttle as they gave up a lead off base hit, followed by two walks, loading the bases. The next batter hit a grand slam home run. The next batter was hit by a pitch and another home run followed, and the Lady Tigers bounced the Lady Bulldogs 11-0.

Washington's Lady Warriors no-hit the Lady Bulldogs on their way to a 12-0 victory.

The weatherman won as rain took away games in the Plainview Tournament and at Lindsey.

### Cross-country in the running for medals...

With Lexington's STRONG history in cross-country, winning four straight state championships a few years ago, the Lexington cross-country season got underway. They made their presence felt as one of the fourteen teams competing at the Wynnewood Invitational. First year coach, Mark Savage, took ten junior high and thirteen high school runners to the meet. With the top 35 runners in junior high and high school girls and the top 30 high school boys receiving medals, the Bulldogs brought home a TON of them. In the high school girls division, where they ran 1.25 miles, Crissy Joyner medaled with a 20<sup>th</sup> place finish, Adriana Lara medaled for 28<sup>th</sup>, Jennifer Munoz medaled for 17<sup>th</sup>, Breana Poston medaled for 18<sup>th</sup>, while Kelsey Ramb medaled for 19<sup>th</sup> place and Brett Scott medaled in 15<sup>th</sup> place. In the high school boys division, they ran 2.5 miles and Chris Neale medaled in 27<sup>th</sup> position, Austin Terbeek medaled in 23<sup>rd</sup> place, Jonah Woodley medaled in 24<sup>th</sup> place and Casey Voyles medaled with a sixth place finish. There were 13 high school runners from Lexington that participated and 10 finished in the medal count. In all, Lexington entered 23 runners and brought home a total of 19 medals.

The teams also ran in the Heart of Oklahoma Purcell Invitational. Fighting triple digit heat, several injured or ailing Bulldogs, two Lady Bulldogs medaled out of the 103 entries, while sensation Casey Voyles, the lone Bulldog to medal, finished second out of 108 entrants.

At the Arbuckle Conference Track Meet in Purcell, the Lady Bulldogs entered nine members. All nine brought home medals out of a field of thirty. Those medaling were ninth grader, Hannah Holasek, who ran to a 17<sup>th</sup> place finish while running with the tenth-graders. The tenth grade finishers were Emily Cole in 20<sup>th</sup> and Jennifer Munoz in 8<sup>th</sup>. The Juniors were Justine Michael, who finished 23<sup>rd</sup>, Brenna Tarver, who finished 22<sup>nd</sup>, Chrissy Joyner finished 18<sup>th</sup>, Kelsey Ramb finished 16<sup>th</sup> and Brett Scott, who finished 4<sup>th</sup>. The only senior entered from

*Lexington Observer*. Others attending the signing were Marie (Jennings) Jeffries, **class of 1939**, Mike Edwards, **class of 1976**, and Lisa (Penner) Barton, **class of 1980**.

Peggy Lou Kelley, **class of 1947**, recently celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Among the guests that helped Peggy celebrate the milestone were classmates and long-time friends Don, **class of 1947**, and Doris (Taylor) Giroux, **class of 1950**, Evelyn (Kelley) and Darrell Ille, Leroy Wheeler, all from the **class of 1950**, Irma Jean (Fry) Hall and Elanor (Darby) Bedingfield, both from the **class of 1946**, Mark, **class of 1946**, and Mildred (Jones) Lambert, **class of 1945**, Warren Ille, **class of 1951**, and his wife, Phyllis, as well as Ruby (Gwin) Mallory, **class of 1947**, Maurice Morrell) Robinson, **class of 1944**, Patricia (Wood) Stewart, **class of 1947**, Allen, **class of 1944**, and Berniece (Farley) West, **class of 1950**, Naomi (Bennett) Mitchell, **class of 1948**, and her husband, David.

With Kay (Scott) Talley, **class of 1955**, serving as tour guide, several of our fellow alumni were among a group that toured the west. The group joined travelers from Arkansas and others from Oklahoma when they boarded a Kincaid Motor Coach and set out to Yellowstone National Park. The group went through Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota. On their adventure, the group saw some beautiful scenery, along with Old Faithful, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Mount Rushmore, and the Crazy Horse Memorial. Among the travelers were: Doris (Moffat) Rowland, **class of 1957**, and husband, Jim, along with Don, **class of 1965**, and Sharon (Mayberry) Combs, **class of 1966**, Jim Moffat, **class of 1961**, and his wife, Delta, A. V., **class of 1966**, and Linda (Hall) Smith, **class of 1966**, Donald, **class of 1964**, and Helen (Burchfield) Eldridge, **class of 1969**, Juanita (Combs) Garner, **class of 1961** (her husband, Bill, **class of 1960**, was unable to attend due to illness) and Harold Whitaker, **class of 1958**, and his wife, Pat. Their trip included a guided tour of Yellowstone, a tour of the Crazy Horse Memorial, a daylight tour of, and a nighttime program at, Mt. Rushmore, the Dan Miller Musical Review, bison herds, deer, antelope, prairie dogs, a wolf, an outdoor cookout supper, some cowboy music, geysers and waterfalls. They also saw the Bighorn National Forest, the Grand Tetons and the Black Hills. The group spent two nights in Casper, South Dakota, where they ate breakfast one morning in a saloon with swinging doors, among MANY other sights on this "once-in-a-lifetime" trip.

Freda (Jones) Deskin, **class of 1966**, was forced to close the campus of the school where she serves as Chief Executive Officer after an off-campus lunchtime fight. It seems that a group of students from her Advanced Science and Technology Center were walking back to school from their lunch break (older students in good standing have off-campus lunch privileges) near Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> and Pennsylvania in Oklahoma City, when a pickup pulled alongside the students, and two teens

Lexington was Breanna Poston, who finished 13<sup>th</sup>. As a team, the Lady Bulldogs finished as runners-up.

The boys team ran seven competitors among the field of twenty-four, with all seven bringing home medals. The ninth-graders were Trenton Cladwell, 19<sup>th</sup> place, C J Sweetman, 17<sup>th</sup> place, Johan Woodley, 9<sup>th</sup> place, and Austin Terbeek, who finished 8<sup>th</sup>. No 10<sup>th</sup> graders were entered, but Chris Neale, a junior, finished 6<sup>th</sup>. The seniors were Kodee Robers, who took home a 12<sup>th</sup> place medal, and Casey Voyles won the event and was crowned the conference champion. As a team, the Bulldogs won the conference crown.

Senior Casey Voyles moved to Lexington from Madill as a freshman. He ran cross-country and played football his first year here. Participating in two such time-consuming sports made it hard to compete in both, so he dropped football, since he was a better runner than he was a football player. Apparently, he made a good choice, as he is one of the best in the state. He won first place and brought home a gold medal from the Arbuckle Conference meet in Purcell. Voyles runs a 4:40 mile and has the very real possibility of winning state besides being one of the top five cross-country runners in the state. Already eyeballing the competition, Casey says there is a runner from Tishomingo that has already beaten him twice and one from Plainview that will be very tough to beat, but he is up for the challenge. He's going to run track and wrestle when those seasons start. He plans on attending college after high school and is hoping to have a scholarship offer in hand. His long term goal would be to compete in the Olympics.

