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The Amazing Ripple Effect of Truth, Shared: Dr. Dixie Meets Malcolm Smith



It's time for an INFINITE
Restoration
through GRACE for God's people.




Thu, Mar 23 | Sorelle - The Meadow On Deer Creek
YOU'RE INVITED!

We invite you to join us for an exciting night with one of the most inspirational Christians that Dr. Dixie has ever known, Bishop Malcolm Smith! We will also enjoy a musical performance by the CBA choir.

Dr. Dixie Yoder
Infinite Grace Ministry Director

I grew up in a loving, stable Mennonite family in rural Oklahoma. Our Mennonite roots were deep—my grandparents on my mother's side were Amish until they married; then, they joined the Mennonite church. My Mother was a very quiet, loving, gentle person whose shyness made it difficult to share her thoughts. My dad was a happy man, full of laughter. He loved his family, music, fast cars, and learning new things.

My dad's love for music, fast cars, and his desire to learn about things he didn't know often got him in trouble with a very legalistic religious community that valued a plain and somber appearance above all else. It was considered necessary for salvation and holy living.

I've always loved the Word of God. I read the New Testament for the first time when I was ten years old. That fascination with the Bible had never gone away, even when I didn't think I liked God very much and even when I didn't understand what I was reading.

Growing up in the middle of this, as I listened to messages on Sunday about God who hates sin—and by association (I thought), those who sin—I developed a false belief that God was so holy that He couldn't look on sin—and by association (I thought), He couldn't look at me. That is, of course, unless I was "covered by the blood of Jesus" and I, wretched sinner that I was, would crawl off the altar, get out from "under the blood" every time I sinned. Then, according to what I had been taught, I would need to be saved again and start the whole miserable, hopeless cycle all over again.

From 1973-1979, I was anorexic and suicidal; angry at myself for being imperfect and furious with God for letting me be born, then "making me figure life out", I struggled to be a mom to two precious boys. I had a close relationship with my mom, so she helped me a lot, but she didn't realize how much I struggled. The lowest point came the day I found myself sitting on the living room floor with a pistol in my hand, contemplating what it would be like not to have to struggle anymore. But the thought of what it would do to my kids, my husband, and my family won out, and thirty minutes later, I put the pistol away, grateful that the half-truths and outright lies I had believed hadn't killed me. I remember whispering to God, "if there is something I don't know about You, please show me." There was no blinding flash of light, but the process of waking to Truth began at that moment.

In the '80s, I absolutely devoured the Word of God. My mind had opened to the possibility—even the probability—that God really is Love and that He loves me. Like a deadly black mold, the lies about God were being scraped away. But while God's word is sharp and

thorough, He is careful and protective of seeds and tender little plants of Truth that are sprouting and growing. He will never leave us without anything that we need for growth. So, I continued to study and learn while the confusing fog of ignorance, untruth, and wrong beliefs slowly began to lift.

I remember a conversation I had with the Lord during that time about the things I had learned in my growing up that kept me in terrible and fearful bondage. I had begun to see those wrong beliefs were a filter that all my thoughts passed through on their way to my behavior, and all my experiences passed through them on their way to my thinking. I asked the Lord to help me pull away my denominational filter when reading His word so that I could read it the way He wrote it, not the way I had been told He wrote it. I wanted the filters eliminated so I could see and experience God in Truth.

It's hard to find resources in a community that is very protective of its traditions and reputation. But I had an ally in an 80-year-old friend who had an amazing view of God and an extensive library of books and tapes on teachings I had never heard before. I had a home-based upholstery business that made it possible to be a "stay-at-home mom," so while I worked in my little country shop, I listened and read almost obsessively, and the fog kept lifting. I was amazed at what I saw in chapters and verses I had read 1000 times and how previously apparently unrelated scripture passages connected. The Bible became one cohesive book rather than 66 unrelated books with random, disconnected "stories."

In 1990, our youngest son went to OSU, and I realized God was calling me into teaching and counseling ministry. I was accepted on the staff of a Biblical counseling ministry in Oklahoma City. During their two-year training process, I became acquainted with the teaching and ministry of Malcolm Smith, Unconditional Love International Ministries. His understanding of the heart and love of God was entirely new to me—and often sounded like false teaching. But it resonated with the hunger deep inside, and I persisted, doing what the Bereans did—checking the Scriptures to see if what he said was true and correct. Slowly, slowly my spiritual hunger and thirst began to be satisfied, and my love for Father God grew as I learned what He is really like. I heard Malcolm's testimony of coming out of the fear and confusion of legalism and his journey toward freedom. Our journeys were different, yet very similar.

I traveled to Oklahoma City three days each week to complete the training, and I used that time to listen to his teaching. I made the commitment to only listen to teachers that would help me to grow spiritually. And

that continued when I finished the training and began working with the ministry one day a week. I figure that car time amounted to about 10,000 hours over 25 years, and Malcolm's teaching was a huge part of that time. His simple—yet profoundly deep—understanding of the Bible as a love letter to us from God awakened in me a lifelong hunger for deeper Truth.

Malcolm Smith was born in London, England, just as Europe was plunged into World War II. His earliest memories consisted of being rushed into bomb shelters. Air raid sirens blitzed buildings and bomb craters—and always the fear-filled faces of his parents.