#### Football kicks off...

Congratulations to Coach "Bad" Brad Beller and our Bulldogs football team. With nine defensive starters returning to the 4-3 alignment and nine offensive starters returning, including quarterback Seth Howard guiding the flex-bone, the team started the year with high expectations and lofty goals. They started the year ranked number 13 in Class 2A in the pre-season poll by *The Oklahoman* newspaper. However, after week one, a 32-0 pasting of the Luther Lions, the good guys vaulted all the way to number 9 in the polls, highest ranking ever! Congratulations! The Associated Press poll has the team in a two-way tie with Coalgate for 19<sup>th</sup> place.

Congratulations to offensive lineman Marcus Nere. The 5-11/275 Senior was named to the Class 2A preseason All-State team by *The Oklahoman*. Also getting a little love from *The Oklahoman* was Senior quarterback Seth Howard. After being asked who his idol was, Seth was quoted by the newspaper as saying he looked up to his head coach, Brad Beller, because of the way he's built the team into a winner. "He basically taught us to play as

jumped out and began to fight. One teen pulled a knife and stabbed another at least twice. Fortunately, the wounds were only superficial. Meanwhile, another teen pulled a baseball bat and hit another student, but no one went to the hospital. School personnel saw the fight and broke it up. After the police cleared the scene, the school went into lockdown. One student was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon for the stabbing. Students will not be allowed off campus for lunch until further notice. She also cancelled an open house scheduled for the next night.

Rexann (Sparlin) Buchanan, **class of 1968**, announces the birth of her third grandchild, Halle Reece Buchanan. Hallie joins sisters, Hannah, six, and two-year old Haven in the Buchanan family.

Mike Gwin, **class of 1971**, officiated the funeral service for Willie A. Thompson.

Lexington Volunteer Fire Chief, Harry Grider, **class of 1973**, recently accepted a \$10,000 grant from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry on behalf of the Lexington Fire Department. Chief Grider says the money will be used to refurbish and rebuild donated forestry trucks. Harry and the other firefighters also participated in the "Fill the Boot" drive for Muscular Dystrophy.

Glenn Turner, **class of 1973**, is a proud papa that his son, Kevin Glenn Turner, graduated Summa Cum Laude this spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering Tech from THE Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The younger Turner is a graduate of our suburb across the river.

Dean Idlett, **class of 1974**, celebrated the wedding of his son, Justin Dean Idlett.

Charles Barton, **class of 1976**, officiated the funeral service for his neighbor, Margie Yeary. Ellen (Coward) Vestle, **class of 1974**, Shelly (McGregor) Bryan, **class of 1983**, Megan (McGregor) Little, **class of 1985**, Kevin Yeary, **class of 1998**, Stephen Yeary, **class of 2000**, and former teacher, Jim Hunter, also attended the service. You can read more in the "Condolences" section of this issue.

Allen Idlett, **class of 1976**, spoke the eulogy at the funeral service for Karen G. McGregor. Bearers for the service included Ken Tucker, **class of 1969**, and Jansen Idlett, **class of 1999**. You can read more about the McGregors in the "Condolences to" section above.

Richard Tarp, **class of 1976**, his wife, Susan, and their family were the focus of a Spotighting Neighbors in the News segment of the *Lexington Observer* newspaper. They were featured in the August 20 edition.

a team and not as individuals. He showed us that you have to count on each other," Howard continued.

As it turns out, there was plenty of reason to give Howard a little recognition, as the 2009 edition of our Lexington Bulldogs football team made their intentions known in the first game out of the chute. It was the Seth Howard show as the Bulldogs took to Floyd West Field. Though Howard completed only four of eleven passes, they went for 131 yards and two touchdowns with only one interception, as the Bulldogs destroyed the Luther Lions 32-0. He also carried the ball eleven times for 168 yards as the offense amassed 366 rushing yards. He scored the first touchdown of the young season on an 86-yard run on the game's second play. The performance caused him to get a "Top Performer" mention in the same newspaper. Add the passing yards and the Bulldogs totaled 497 yards of offense. Not to be overshadowed by their counterparts, the stingy Bulldog defense allowed the Lions only 87 total yards. For their play in the game, Howard and Willy Stinnett, who had six tackles, one sack, a fumble recovery and one tackle for a loss, were named 2009 Heart of Oklahoma Offensive and Defensive Lineman Players of the Week, respectively, by *The Purcell Register*.

In their final tune up before the annual "Battle for the Bridge" against the people from across the river, the Bulldogs took their juggernaut on the road to Marietta. The Bulldogs scored early and often, with Steven Howard scoring on a one-yard run in the first quarter, followed by a John Somers 30-yard touchdown run thirty-three seconds later gave the Bulldogs a two touchdown lead in just the first quarter. With an offense that averaged an astounding 9.7 yards per play and a tenacious defense that limited the Indians to 12 points, all of which were scored against the second team, the Bulldogs took advantage of four Marietta turnovers as they built a 21-0 score at the end of the first quarter and began to rotate players in the second quarter. With five minutes remaining in the first half, the starters' night was done. The halftime lead was 42-0 as your Bulldogs pounded the Indians 49-12. Coach Beller was able to rest his starters most of the game. That allowed him to get the backup players some valuable playing time so he can develop quality replacements when needed. The Bulldogs had 311 yards rushing in the game in spite of not having one back go over 100 yards. They shared the wealth by having 10 backs divide the load. Dillon Dodd was cited by *The Purcell Register* as the "Defensive Player of the Week" for his five tackles, two forced fumbles and had one-and-a-half sacks. Brad Nere was cited by the paper as their "Offensive Lineman of the Week" for grading out a 94%. Overall, the Bulldogs moved up to number 7 in Class 2A in the polls, number 6 on Coachesaid.com and got a lot of love from *The Norman Transcript* as well as *The Oklahoman*. Next up, Class 3A's fifth-ranked powerhouse from across the river, the mighty Purcell

Howard Pruitt, **class of 1977**, recently served as an honorary pallbearer for Carl Ray Dowdy.

Doug Northcutt, **class of 1982**, served as a pallbearer and David Northcutt, **class of 1983**, served as honorary pallbearer for Gene Otis Fox.

Tammi (Engdahl) Coker, **class of 1983**, has returned from a three-week People to People Student Ambassador Program to the United Kingdom and Ireland. She accompanied about forty high school students from throughout central Oklahoma. While in the motherland and Eire, the group visited the medieval town of Stirling, where the actual events depicted in the movie, "Braveheart", took place. There, they learned Highlander dances, weapons, kilts and clans. They received golf lessons at St. Michaels, explored St. Andrews, rafted the rapids of River Tay, visited Blair Castle, searched for "Nessie" by boat in Loch Ness, saw a sheepdog performance, visited Edinburgh Castle, took part in "The Royal Mile Murder Mystery", and in Scottish country dance lessons. Next, it was on to Belfast, Northern Ireland, where they toured the city, visited the dry dock at Harland and Wolff shipyard, where the "Titanic" was built, and visited the Royal Academy secondary school and learned the history of The Troubles in Northern Island. The group also crossed a rope bridge at Carrick-A-Rede and walked the Giant's Causeway. Then, it was on to Limerick, Ireland, for visits to more castles, watching and taking part in local sports, among other events. The next stop was Dublin, Ireland, where they absorbed more of the local culture, then ferried across to Wales, where they visited the world's longest railroad station and the city with the longest name, Llanfaiipwllgwyngyllgogerychwymdrobylllantysiliogogogochh! Can you imagine working at city hall and answering THAT phone? Finally, the group went to London, where they witnessed the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, explored the Tower of London, among other events and culture. Tammy is married to Mike Coker, **class of 1984**.