He came to faith in Jesus Christ in his early teens and experienced the fullness of the spirit almost immediately, which would change and redirect his life forever. He began to preach at the age of 14 and has preached throughout the world for over seventy years, ministering the love of God to people in darkness and the twilight of confusion.

Malcolm Smith is not a traditional evangelist, but as he often describes himself, is an evangelist to the evangelized, teaching believers who they are in Christ: the beloved of God and His dwelling place through the Spirit.

He was the pastor of a church in New York City where all that he was beginning to understand was tested by the broken lives that filled the streets of that city. During that time of the '60s and '70s, he found himself traveling through the United States as a teacher and leader of the emerging renewal of the Holy Spirit throughout all denominations. These travels extended to almost every continent.

He now resides in Bandera, TX, with his wife Sheryl, who joins him in her ministry of prayer and healing gifts of the Spirit. On the Zoe Ranch, he conducts retreats and a non-residential Bible school. He also travels throughout the United States, leading retreats and meeting in churches and organizations of all denominations.

Never underestimate the value of sharing the gift of God's love and mercy—no matter how small it may seem. Malcolm's faithfulness to continually share changed my life. As a result of those changes, the lives of the tens of thousands of people I've had the privilege of ministering to over the past 35 years have changed. God never merely adds—He multiplies generously!

Please join us on March 23, 2023, 6:00-8:00 pm at Sorelle Event Center: 9320 N 2379 Rd, Thomas, OK. We want to celebrate what God is doing and would love to meet you! You may register online at infinitegrace.com or call 580-774-2884. Please reserve your seat by March 7.



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WEDNESDAY	HICKORY BURGER & FF: \$8.00
THURSDAY	INDIAN TACO & BURRITO SALAD: \$8.00
FRIDAY	CHICKEN FRIED STEAK SANDWICH & FF: \$10.00
SATURDAY	PORK RIB-EYE DINNER \$12.00

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Mary Dodgen

Mary Elizabeth Dodgen was born April 21, 1951, in Glens Falls, New York to Gerald Lester and Adeline (Scarceletta) Willette and passed away at home surrounded by her family on Friday, February 24, 2023.



She was raised and attended school in Hudson Falls, New York. After high school while living on Cape Cod she met John Dodgen from Weatherford, Oklahoma, who was stationed at the naval base in Newport, Rhode Island.

After John was discharged from the Navy, he returned to Weatherford, and Mary soon joined him there. They were married August 25th, 1972.

John resumed his education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Mary enrolled as well to continue her education.

In January of 1974, they moved to Vermont to be near her family in upstate New York.

In 1976, they moved to Owego, New York to attend Bible school in Johnson City, New York. Subsequently, they settled in upstate New York where their children were born and raised.

Mary devoted 19 years as a teacher educating her children at home and served as a devoted homemaker.

Her greatest interests revolved around her home. She also loved reading her Bible, knitting, traveling, and spending time with friends. In 1999, the family moved to Sand Springs, Oklahoma due to a job transfer and to be closer to family.

After retirement, John and Mary moved to western Oklahoma. They were residing in Custer City at the time of Mary's death.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Gerald and Adeline Willette.

Mary is survived by her husband of 50 years, John Dodgen of their home in Custer City, Oklahoma; two sons: Silas Dodgen and wife Michelle of Arapaho, Oklahoma; and Gabriel Dodgen of Weatherford, Oklahoma; two daughters: Emily Schwinn and husband Erich of Bixby, Oklahoma; and Kimberly Siple of Detroit, Michigan;

Mary is also survived by six siblings, including one sister, Bernadette Harrel of Garner, North Carolina; and five brothers: Jerry Willette of Ft. Ann, New York, Tom Willette of Albany, New York, Paul Willette of Troy, New York, Peter Willette of South Glens Falls, New York; and John Willette of Elmendorf, Texas; and four grandchildren.

Juanita Nye

Juanita Walker was born on November 2, 1934, in LaFollette, Tennessee, to Rev. S. S. Walker and Amy (Warren) Walker and passed away on February 14, 2022, at Brookdale Senior Living in Edmond.



Her family moved to Oklahoma during Juanita's early years, as Rev. Walker pastored Southern Baptist churches throughout the state. Juanita graduated from Cox City High School in 1953 and enrolled at East Central State College the following fall. While there, she met Jerry Nye.

They married on April 19, 1957, at the Boswell Memorial Chapel on campus. Their ceremony was the first wedding held at the Chapel and was officiated by Juanita's father. Juanita and Jerry would spend the next 57 years together until his death on February 24, 2015.

Juanita and Jerry shared teaching careers that led them to elementary, junior high, high school, and college campuses in Oklahoma and Colorado. Juanita taught general education, music, and home economics at public schools in Cox City, Burbank, and Morrison, Oklahoma in the 1950s and 1960s. She taught college home economics at Northern Oklahoma Junior College (now Northern Oklahoma College) in Tonkawa; Colorado State College of Education (now the University of Northern Colorado) in Greeley, Colorado; and SWOSU in Weatherford, in the 1960s and 1970s. Juanita became an elementary teacher for Weatherford Public Schools in 1975 and retired in 1996 after 21 years of service.