Marvin Gober, **class of 1984**, and Danny Cooksey, **class of 1986**, served as bearers for Kenneth A. Baker.

What an odd way to have a mini Alumni Reunion. It seems that Lexington graduates, Ronnie Rollings, **class of 1989** (and son of Donna Rollings, **class of 1977**), Shannan Dover, **class of 1997**, Danny Cooksey, **class of 1986**, James "Bo" McGregor, also from the **class of 1986**, Assistant Fire Chief Jansen Idlett, **class of 1999**, and Lexington Fire Chief Harry Grider, **class of 1973**, got together when they responded to a house fire. In spite of using one fire engine, two tankers, one brush truck, one rescue vehicle and an assist by Slaughterville Fire Department, the house of Tiffany Massey was a total loss. The firemen were also kept busy when they assisted

Dragons, with one of the top quarterbacks in the state, invade Floyd West Field with eyes all over the state watching.

Coach Mike Wilson's Purcell Dragon squad came to visit fresh off a 35-6 pasting of perennial power Washington Warriors. Their shotgun-option offense, led by sophomore quarterback Cole Swayze, that had rushed for 220-yards on 40 carries in a season-opening 35-6 victory over Lindsey, followed by a 327-yard total on 40 carries against Washington, giving them an average of 282.5 yards per game. The "Battle for the Bridge" has been dominated by the Dragons, 27-4-3, with only a 20-14 Bulldog victory in 2003, being the only interruption in the last 23 games in the series (see Dragon Slayers elsewhere in this newsletter). The stage was set. It was standing room only, as fans from both towns filled the stands and lined the fences on both sides from goal line to goal line, even the west end zone. Though Purcell students and band started the game louder, the home fans began to roar loudest as the game went on. Lexington's Seth Howard set up the game's first score with a 15-yard scamper to the one. Steven Howard scored on the next play to cap an 8 play, 45-yard drive and Jamin Blanchard toed the conversion, and the Bulldogs led 7-0 with 9:26 left in the second quarter. A few minutes later, Travelle Pelkey oskied a pass to set the Bulldogs up in business at their own 18-yard line. Five plays and 82 yards later, he scored on a 49-yard run over the left side. Blanchard's kick made the score 14-0 with 1:06 remaining in the first half. With 8:28 remaining on the third quarter clock, Seth Howard got in on the scoring action with a 55-yard touchdown run on an option play between the guard and tackle that gave our Bulldogs a 20-0 lead. Blanchard's kick went wide left. The team secured the victory with a final 7-minute drive in the fourth quarter that sent the Dragon fans home. With Swayze out for the game following an ankle injury, backup quarterbacks, Hunter Marcum and Colton Wren, combined for a 9-of-25 passing night for 64 yards. Against the AWESOME Bulldog defense, the Dragons only managed 48 yards rushing. The defense intercepted three passes, forced two fumbles and had three sacks. They only gave up 112 total yards in the game. On the other side, Coach Beller's club rushed for 288 yards on 42 carries. Seth Howard, battling sickness all week, carried the rock 14 times for 138 yards. He only completed 2-4 passes for 32 yards on his way to being named the Offensive Player of the Week. The 20-0 win for the Bulldogs was their largest margin of victory since 1916, when the Bulldogs spanked the Dragons 31-0. Brad Nere, by virtue of his twelve tackles and one pass broken up, was named the Heart of Oklahoma Defensive Player of the Week by *The Purcell Register*. The team is getting love from not only *The Purcell Register*, but *The Norman Transcript*, *The Oklahoman* and News 9, who has the Bulldogs ranked number 2 in class 2A and awarded Lexington their "Spirit Stick" by virtue of the win over

Cedar Country Fire Department fight a grass fire on Southeast 168<sup>th</sup> Street, about one and one-half miles north of Highway 39. Grider, Idlett, Randy Tarp, **class of 1976**, Kenny Tucker, **class of 1969**, Danny Cooksey, **class of 1986**, and Travis Ary, **class of 1994**, responded with one brush truck and one tanker truck. Grider, Idlett, Cooksey, Tarp and John Idlett, **class of 2003**, also worked a tow-car accident on the James C. Nance Bridge dividing Lexington and Purcell. The wreck involved a westbound state Department of Corrections vehicle apparently rear-ending a Chevrolet Sport Utility Vehicle.

Jacob Foote, **class of 1999**, officiated the funeral service of Sharon Meier at Wilson-Little Funeral Home Chapel in Purcell. Marty, **class of 1986**, and Tim Nere, **class of 1990**, served as pallbearers at the service.

Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Jansen Idlett, **class of 1999**, has been busy. He worked a single car accident east of Lexington involving a Lexingtonian. According to Trooper Idlett, 16-year-old Jackie Bullock was treated and released from Purcell Hospital after she over corrected her 1997 Ford Explorer twice before she hit a tree and overturned one-half time. The accident occurred while she was northbound on Southeast 84<sup>th</sup> in Lexington, two-tenths of a mile south of State Highway 39. Trooper Idlett was also assigned to spend the night at the site of the airplane crash that made the news. He was one of the first ones on the scene after the crash, and had to keep the scene secure until the FAA investigators arrived on the scene about 8:30 the next morning. The site was about four to five hundred yards south of the James C. Nance Bridge that divides Lexington from our less sophisticated red-wearing neighbors to the west.

Speaking of our red-wearing neighbors, they have stolen a couple of our own. Tori (Pitts) Dodd, **class of 2000**, has landed a job teaching fourth grade at Purcell. She is a graduate of East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. She had been a student teacher and substitute in Purcell last year. Tori is married to Kyle Dodd, **class of 2001** (and the son of Joann Beason Dodd, **class of 1960**), and her husband, Bobby. Tori and Kyle have a son, Zane, who is in the first grade.

Jeremy Easter, **class of 2003**, and his wife, Stephanie, spent Labor Day at the Lexington home of his parents, Yvonne "Susie" (Idlett), **class of 1982** (and my former next-door-neighbor), and her husband, Jerald. Jeremy and his wife live in Olathe, Colorado, where he has been working for the local Farmers Co-op for the past two years.

The other alumnus that has gone over to those people across the river is Coty Smith, **class of 2004**. She is teaching the fourth grade and is also a graduate of East Central University. She is the daughter of Brent Smith,

Purcell. Next up, Justice Alma Wilson SeeWorth Academy.