Juanita and Jerry moved to Weatherford in August 1967 and remained residents of the city until their deaths. In Weatherford, they raised their family. They had two sons, Vance and Chad. Juanita and Jerry were both members of the First Baptist Church of Weatherford.

Juanita was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; and her sister Jeannine Nicholson.

She is survived by her two sons: Vance Todd Nye and wife Lena Jean Nye of Edmond; and Dr. Chad Flynn Nye of Keene, NH; three grandchildren: Christopher Robin Nye of Edmond; LaurieBeth Marie (Nye) Whatley and husband Cody Lanne Whatley of Woodward; and Walker Wilson Grant Nye of Geary; four great-grandchildren: Dreyden Neiman Nelson of Woodward; Aden Lanne Whatley, Trent Dwayne Whatley, and Ian Reece Whatley of Texhoma; and a host of extended family.

Marilyn Waters

Marilyn was born September 21, 1942, in Seattle, Washington to Virgil and Sarah (Blevins) Sims and passed away Saturday, February 18, 2023, at Weatherford, Oklahoma.



Marilyn's family consisted of 3 children; Donald, Marilyn and Kenneth. Her father, Virgil Sims was killed in 1945 during WWII. Sarah would later return to Oklahoma with her children to be near family.

In 1948, her brother Donald Sims was killed in a cellar explosion with 3 other young children on the farm.

In 1949, Sarah married Riley Loy, and they moved to Hitchcock, Oklahoma. Marilyn attended one year of school there.

Then they moved to Watonga where she attended Bridgeford Country School until 6th grade and graduated Watonga High School in 1960.

She met her first husband Jerry Hamburger on a blind date while a senior in high school. When she moved to Weatherford to attend a year at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), Jerry hired her to work at his go-cart track, and they were married December 31, 1960, in Weatherford, Oklahoma, at the home of Rev. Jack Roth Pastor, of the Zion Congregational Church.

Jerry and Marilyn were both saved on February 10, 1974, at a Larry Jones Crusade at the Weatherford High School. Marilyn stated "I was and still am overwhelmed that God loves me as I am. Jesus completely changed my life and lifestyle in 1974, and I've never looked back."

Jerry was hurt in a farming accident on July 13, 1987, and died in a Clinton nursing center on February 12, 1989.

Marilyn met Richard Waters in the fall of 1989 and were married on October 20, 1990, at the Zion Church in Weatherford. Their families shared holidays, birthdays, and get togethers for many years.

They spent the majority of their marriage traveling, visiting friends and family and taking in God's beautiful creations. Richard enjoyed "farming out the car windows" as they would drive down the highway.

Marilyn had a lifelong love for music. She started piano lessons during 2nd grade, and in 1979 became church organist at Zion Church and played 45 years, retiring in 2015.

Richard preceded Marilyn in death on September 16, 2022. He was her best friend and loving husband for 32 years.

Marilyn was also preceded in death by her parents Virgil and Sarah Sims; husbands Jerry Hamburger and Richard Waters; brother Donald Sims, and son-in-law Phil Post.

Marilyn is survived by her grandson Jacobey Post of Weatherford, OK; daughter Shelley Post of Weatherford, OK; son Kurt Hamburger and wife Joann of Weatherford; brother Kenneth Sims and wife Joyce of Oklahoma City, OK; nephew Darren Sims and wife Joy of OKC; two nieces: Sarita Smith and husband Robert of McAlester; and Linda Drake and husband Dale of Naples, Florida; also Richard Waters' children: son Rod Waters and wife Chris; two daughters: Gerri Hutchison and Dixie Yoder and husband Galen;

She is also survived by six grandchildren: Kevin Yoder and wife Tasha, Ashley Hutchison and wife Melissa, Jason Yoder and wife Tracy, Regina Gray and husband Bryan, Brandon Waters and wife Kelly, and Nick Waters and wife Eladah;

Marilyn is also survived by many great-grandchildren who became her own family, and many friends.

Memorials can be made to your favorite charity in her name.

Sondra Luke

Sondra Ann Luke was born to Dale Winford and Jewell Mae (Vanderhoff) Smith on August 22, 1943, in Oxnard, CA, and passed away Sunday, February 19, 2023, in Clinton, OK, having reached the age of 79 years, 5 months and 27 days.



Sondra was raised and attended school in Oklahoma City. Sondra married Bruce Luke on August 17, 1982, in Gainesville, TX. Bruce is a longhaul trucker, and she worked alongside of him driving a truck. Sondra quit trucking to spend more time with her grandchildren. She enjoyed reading, traveling and working with her flowers and gardening.

Sondra was preceded in death by her parents and sister Lynda.

Sondra is survived by her husband Bruce Luke of their home in Clinton, OK; son George Michael Fuller of New Orleans, LA; daughter Marie Luke of Muskogee, OK; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Michael Easter

Michael Thomas Dewayne Easter, 65, was born on December 18, 1957. He is the son of Douglas Carl Easter and Charlene Terry. He went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, February 19, 2023, at his Sayre home.



While attending Sayre High School, he loved listening to music and spending time with friends. After graduating in 1977, he moved to Amarillo to work for Tyson. He has also been employed at various oilfield companies.