After the emotional win against the Purcell Dragons and Homecoming coming up next week, how much of a letdown would there be against SeeWorth Academy? Well, apparently not much, as the Bulldogs put the game away in the first quarter. With the defense only allowing the Eagles 17 yards on 27 carries and 1 of 4 passes for 3 yards, the offense was rolling up 257 yards on 34 carries and added another 102 yards passing (completing 5 of 6), the Bulldogs were able to, for the second time this season, rest their starters beginning in the second quarter. Lexington led 35-0 after the first quarter and 55-0 at the half. The final score was 62-8, with the only SeeWorth points coming on a 64-yard punt return in the fourth quarter. Freshman, Dalton Duke, was the leading Bulldog rusher with 111 yards and two touchdowns. Looking to go 2-0 in district play and up their overall record to 5-0, the Bulldogs host Bethel for Homecoming. The parade starts at 1:30. Go out and support our 6<sup>th</sup> ranked Bulldogs!

When the new districts were announced, not much changed for our Bulldogs. In District 1-2A-2 next year will be Northeast, Luther, Jones, Crooked Oak, perennial powers Christian Heritage and Millwood as well as the Bulldogs.

### 2009-2010 remaining varsity football:

10/2	Bethel (Homecoming)	Home	7:30
10/9	Millwood	Away	7:30
10/15	Meeker	Home	7:30
10/23	Jones	Away	7:30
10/30	Little Axe	Home	7:30
11/6	Centennial	Away	7:30

### 2009-2010 remaining cross-country schedule:

10/8	OBU	Shawnee	5:10
10/12	Sulphur	Sulphur	TBA
10/17	Regional	Lindsey	10 a.m.
10/24	State	Shawnee	10 a.m.

**Barkings:** *-happenings of your Alumni Association*

**class of 1972** and the current Lexington Vocational Agriculture teacher, and his wife, Donna. Coty did her student teaching in the fourth grade class in Lexington.

Heather Leverett, **class of 2005**, recently held a "Happy First Birthday" celebration for her son, Colton Wyatt Leverett. Also attending the celebration was Colton's uncle, Logan Leverett, **class of 2007**.

Seth Vansell, **class of 2007**, was Dorm Monitor at both the teen and youth Pentecostal Church of God state camps in Bristow, Oklahoma. Vansell is the Youth Pastor of the Rose Hill Pentecostal Church of God east of Lexington.

Though not an alumnus, former Lexington High School secretary, Anita Scott, has written a book and it has been released. It is called "Living God's Plan After the Lightning" and is available through her website: [www.anitakscott.com](http://www.anitakscott.com).

## Dogs in Training: *-alumni furthering their educations*

David Matthew Feuerborn, **class of 2001**, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the spring 2009 semester at the University of Oklahoma.

Joshuah Keith Gilleland, **class of 2004**, graduated from THE Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, this spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in fire protection and safety tech.

Matthew Lewis Murnan, **class of 2004**, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the spring 2009 semester at the University of Oklahoma.

Tyler Coker, **class of 2006** and an International Studies Senior at the University of Oklahoma, has returned home after spending his spring semester studying at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey. During his five months living in the city of 15 million that is situated in both Europe and Asia, Tyler traveled to numerous historical and cultural sites in the region, including Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Mosque of Suleyman, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia, Basilica Cistern and more in Istanbul, the Mount of Olives the Red Sea (where he snorkeled), the Dead Sea (where he swam) and the Jordan River (where he was baptized) in Israel. His journey also had him travel by camel in Egypt, where he saw the Pyramids and the Sphinx. Tyler also visited the Parthenon and went scuba diving in the Aegean Sea while in Greece and visited Petra and camped with the Bedouin nomads in the desert of Jordan. Tyler is the son of Mike, **class of 1984**, and Tammi (Engdahl) Coker, **class of 1983**, and his grandparents are Gary, **class of 1963**, and Phyllis (Simpson) Holloway, **class**

Well, we did our due diligence and managed to save our Alumni Association some money. Instead of buying paper and address labels and possibly paying to have them run, we sought out our friends at Hooper Printing in Norman. They printed 3,000 two-sided invitations for us and charged us \$0.06 each and added \$15.18 for a total of \$199.18 for the entire job. That also saved us from having the school print them or buying printer ink to print them ourselves. Next, through Hooper, we struck a deal with University Presort in Norman for folding, tabbing and reduced postage. Instead of either folding them ourselves or trying to get volunteers to help, addressing them and paying \$1222.32 in postage alone, University charged us \$0.03 each for addressing and \$0.02 each for tabbing (I was told the Post Office will no longer take stapled mail outs we used to do). That's a nickel apiece for tabbing and addressing. Postage only costs us \$0.25 each. That means that to have 2,778 mail outs folded, tabbed, addressed and mailed (they even took them to the Post Office for us) was \$833.40. That saved our Alumni Association \$388.92. That's ALMOST enough of a savings by itself to pay for the evening's entertainment. We didn't think you'd mind saving money. Our biggest expense was postage, now with that out of the way, we need to set aside about \$1,750 or so for tables and chairs. That includes delivery and pick up. We will need to pay for the meal, but that will be covered by those that pay to eat. We will also have entertainment. Check the website in the coming weeks for an announcement about that. All told, with the bricks and reservations, as well as our payouts for brochures and posting, we have just under \$5,000 in the bank. I'll post the exact amount in the next newsletter.

Brick sales are also picking up. We currently have bought and installed 70 bricks and have another order of about 20 or so ready to place, so if you want to get your engraved brick installed, be sure to get us your order VERY SOON. Permanently remembering a loved one with an engraved brick installed at the new Lexington High School would make a GREAT Christmas gift. They are only \$30 each until December 31<sup>st</sup>. After that, they go up to \$50. You can have up to 13 characters per line, with a maximum of 3 lines per brick.

## The Dragon Slayers-*a TRUE*

*Halloween story...*

The night was black, except for the lights of the surrounding towns. A thick blanket of clouds obscured the moon, the same way it had the sun throughout the entire day. The brisk north wind howled steadily, making it seem much colder than the mid-forties it actually was. It had been in the mid-fifties earlier in the day, but the

of 1964, and the great-grandson of Bernice (Taylor) Broome, **class of 1940**.

Jennifer Douglas, **class of 1986**, has been performing her practice teaching assignment for 12 weeks in Purcell. Jennifer is a student at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma. She is one of 45 SWOSU Department of Education students participating in the exercise.

Keri Dawn Ellison, **class of 2009**, was awarded a \$1,000 by the McAlester Scottish Rite, Charitable and Educational Foundation John T. Leibrand Memorial Scholarship. Recipients of that scholarship are selected for scholastic ability, high standard of citizenship, good moral character and financial need. Keri is attending Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Kyle Reed Prince, **class of 2007**, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the spring 2009 semester at the University of Oklahoma.

## **Big Dog:** - *Fellow Alumni worth noting*

Long, long ago in a galaxy far, far away, the game of high school basketball was played differently, MUCH differently. Oh, the basic premise is still the same as it was since its inception, put the inflated ball through the metal hoop more times than your opponent, but the look and the way the game was played was different. For instance, boys used to play the game in shiny, satiny-looking shorts that were, shall we say, tighter and shorter than the ones today. They also wore tank top -type jerseys. The girls played in blouses and had uniqueness to their game -- it wasn't played "full-court" as the boys' game was or even as girls' basketball is played today. Back then, girls played six-on-six (originally called Basquette ball), meaning they had three guards on the end of the court with their opponents' basket defending that goal from the opponents' forwards and three forwards under their own basket trying to score on the opponents' guards. None of the players were allowed to cross half court. Also, neither the boys nor girls had a three-point line, so a shot from half-court counted just as many points as a layup. There were other rule differences, like the number of dribbles a player was allowed and so on. If you were born before 1980, I know you remember those days.

Now, the college game was different. Beginning in 1958, the Office of Civil Rights began looking at banning six-on-six girls' basketball. In 1970, colleges began making the transition from the traditional six-on-six game to a game that more closely matched their male counterparts. As

constant wind made it feel more like winter than the fall day it was. The leaves on the trees had already begun to turn to their autumn hues, the deep purples, yellows and tans that make this land picturesque every fall. As they began to turn colors and die, they tumbled harmlessly to the ground, paying homage to the summer for its warmth and signaling winter that they wouldn't be around to greet it. While the children of the local villages put on their best costumes and dressed to shield them from the biting cold that awaited them outside, they were giddy at the thought of gliding from house-to-house, collecting candy. While all signs pointed to another typical Halloween in small town America, all was not as it appeared. This Halloween would be different, my friend, very, very different.

In the northeast quadrant of the small town of Lexington, there lay a patch of hallowed ground where once grew what seemed to be an endless sea of amber wheat, tall and straight, that reached for the sky and gave a friendly wave to the sun during the summer breezes. On this otherwise peaceful plot of ground, away from all the ghosts and goblins that laughed and giggled as they paraded from one house to another to get their expected payoff, pausing in between to check the content of their bounty, there would be a battle, one of epic proportions. While many of the town's children would be oblivious to what was happening, some would actually witness the extraordinary. It was the night the forces of good and evil would collide on that patch of turf. It was the night that those that were there to witness it and those who participated in it would tell the generations after them about what had happened. It was the night that will live in Lexington folklore forever.

These evil Dragons came from a far away, yet oh-so-close, athletic tradition-rich, magical town called Purcell. Though separated by less than a mile, the two towns were far apart in their socio-economic and athletic successes. Purcell had a Pizza Hut, Sonic, KFC, Mazzio's, Ace Hardware, Subway and Wal-Mart. The Dragons' mystique was that their rich tradition in all sports -- having won state championships in boys' basketball in 1950, 1957, 1961, 1974 (under legendary coach Leroy "Boney" Matthews) and 1994. They had won a state championship in football in 1972, and boys' track state titles in 1953, 1975, 1976, 1980 and 1985. They've won several more titles since this magic night. They'd been in numerous state championship games and third-place finishes. They'd graduated Laurence Mantooth, a two-time NCAA Wrestling Champion, as well as a member of the 1985 Chicago Bears that won Super Bowl XX, Cliff Thrift. It is the place that bore Olympic basketball team member, and later coach, Lester Lane. They've had all-staters and individual state champions. The football team that year was 6-2 and looking to make the playoffs yet again. The myth was that they didn't lose to Lexington in ANY sport of any kind, especially in football. After all, they had beaten

more and more colleges and universities made the transition to the full-court game, it began to impact the girls' game at the high school level. Suddenly, a player had to become a more complete package, meaning great defenders and rebounders had to learn how to become great shooters and vice versa. That learning would prove difficult for many, but an outstanding shooter is a great find for a college, no matter how good they are at defense. Being a great shooter might also help you get your dream job.

The year was 1978. It was a tumultuous year for Lexington schools. In the summer of that year, the school system would go through some big changes. High school principal, Don McQuerry, asked to be reassigned to a teaching position and some of Lexington's longest serving and most popular teachers, like Sandra Wootten, Al Roach and Helen Conley, tendered their resignations. Bill Shoaf was hired as the new high school Principal and the duties of the Superintendent, A. H. Howell, were severely limited by the school board, leading to his emotional resignation. Only a few months before that, though, during the winter, was a bright spot, a shooting star.

Stephanie Diane Stark began playing organized team basketball in the fifth grade and by the time she graduated in 1978, she would be the most prolific scorer in the history of Lexington High School girls' basketball history. Born in Purcell, Oklahoma, on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1960, Stephanie, was the youngest child of Sammy and Jo Stark. Older brother, Steve, a construction contractor living in Pawley's Island, South Carolina, preceded her by four years, graduating with the class of 1974. Her prowess on the basketball court made her the perfect choice for basketball queen her final three years after being the freshman attendant. Among her awards is being named the female athlete of the year her senior year.

Stephanie wasn't just all about the basketball. When not hanging out at the Dairy Boy or "draggin' Main", she also excelled in the classroom, earning her way onto the Superintendent's Honor Roll throughout her days in school. She was a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. Stephanie played coronet and later became the Drum Majorette in the Pride of Lexington Marching Band (whatever happened to Mr. Reed?). She really enjoyed math and thought her math teacher, Sandra Wootten, and Kristi Osborn, English, and Speech and Drama, were cool.

The basketball court, though, was her domain. She was a four-year starter at forward for the Lady Bulldogs, earning Big-8 All-Conference honors as a senior. Also her senior year, she was named to the Wanette Invitational All-Tournament in January, in spite of breaking a bone in her wrist during the tournament. She continued to help the team, though, through her sitting with them and offering

Lexington in the modern era of football a total of 13 times without losing. All they had to do was beat a team they'd never lost to and win, again, at home the next week and they would be playoff-bound once again. The Dragons were talented and confident. They were breathing fire.

Lexington, at that time, had no chain stores like the big town did. In fact, people crossed the bridge into enemy territory to shop, eat and, off times, find entertainment. Lexington sports weren't void of championships. After all, at that time they had won four state championships, all in one sport. They had a few individual state champions and runners up, as well as athletes who went on to play in college, but not to the degree of those Dragons. None of Lexington's graduates had gone on to the world stage. Lexington's football success had peaked with a 7-3 season during the 1973-74 season under Coach Floyd West. The Bulldogs had broken what had been the state's longest losing streak earlier in this season. They had, though, played their way into a position of making the playoffs for the first time, EVER. All they had to do was win their last two games, both at home. Lexington had never beaten Purcell in football, at least during the modern era.

With the towns being so close together, the stands at Lexington's Floyd West Field were packed to overflowing. Both towns had come out to watch the war. Both teams brought their bands to help celebrate every score and pump each team up during periods of trepidation. With each team suited in armor for the battle, both were confident that their team would be victorious.

The mighty Dragons were a confident bunch, as they should have been. After all, they sported a 6-2 record and were led by their dual threat quarterback, Steven Reeves. He was equally adept at running and passing the ball. Another offensive weapon was fullback, a power runner named Jose Huerta, and Aury Barrett. On the defensive side of the ball, the Dragons were anchored by senior defensive lineman, Modesto Resendiz. The stout defense also featured Ivan Venegas, Michael Carrasco, Chance Adams and Travis Haynes. At the head of the team was Coach Mike Wilson.