He loved tinkering on cars and fixing anything broken down. He also enjoyed riding motorcycles. He will be missed dearly by all those who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his father; brother Troy Easter; and great-niece Macy Whiteskunk;

He is survived by his mother of Sayre, OK; two sisters: Gayle Whiteskunk of Sayre, OK; and Janie McDonald and husband Paul of Sayre, OK; nephew Mark Whiteskunk and wife Shea of Sayre, OK; and two nieces: Cassandra Maddox and husband Dustin of Elk City, OK; and Halee Fulton and husband Robert of Cement, OK.

He is also survived by various great-nieces and great-nephews, including: Maya Whiteskunk of Sayre; Maddisyn Whiteskunk of Sayre; Mason Whiteskunk of Sayre; Cheyenne Rogers of Elk City; and Trigger Rogers of Elk City.

Linda Lau

Linda Lee Sights Lau, 74, passed away on February 15, 2023, with loved ones around her.



Linda was born March 16, 1948, in Clinton, Oklahoma to Alva and Marjorie (Howe) Sights. She grew up on the family farm west of Clinton where, as a child, she enjoyed tending to the animals and exploring nature. She attended Stafford school and graduated from Clinton High School in 1965.

On July 3, 1965, Linda married her high school sweetheart Danny Lau. Each like to tell their own version of how they met when Linda asked Danny out on a date during Sadie Hawkins week at school. To this union, two children were born - Matthew and Laura.

During their marriage, Linda lived in Germany, Lawton, Bartlesville, Jenks, Hugo, McAlester, Tulsa, and Clinton, meeting many life-long friends and making memories along the way.

During her career (1979-2023), Linda was an office administrator for several Oklahoma school districts, including Jenks, McAlester, Lawton, Weatherford, and Clinton. Upon her retirement from Clinton Public Schools, she continued to work on a part time basis in the school's special services department. She loved going to work and having fun. She would always say, "if you can't have fun at work, then why go?"

With her family and friends, she enjoyed camping, hiking, traveling, and decorating. She had a creative soul and a knack for crafting, designing, home decor, and event planning. She spent countless hours in her yard, planting, pruning, building and beautifying her flower beds.

She was always up for an adventure and was usually planning a trip or two. Whether it be a trip to see the Texas bluebonnets or the golden aspens of Colorado, she was ready to go with snacks and a case of Diet Coke in the back.

She would often say, "life is short; you should see and do as much as you can with the time that you have."

Linda had a heart for animals and was known to occasionally bring home strays. One day, a cat walked into the school where she worked, and she scooped her up and brought her home to live and be loved.

Her philosophy was that pets will find you; you don't find them. As you can imagine, many a dog would show up, and always at the right time, out on the farm.

Her greatest love was her family. She was especially proud of her children and grandchildren. She cherished the annual "girl's trips" with her granddaughters and all the memories they created. She loved hosting extended family gatherings and always made more food than could possibly be eaten.

She was an amazing mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin, colleague and friend. She touched the lives of so many people. She will truly be missed and will never ever be forgotten.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband Danny Lau of Clinton; son Matthew Lau and wife Andi of Oklahoma City; daughter Laura Yokley and husband Brad of Owasso, OK; three granddaughters: Leah Lau, Makenna Yokley, and Sarah Yokley; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Partly Cloudy H: 69° L: 35° Wednesday	PM Showers H: 52° L: 27° Thursday	Sunny H: 57° L: 32° Friday	Partly Cloudy H: 64° L: 45° Saturday	Windy H: 66° L: 45° Sunday	Partly Cloudy H: 64° L: 38° Monday	Mostly Cloudy H: 62° L: 39° Tuesday
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SCAN ME

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Bessie Fire Dept. Pancake Supper Set for March 6



Bessie community volunteers process sausage rolls for the Bessie Pancake Supper in 2017. *Provided*

It started with half a hog in the basement of the Bessie Public School nearly 75 years ago as a fundraiser for the March of Dimes, but as the decades passed and the community changed the Bessie Fire Department assumed the annual Pancake Supper fundraiser which has become a community tradition and an integral source of funding for the fully volunteer fire department.

This year the Pancake Supper will take place on Monday, March 6, at the Bessie gym from 4pm to 8pm. As the name suggests, there will be pancakes. But many people look forward to the whole hog sausages that the fire department prepares themselves.

These days half a hog won't suffice and the Bessie fire fighters raise around 35-40 hogs themselves to provide roughly 10,000 pounds of meat which they use for their signature whole hog sausages with a special seasoning recipe that's a century old. However, this is more than just a fundraiser, this is a cherished community event.

"We could not do it without the community helping us," said Matt Goeringer, Secretary and Treasurer for the Bessie Fire department as well one of its 13 volunteers.

Goeringer spends a lot of time preparing and coordinating the annual event which has provided the majority of the funding for the Bessie Fire Department since the organization took over hosting the Pancake Supper in the late 1970's. "I was passing out pancakes and sausage from around 5 years old," said Goeringer.

A modern fire fighter requires about \$10,000 worth of equipment in order to do their job effectively and while the Bessie Fire Department receives a portion of their funding from sales tax revenue in Washita County, fundraisers like this Pancake Supper are how they fund

the majority of their operations.

These operations range from medical calls and wellness checks for community members to mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities like Clinton and Cordell to battle grass fires and house fires. These services are critical for the well-being of the community and the annual pancake supper serves a critical role in making sure volunteers can properly serve their community.

"It's a lot like a family reunion" said Goeringer, who noted that folks as far as Maryland and California make the trip to join the festivities which occur the first Monday in March every year.

This year the Bessie Fire Department will raffle off a 2023 110cc 4-wheeler provided by Rother Brothers and a Canik Mete 9mm handgun. Tickets for the raffles will be \$50 for the 4-wheeler and \$20 for the handgun and can be purchased from Bessie Fire Fighters.

Tickets for the Pancake supper are \$13 for adults and \$7 for kids for all-you-can-eat. A to-go line will also be available in the alleyway west of the Bessie gym for \$13 a plate, but to-go orders are not all-you-can-eat. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted at the event.

A variety of sausages and pork will also be available for purchase at they event:

- 2 lbs. bulk sausage in a tube - \$12
- 2 lbs. link sausage - \$12
- 2 lbs. smoked link sausage - \$12
- 1 lb liver sausage - \$6 or 4 packages for \$20. *(Not served at the supper)*
- Full side of Pork ribs - \$15

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Alex Shook / WW

The Sayre Public Library invites kids to name their new pet goldfish, on display at the west end of the building. Submissions must be physically submitted along with the child's name and a parent or guardian's contact information. The winner will be announced on March 31st.

Bessie Community & Fire Department

PANCAKE SUPPER

AND WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE

MONDAY, MARCH 6th

4pm-8pm

Location:
BESSIE GYM
(Drive-thru pick-up on West side of Gym)

Adults - \$13
Children - \$7
(Under 12 yrs.)

Proceeds go to the Bessie Fire Department

HIGHER GROUND

The Battle is On



Jim Morrison

The Bible tells us that things will wax worse and worse as we see the end approaching. For the observant believer it would seem that we are approaching that time, if not already in it. The evening news is mostly a crime report. The influence of the Christian faith seems to be dwindling. Indeed, we are in a battle for Biblical truth and clear thinking.

The Apostle Paul warned the church in Corinth about spiritual warfare and noted the power of our weapons. A passage in 2 Corinthians gives us the battle plan. "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every

pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought in obedience to Christ." 2 Corinth. 10:3-5.

Our natural tendency is to fight fire with fire. The world system feeds on human understanding and arguments from carnal experience. It deals purely with the natural without regard for the things of the Spirit, or Supernatural. As Christ followers, we seek the "enlightenment of the heart" of which Paul speaks in his prayer for the Ephesians. We are said to have the "mind of Christ" as the indwelling Holy Spirit leads us into truth. Our weapons do not despise human knowledge or the natural experience but it does not end there. We recognize a higher knowledge that takes into account the mind and heart of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. When Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure, he gave the promise of the Holy Spirit who would guide them into all truth.

For us to be effective in the battle for truth we must take advantage of our weapons. According to Eph.3:20, there is a "power at work within us" that enables us to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or imagine. The power of the Holy Spirit set free within us has changed the course of lives, and even nations, and it still can. Sadly, in our

self-sufficient, individualistic world we lack the will to submit to the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit by our feeble efforts of prayer and weakness of faith-risking adventures in our pilgrimage. We have divine power at our disposal---power to demolish strongholds and any argument raised up against the knowledge of God. We often fail to prepare our minds for action, choosing rather to play it safe behind the closed doors of the Church with our kind of folks. God has called us to a life of obedience, experiencing suffering along the way, doing battle with the forces of evil with a passionate heart, knowing that victory is ours in the end.

Adoniram Judson worked as a missionary in Burma for seven years before he saw his first convert; and after his first twelve years had only eighteen. He was imprisoned in a filthy jail for eleven months, enduring terrible torture. Yet, when he died while on board ship going home, he left behind sixty-three churches, seven thousand baptized believers and one hundred sixty-three missionary and Burmese co-workers. He had fought the battle and God had brought the victory. May we take up his mantle and that of many giants of the past and press on.

To comment: jhm82@outlook.com, 580-302-1142.

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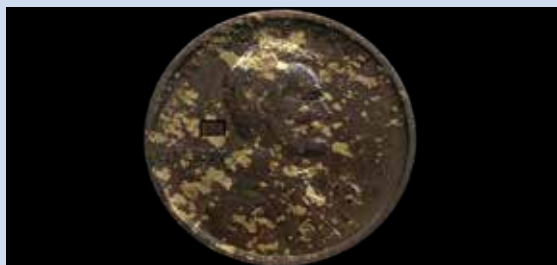
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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



"The Coin Guy"

Gold on a 1911 Cent?



Trent Boesen

On the obverse of a 1912-S Lincoln cent, an anomaly was found on the above-pictured cent. Tiny pieces of brass-color metal were part of the coin. Some believed when processing the cent blanks had gold in them.

An example of a 1911-P cent displayed the same color material on the obverse. An error specialist examined the coins, and he, too, was baffled.