At the helm of scrappy, yet overmatched, Bulldogs squad was Coach Gary Jones. Offensively, Jake Reed was a workhorse, but it was the defense that had the reputation of being strong and physical. Led by defensive linemen Jared Garrett, Michael Bugher, Jake Gifford and Matthew Wedel, the defense were good tacklers, while the defensive backfield of Reed, J. R. Munsell and Scott Howard proved to be ball hunters. Though the Bulldogs were 2-6 heading into this game, they were a seasoned team, having already played powers Davis, Kingston and Marietta.

The stage was set. The teams warmed up as the fans from both schools began to fill the stands on their

encouragement as well as tips on the game or in practice. It was that type of team spirit that would serve Stephanie well in the coming years. Though the injury made her miss some of the team's most crucial games, Stephanie was back on the hardwood a mere five weeks after the injury. In her final game in a Lexington uniform, she singled the nets for thirty points in a season-ending 57-47 loss to the Blanchard Lady Lions. Those points gave Stephanie an astonishing 2,002 points for her four-year high school career, making her the most prolific scorer in Lexington history. It would also mark the end of an era, not only of Stephanie, but also of her coach, Bobbie Sliger, who was reassigned after the school year amid accusations of favoritism. Coach Sliger fought the move, but eventually resigned and left the school. She coached the team to a record of 158-25 in her four years there in a program that never had the benefit of new uniforms. She was replaced by Kay Talley. Stephanie would play her way onto the East team at the All-State game as an alternate. Coach Sliger, though, had made a lasting impact on Stephanie, inspiring her to become a coach herself.

By the time the season ended, Stephanie had the opportunity to continue her basketball career at the next level. Though she drew interest from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, and entertained offers from Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, among others, she signed on to play under Max Dobson at Oklahoma Christian College in Oklahoma City. Having been a great scorer, she would have to make the transition from the traditional six-on-six, half-court game to the full-court, five-on-five. That meant she had to hone her defensive skills and transition game. It must have worked, as she became a playmaking guard for the Lady Eagles from 1979 to 1982.

After graduating from OCC with a Bachelor's degree in 1982, Stephanie was asked to stay on as an assistant coach, which she happily accepted. She spent three years as Coach Dobson's assistant before taking over the head coaching position in 1985. As a head coach, she displays the same intelligence, intensity and competitiveness she had as a player. In her very first season as head coach, she led her Lady Eagles team to the District Nine Championship and to the quarterfinals of the national tournament.

Now entering her 23<sup>rd</sup> season as the head coach at OCC, Stephanie has developed a reputation as a great motivator and strong teacher of the game. Her knack of developing players to their full potential has allowed her to coach the Lady Eagles to a record of 476-284 and includes winning conference and district honors. She has taken teams to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Tournament twelve times, including eight of the last nine years. Her teams have advanced to the Sweet 16 five times and two Elite Eight

respective sides. Both bands had played their fight songs to pump up the teams and the crowds. The Lexington band played the National Anthem, the captains met at midfield and the coin toss was performed. The time was at hand. It was 7:30. The ball was teed up and the kickoff started the game. The war had begun.

Purcell drew first blood, as fullback Huerta, who would end the game with twenty yards on just four carries, powered through the tough Lexington defensive line and across the goal on a two-yard plunge. The ensuing kick try for point failed and the Dragons led 6-0. Reed returned the favor for the Bulldogs later in the first quarter, scoring the first of three touchdowns on the night, with a 47-yard run right through the middle of the proud Dragon defense. However, the Bulldogs missed their kick for point after the touchdown and it appeared the foes would go into the locker room tied at six. That was not to be, though, as Ivan Venegas picked off a Bulldog pass and set the Dragons up deep in good guy territory. An early clock start by the Lexington press box required game officials to change the clock from eleven seconds to 17 seconds. That was all "those people" would need, as Reeves scored on a quarterback sneak on the last play of the first half. The two-point conversion was successful, giving the Dragons a 14-6 advantage going into the locker room at the half.

The halftime was typical, with the band performing, fans headed for the concession stands for hot coffee and hot chocolate. Some went to the restrooms or their cars for warmth. Some analyzed the progress of the game, while a few dared to meet up with their friends that wore the colors of the opponent. Meanwhile, in the respective dressing rooms, coaches were making adjustments to the game plans. Both sets of coaches and players were getting their last-minute orders before taking their positions on that patch of ground. Then, it was out of the dressing rooms and onto the field for stretching. The second half options were made, and the decisions were made. The teams took to the field, the ball was teed up and the second half was at hand.

The second half saw the strength of the mighty Bulldog defense bow up as drive after drive were thwarted, some by turnovers, others by being stopped on downs. Meanwhile, Jake Reed came alive and provided offensive fireworks. Two of the Dragon turnovers in the second half would lead directly to scores as Reed scored two second half touchdowns, one on a seven yard run and another on a run of twenty-three yards. In all, the Bulldogs had taken the ball away from the Dragons a total of six times, three by fumble and three by interception, all by Scotty Howard. The three interceptions gave him eleven on the season and set the school record. In the end, though, it was the entire team that would be needed if the Dragon was to be conquered. Though his Bulldogs clung to a 20-14 lead,

appearances, once in 1986 and again in 2003. Though a national championship has eluded her, Stephanie's teams are perennial contenders. Though she is proud of what her teams have been able to accomplish on the hardwood, she is equally as proud of the fact that her teams are also good citizens. For instance, the 2007-2008 Lady Eagles squad had the third-highest GPA (3.63) among ALL NAIA women's basketball teams and earned NAIA Scholar Team designation along with their eighth appearance on the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Honor Roll. Her teams are also known for their community involvement. They have assisted the Capitol Hill Church of Christ Sharing Center as well as having participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The team has also spent one Thanksgiving Day distributing more than 250 meals in the Luther, Oklahoma, area, and they have long partnered with Habitat for Humanity as well as other outreach and mission efforts. Stephanie and the team prove that real life extends FAR beyond the gym.

As proof that Stephanie has a great eye for talent and developing that talent, one has to look no further than at her most famous player. As a young assistant coach, only a short five years removed from the high school game herself, Stephanie heard about a hot-shot high school senior with a bubbly personality, so she made the trip down to Healdton, Oklahoma, to watch the teenager play the six-on-six game from which she herself had played. The hard-playing point guard had a nice running lay-up technique that the coach hadn't seen and was the leader on the floor. Stephanie wound up offering a full-ride scholarship to the young Sherri Buben and the rest is history. Under Stephanie's mentoring, the young point guard went on to earn NAIA Scholar Athlete honors in 1987, then became a coach herself, first as an assistant for two years at Edmond Memorial High School, then as the head coach at Norman High School from 1990-1996. Now, Sherri Coale is teaching Stephanie's uptempo style that keeps constant pressure on the opponents while leading the women's basketball program at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Coale credits her college coach for helping teach her how to coach with priorities. Her teams also have the same community service mentality that she learned under Stephanie.