A powerful microscope scanned the coins in question at Michigan State University. Each cent showed a typical mixture of copper, zinc, and tin.

It was discovered the cents in question had a higher-than-average ratio of copper and tin. The flakes were not gold, after all.

The refinery of the Philadelphia mint had shut down in 1911 for an entire year. The cent blanks came from an outside company that did not use the same material mixture, which caused the flaking.

Coin collecting is an exciting hobby. You never know what you may find. For help, call The Coin Guy at 580-890-8076. Thanks for your support.



Alex Shook / WW

Clinton Library Managers Kathy and Beverly show off their latest arts & crafts event: beautiful painted glass bottles laced with small lights that can be lit by twisting the cork up top. The Clinton Library will host many more events like this one in March, including a course on "How to Trap a Leprechaun," and a creative and educational "Eiffel Tower Day" event.



Alex Shook / WW

Officials with Liberty Church (101 W Franklin Ave, Weatherford) say its first partner at the former Imation Property will occupy the space beginning March 25th. Pastor Scott Page says Mission: Harvest America is relocating its headquarters from Dallas, TX to Weatherford.

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PIONEER / FRAUD - Pioneer Cellular has issued a fraud alert, saying an email is being circulated to Pioneer customers that claims users have reached their quota and need to upgrade by clicking a link. Officials say the email did not originate from Pioneer. The company says if you ever have questions about these types of emails to reach out to them either by phone or even social media to verify if it is a legitimate email before clicking on any links.

MOORE / GROCERY TAX - As the Oklahoma Legislative session is underway, many topics will grab the headlines, one of which is tax reform and the potential cut of the state grocery tax. State Representative Anthony Moore of Clinton says elimination of the state grocery tax might only provide a small amount of relief for Oklahoma families.

WEATHERFORD / PANIC EXERCISE - Various law enforcement and first responder agencies conducted an active intruder exercise yesterday at Weatherford High School. Fire Chief Mike Karlin says he believes more of those exercises will be held in the future. The purpose of the event was to, among other things, document response times by all law enforcement, EMS and fire personnel.

WPS / BOND - A projected no-tax-increase bond will be on the ballot for Weatherford Public Schools this spring. During a community coffee event in Weatherford last week, Superintendent Jill Henderson says passage of the bond would allow for the acquisition of property for future projects and to provide the district the opportunity for renovations for West Elementary for the district's Pre-K program. The bond election will be held on April 4th.

CUSTER / FAIRGROUNDS REMODEL - After their weekly meeting, Custer County Commissioners conducted a final inspection of the remodel work done on the show barn at the Custer County Fairgrounds in Clinton. District 1 commissioner Wade Anders says the improvements will be finished just in time for the Custer County Livestock show, beginning this Sunday. The remodel consisted of new bathrooms, changing rooms, and a kitchen/break room at the entrance of the show barn. The upgrade was paid for through a percentage of a Custer County sales tax and approved by the fair board.

ELK CITY PD/HOPKINS - Elk City Police say an Oklahoma City man, wanted on alleged business burglaries in multiple cities, including Elk City, has been arrested. Police say several police departments worked together to solve the crime spree. Thirty-three-year-old Jerome Hopkins was picked up in connection with a rash of business burglaries across Oklahoma and Fort Smith, Arkansas.

BECKHAM CO. / ALBRIGHT - An Elk City man has been sentenced in Beckham County District Court to a 20-year prison term with 18 years suspended after entering a plea to first-degree arson. Twenty-four-year-old Alexander Michael Albright set fire to the outside of a home in Elk City that was occupied at the time by his ex-girlfriend and three others. Albright will serve one year in the county jail and one year in treatment.

CLINTON / AGREEMENT - The Clinton City Council, acting as the hospital authority, approved a clinic management services agreement with Carrus Health for the establishment of an urgent care clinic. The approval came during a special meeting held yesterday afternoon. The contract automatically renews each year unless terminated by the city or Carrus Health.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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Happy Birthday Wishes for March 1 - Jason Bengs, Jance Benson, Jeree Burnett, Lee Gregory, Brett Johnson, John Minnix, Tracy Mullins-Courtney, Tia Sauer, Mary Spencer, Callie Waldrop, Tommy Willis; **March 2** - Bob Balzer, Tiffany Bennett, Laramie Campbell, Virginia Cole, Jeremy Flaming, Tera Gosson, Riley Ingram, David Peterson, Brooks Pond, Marilyn Prophot, Ravin Carlstrom, Lee Rivera, Stacia Sawatsky, Michael Sewell, Chad Skinner, Tammy Wolsey; **March 3** - Keeli Cartwright, Douglas Cavanaugh, Roger Clonce, Kelly Earles, Logan Gemarchlich, Nova Long, James McKey, Michele McMullin, Lorri Menke, Shannon Monson, Phil Parker, Laura Rhodes, Sharon Stehr, Thurman Stubbs, Russell Tsoodle, Miranda Unruh; **March 4** - Wayne Bentley, Bob Allen, Pam Callicoat, Quade Cummins, William Defehr, Ron Gates, Judy Hoffman, Jamie LoVecchio, Kim Silman, Rick Skinner, Brenda Sweeney, Mandi Vontungeln, Marilyn Williams; **March 5** - Kolton Kardokus, Kalvin Lowrance, Betty Lyle, Zachary Maddox, Justin McCloy, Ryan Parman, Whitney Smith; **March 6** - Kyle Albert, Brenda Bass, Maranda Bray, Ron Ferguson, Kelly Hoffman, Michelle Landry, Sarah Lilly, Margaret Nelson, Darrien Reinschmiedt, Billy Shirey, Kaelib Simpson, Cassie Trevino, Aaron Weaver; **March 7** - Maxine Adams, Chandler Basler, Georganna Edwards, Caden Gates, Colton Gates, Kimberly Hinds, Judy Payne, Kale Sawatsky, Judy Sisson, Brian Thompkins, Jade Visnieski, Jeanna Vontungeln