Another of Stephanie's former players is Jan Ross, an assistant coach under Coach Coale. Ross raked in numerous playing and academic honors, including NAIA honorable mention All-America, All-District IV and All-Sooner Athletic Conference selection, as a senior, as well as being an NAIA Scholar Athlete. She was elected to Who's Who and ranks 11th on Oklahoma Christian's career scoring list with 1,348 points. Ross holds the school record for career steals (300) and completed her career with a .537 field goal percentage and 494 assists. She was a Lady Eagle from 1983-1986.

Coach Jones knew that Purcell had a homerun threat in big Aury Barrett. It wasn't until Howard's third interception late in the game that the coach began to feel the emotion.

Finally, the clock on the west end of the field read "0:00" and the game was over. When the smoke had cleared and the dust had settled, the mighty Dragons had been slain, beaten by a team that, in the eyes of many, wouldn't stand a chance. Emotions ran high for both teams, their coaches, fans and the towns, for that matter. For one, the myth had been shattered -- the myth that they never lose to the other school, ever. The mystique was now gone. They would forever be viewed as mere mortals, not the big, bad, tradition-rich Dragons, a team that can, indeed, be beaten. For the other, it showed them that teamwork and a belief in yourself and your teammates can prevail.

The coaches were philosophic. In defeat, Coach Wilson, who before the game gave praise to the Bulldog defense, said of his worthy opponent, "We don't have any excuses. They outplayed us. They wanted to win worse than we wanted to win. Their playmakers made more plays than our playmakers made." In victory, Coach Jones was overcome with emotion. He said, "When Scotty Howard made his last interception, I thought I was going to pass out. I knew if we ever won, the kids would be emotional. I knew it would be important to our student body, but the whole community is overwhelmed." He continued, "It's a tremendous feat for everyone ever associated with Lexington football. I got weak in the knees. It was a total spiritual evacuation. Then it hits you and you realize what happened."

After the two teams shook hands, the fans emptied onto the field. "What was neat was looking west and all you could see was a sea of black coming out of that seating section," Coach Jones said. "The men were excited like proud fathers, but it was the mamas and the sisters that really got into it. It was a neat deal." Jones added.

The Dragons went on to Tishomingo the next Friday night and beat the Indians by a score of 20-14, a win that allowed them to finish second in District 2A-3. They would host the Jones Longhorns in the first round of the playoffs at Conger Field, which they also won by a score of 20-14. The Dragons would face three-time defending state Champion Millwood Falcons in the next round, where they finally bowed out with a 25-12 loss, ending their season 8-4. The Bulldogs went on to Tishomingo for the regular season finale with the final playoff spot from their district on the line. A win there and Lexington would be in the playoffs for the first time in school history.

In that game, the Indians scored on their opening possession, but the Bulldogs answered when it was their turn. The ensuing kickoff proved to be the backbreaker,

Being a highly successful basketball coach is a career choice that would leave one to believe there is very little room for a happy home, but not in this case. Stephanie has been happily married to a fellow OCC alumnus, Dean Findley, for 28 years. Dean, a 1982 graduate of OCC, is a Major with the Oklahoma City Fire Department. Together they have two children, 19-year-old Jessica Diane and Jordan Rae Findley, a 23-year-old graduate of OCC, where last season she was a senior captain on her mom's Lady Eagle basketball team.

Jordan grew up with the Eagles' Nest as her second home. Since her father worked long hours as an Oklahoma City firefighter, Jordan had to accompany her mom to work at a very early age, where she'd toddle around or roll around in her walker. She would spend countless hours watching her mother mentor the other girls. Stephanie taught Jordan the game of basketball as a young child, and Jordan always dreamed of playing for her mom. With much regret, Stephanie's own coaching and recruiting duties kept her from seeing all of her daughter's games while she was a player at Oklahoma Christian Academy. However, the two shared a passion for the game, and that led to their finally being on the same team. Though Jordan saw little playing time her first two seasons, by the time she was a senior this past season, she had handled the added pressure of being the coach's daughter and had become a team captain. The mother-daughter combo, though, wasn't necessarily a match made in heaven. Stephanie did get flack from family members when Jordan didn't get enough playing time. Through their mutual love for each other and the game they share, the two have gained a greater respect for each other that has added an extra depth to their closeness. Now married, Jordan Sanchez is working on a Master's degree in Social Work, after graduating this past spring with a Spanish degree. Not to be left out, younger daughter, Jessica, is attending OCC, majoring in Nursing, and is playing for her mother.

Teaching the game in practice, practice schedules, dealing with players grades, coaching a game, looking at potential recruits, recruiting and all the media obligations is a more than full-time job, but put on top of that being a college professor, a full-time wife and mother and you can see why she has had very little time to stay connected with her high school friends, like Candy (Massengale) McKinney, Deanna (Ramsey) Givins and Robyn (Phillips) Wilhoit. Stephanie says she did, occasionally, hear from a former classmate through the years, but through Facebook, she is beginning to hear more from old friends, though. So, with such a busy life, does she have time to herself? She does, and, being ever athletic, she spends it watching or participating in just about every sport. She also has time to get involved with fantasy football, and she loves going to the lake just to get away from it all.

as some chicanery from Tishomingo allowed them to take the kickoff to the house. After Lexington punted three plays after the next kickoff, a reverse on the return again allowed the Indians to find paydirt. Later, a fake field goal scored another Tishomingo touchdown and the Bulldogs' playoff hopes were doused in a 40-14 rout. Their season ended with a 3-7 record.

I should have known there was something in the air on that Halloween night. My Friday night football crew, for some odd reason, didn't draw a game that night, the first (and ONLY) Friday night we've had off in years. That allowed me to attend the game. Unfortunately, I hadn't dressed for the cold, so the cold would force me to leave at the half. If only I had stayed to watch the magic that would unfold on that little patch of hallowed ground called Floyd West Field. It was on that Halloween night that was the night those that were there to witness it and those who participated in it would tell generations after them about what had happened. It was the night that will live in Lexington folklore forever. It was a night that would pit relative against relative and friend against friend. It was the night the mighty Dragons, with all their myth and mystique, would fall in defeat. It was the night of the Dragon Slayers.

## **Dog (By)Gone**-*the story of a Bulldog finding his way back*

I'm sure you've heard the old adage, "You can't go home again." I was born in Purcell and raised in Lexington. After high school, I moved away temporarily and bounced back and forth a few times in my life, before I finally made the permanent move to Norman about twenty years ago to be closer to work and to have 24-hour access to shopping and restaurants without having to drive. However, I've been back to Lexington many, many times since then. I still have relatives there, my parents are buried there and, of course, there are school and alumni events that have warranted my return, '89ers Day festivities, Church functions – LOTS of reasons for me to return. Each time I drive through there, the memories come pouring back. The local businesses where we used to shop or passing by houses where friends lived. Each time I've visited, I thought about and even mentioned to my wife, Wanda, that it's where I grew up, but it just isn't the same anymore, no better or no worse, just different. This visit, though, was different. At the time I didn't know why, but it was definitely different.