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SWOSU Bulldogs Falls Short on Senior Night

Grant Kopycinski
 SWOSU Sports Assistant

SWOSU had their hands full, playing the number one team in the GAC conference, the Southern Nazarene Crimson Storm, with heavy post-season implications on the line.

The Lady Bulldogs fell just short in their comeback attempt, 67-60. The Lady Dawgs fell behind quickly 12-27 at the end of the first quarter, from a hot shooting opening quarter by the Crimson Storm, that shot 10-11 and 91% from the field. They held SWOSU to only 5-14 shooting and 36% in the quarter.

The Lady Dawgs bounced back in the 2nd quarter, holding SNU to only 18% shooting and 0-7 on three-point attempts. SWOSU shot a slightly better mark than their 1st quarter at 42% and went to the half down 25-37.

In the second half the Lady Dawgs fought hard to make their way back into the game, holding SNU to only 14 points in the 3rd while scoring 20 themselves, putting SWOSU in a good position for a late game run in the 4th.

The comeback was complete when Averi Zinn made a three pointer to tie the game with 4:25 left in the game. Shamica Smith would give the Lady Bulldogs their first lead of the game on a layup with 3:54 left. That would be the last time that SWOSU scored unfortunately, as the game ended on a SNU 9-0 run to hold on against the Lady Dawgs.

SWOSU was outmatched on the boards this game, getting outrebounded 40-25 in the contest. Both teams combined for 36 turnovers for the match which led to 19 points of those turnovers for each team.

The Lady Dawgs were led by Morgan Smith and Averi Zinn with 14 points each. Macy Gore and Shamica Smith followed with 13 and 12 points respectively.

Later that night, SWOSU men's basketball lost a heartbreaking and physical overtime game on Senior Day. The Southern Nazarene Crimson Storm, the top team in the GAC, took them down 77-75 on two free throws with 2.3 seconds left in overtime.

In a game that featured 17 lead changes and 16 ties, it was only fitting for it to ultimately go an extra five minutes. SWOSU was up two points with under a minute left when SNU scored four points in 20 seconds to take the lead with seconds remaining. SWOSU had one last

chance as Mason Hart inbounded the ball in a football-like heave to Ben Smith under the basket for a last second layup to send the game into overtime.

SWOSU falls to 12-16 and 8-13 in the GAC. They await the results of the other GAC contests, as this loss does not completely eliminate them from the GAC Tournament. They will need some opposing schools to drop their Saturday games to secure a berth.

The first half was a back and forth affair, with nothing less expected from SWOSU in the last game on their home court for the season. Seniors Kamden Gipson and Chris Braggs, Jr. combined for 12 points in the first period and the first seven Bulldog points. SWOSU stood tough in the paint on defense despite the size advantage for the Crimson Storm and took a four-point lead into the half.

The second half was like a chess game. With both teams trading buckets, both coaches were reacting to the action by making on the fly adjustments. Switching back and forth from man to zone to man on defense, one coach making substitutions when the other did, players talking and working through assignments in a split second. It was the most competitive atmosphere the Pioneer Cellular Event Center has seen in 2023.

Every possession seemed more important from the next as soon as play resumed in the second period. Nine ties and seven lead changes all coming in the second half highlighted the heavyweight battle. SNU's big advantage was the free throw line. They were on the right side of foul calls all night and shot 15 second half free throws to SWOSU's 6.

Overtime was nothing different. A three-point make with 29 seconds left gave Southern Nazarene the edge and all the momentum. Kamden Gipson came back on the next possession to the tune of an and-one layup with a huge reaction from the Senior Day crowd in the arena to steal momentum back. A favorable foul call for SNU sealed the game as they hit two free throws with 2 seconds left to end the contest.

Ben Smith totaled 19 points and 12 rebounds for one last regular season double-double. Chris Braggs, Jr. scored 14 points and grabbed four boards in his final career game in Weatherford. Kamden Gipson ended his SWOSU home career with 11 points.



The Clinton Basketball season has come to an end after falling out of the Regional Consolation Bracket. The girls were defeated by Woodward, and the boys were defeated by Elk City. Congratulations to both teams on a well-fought season. We wish them the best of luck as they transition into spring sports!