For those of you that don't know, I've been a football official for about fifteen years, officiating everything from six-year olds through semi-pro football (though no college). During that time, I've had the opportunity to officiate on some of the same fields on which I played

A proud alumnus of Lexington High School, Coach Stephanie (Stark) Findley is a wife, mother and the head basketball coach of the Oklahoma Christian College Lady Eagles. She is also an associate professor of physical education at the school. She holds a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Central Oklahoma. Her coaching success has been recognized on several occasions, as Stephanie has earned Coach of the Year honors in the Sooner Athletic Conference four times, in 1986, 1988, 1990 and 2000. Also among her honors and awards is her being selected Coach of the Year in NAIA District Nine in 1986 and was named Coach of the Year in NAIA District Two in 2000. In 2004, her alma mater recognized and rewarded her achievements by inducting her into its OCC Athletic Hall of Fame. She is a member of the NAIA Women's Basketball Coaches Association, where she has served three terms as president, most recently in 2005-06. She currently serves on that organization's All-American Committee. She was also the NAIA representative to the USA Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, where she is involved in the selection process of potential honorees.

So, long gone are the days of Berth Frank Teague, the legendary coach of the Byng High School Lady Pirates, who won 1,136 games, while losing only 116 games in her 42-year career for a .907 winning percentage that included seven state championships. A new era arrived in 1995 when the last of the six-on-six games were played in Oklahoma, the last state to transition to the full-court game of today. With the way the girls' game has evolved, it makes one wonder just how many points Stephanie would have ended her high school career with had there been a 3-point line.



Coach Stephanie Findley (photo from OCC website)



during my eight years of playing football for Lexington (fifth grade through twelfth grade). Places like Wayne, Tuttle, Newcastle (where we won our only game my senior year) and Blanchard (the site of my last game, a 65-6 crushing at the hands of the playoff-bound Lions). Besides those teams, I've also had the opportunity to officiate some of the teams I used to play against, teams like Stratford, Rush Springs, Wynnewood and COUNTLESS others. On entering those fields or games involving teams I played against, I would get a déjà vu feeling, again making it a little strange. When I first started officiating, I began my career on a crew as a line judge, the official on the home team side of the field. After four years, I moved to the Umpire position on a different crew. It's the position behind the defense, opposite the Referee (crew chief-the guy that wears the white hat) and that's where I remain. So, what does that have to do with being from Lexington? I'm coming to that.

When an official receives their sub-varsity football game assignments, we're told where to be and when, but we normally don't know who the opponent is unless we ask (and most of us never ask, as we don't care who it is). Through the years and hundreds of games I've done, I've had the Bulldogs only a couple of times, and never at home. I remember walking on the field at Blanchard a few years back and learning the opponent was Lexington. As I listened to the announcer call the names of the captains and of those who made the plays throughout the game, I recognized the last names of guys I knew, names like Hill, Barton and others. My crew was assigned a varsity game a few years ago in Lindsay as a replacement for a crew that bailed out on it. I found out the week of the game their opponent that Friday night would be Lexington. There is an unwritten rule in officiating that we don't take games involving schools where we are connected, either by something besides graduation or by being employed there. This Lexington at Lindsay contest was the only time I've done a Lexington High School game since I've been an Alumni Association officer for what seems like since I've graduated. It just didn't seem appropriate, but we had to do it since it was too late to get out of it. It was the first year the Bulldogs went to the playoffs. The second play from scrimmage, we flagged the Lexington coach for an unsportsmanlike conduct foul and the rest is history. Lindsay won that game and Lexington went on to get eliminated in the first round of the playoffs. By choice, in all my hundreds of games, I've never been on the field at Lexington, save for the night we dedicated the field to Coach West. Other than that, I went back to one game, the Lexington-Purcell tilt in 2003 (you can read more about that in the "Dragon Slayers" article elsewhere in this newsletter), but was never on the field.

When I got a call from my old crew chief a few months ago asking me if I'd like to join him for a couple of junior high games at Lexington against our neighbors to the

## Calling the Dogs-class reunion information

Congratulations to the class of 1952! They held a reunion on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Those that travelled to the McClain Bank building in Lexington and spent the day reminiscing about old times, as well as catching up on new ones were: Curtis Gene Ward and his wife, Christene, of Choctaw; Franklin Wasson from Gore, Oklahoma, Jeffie Ann Peery Standridge of Pharr, Texas; Mildred Burditt Owens and Donna Milligan Greenway of Norman; and Cora Mae Walker Sanders Dodd and her husband, Hershell, of Purcell. Inez Thompson Simmons and Anne Miller Argo Horn would have won the award for travelling the shortest distance, since they live right in Lexington. Travelling the furthest distances to see their long-time friends were Connie Lee Freeman Johnson of Stafford, Virginia, and Loretta Holloway Pursel of Port Hadlock, Washington.

Your Alumni Association hopes your class isn't planning a reunion for next summer. We hope you'll join us for ours. If your class is planning a get-together before then or even the same weekend, please let us know so we can help. We can help with advertising on the website, classmate addresses, helping find a missing classmate, whatever. Just let us know.

### Do you remember....

....Tommy's Studio in Lexington?

....Don's Garage in Lexington?

....Lawson's Rest Home in Lexington (phone 110)?

west, I eagerly jumped at the opportunity to work with my old crew again and to call on the field where I spent SO MUCH of my school years. As we drove into town, I showed the rest of the crew where I used to live, how the area where the sports complex now sits used to be a wheat field and how the city limits used to end at our back fence. Upon our arrival at the field, the first person to greet us was the new Athletic Director, Rick Thomas, from the **class of 1978**. He asked if I remembered him. Of course, I did. As the games went on, I saw people that I knew and took the time to chat with the top dog himself, Superintendent Denny Prince, high school principal Randall Fuller, intermediate school principal (and former Alumni Association President) Terri Helvey, **class of 1981**, and Kyle Cardinal, **class of 1981**, the younger brother of my former classmate in the **class of 1976**, James Cardinal. I saw there were more fans in the stands for those junior high games than we had for our high school varsity games. I also noticed the Bulldog teams played hard, something Bulldog teams of the past didn't always do. It was truly great to see the support the teams are getting. Throughout the night I'd had a strange feeling, but what was it?

As the second and last game of the night began to wind down, that strange feeling began to get stronger, but what was it? Before the last kickoff, while I was waiting for the teams to take the field, it finally came to me. It wasn't the outcome of the games, the seventh graders held on to beat Purcell 8-6 while the eighth-graders put a 34-0 beat down on the Dragons, that gave me the strange combination of feelings of euphoria and melancholy. I also realized that it wasn't calling the games with my old crew in what is their final season together or even being at my old position with them. It wasn't even being on the field I had last been on for practice on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1975, save for the night the field was dedicated for Coach West, nor was it being on the same sideline where I had escorted Jan Mitchell, **class of 1977**, at our Homecoming that year. It also wasn't being on the sideline I had last been on when my fellow seniors and I were honored by being replaced during our last home game way back on Halloween, 1975. This night, as I looked around at those ever-so-familiar surroundings, my childhood home, the ag barn, the field house, that it became clear. I realized what I was feeling... what it was that was causing this incredibly strange feeling. It was the feeling that.....I was home.

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