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Oklahoma History: The Rise and Fall of the Doolin-Dalton Gang

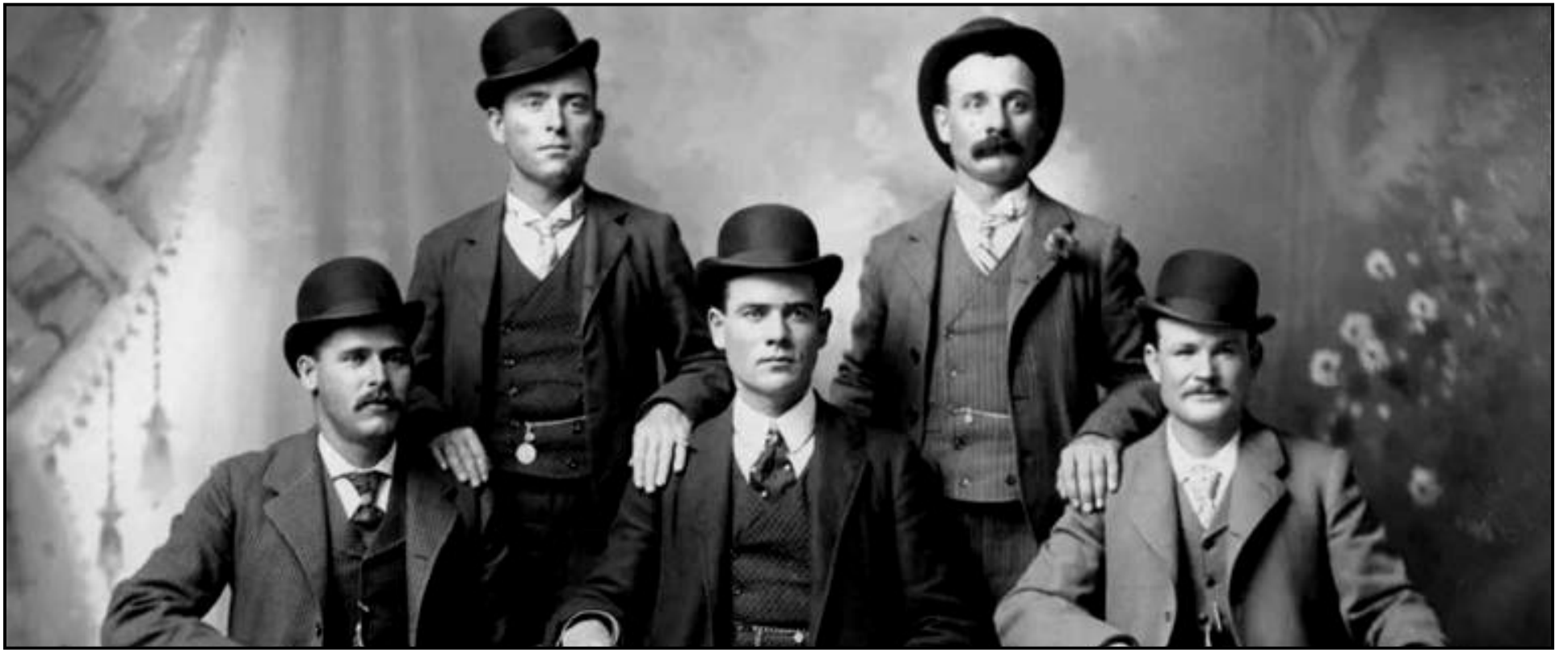


Photo from the Studio of John Schwartz, circa 1900

This photo, taken in Fort Worth, TX depicts five members of the notorious Dalton Gang (from left): Harry Longabaugh, Will Carver, Ben Kilpatrick, Harvey Logan, and Robert Parker. On October 5, 1892. When the gang attempted to rob two of the town's banks at the same time, brave townspeople took up arms against the intruders. After the smoke cleared, eight people were killed and three wounded.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Oklahoma has had a colorful cast of characters galivant across its land over its rich history. One such group was the Doolin-Dalton Gang that operated in the central US during the 1890's. Better known as the "Wild Bunch," the gang operated out of Ingalls, Oklahoma, where their notoriety grew across the nation. The gang popularized long dusters and influenced pop culture with their high stakes train holdups and bank robberies that usually ended in violent encounters with authority. The gang, led by Bill Doolin and William Marion "Bill" Dalton, consisted of nine other men – William "Tulsa Jack" Blake, Dan "Dynamite Dick" Clifton, Charley Pierce, William F. "Little Bill" Raidler, George "Bitter Creek" Newcomb, Roy "Arkansas Tom Jones" Daugherty, Richard "Little Dick" West, George "Red Buck" Weightman, and Oliver "Ol" Yantis.

The Wild Bunch actually stemmed from the original Dalton Gang, which Doolin was a member of. The gang, led by "Bill" Dalton's older brothers, botched a train robbery in Oklahoma Territory and separated. Doolin returned to Ingalls, Oklahoma Territory with some friends while the Dalton brothers attempted another robbery in Coffeyville, Kansas. That robbery failed, too, and it resulted in their deaths.

A short time later, Doolin was operating close to Kingfisher, Oklahoma, where they stopped by the home of the Daltons' mother. Bill Dalton was also visiting his mother during the time, and Doolin proposed a merger to avenge his brothers. The boys operated under the infamous Henry Starr for several raids until Starr was captured and held at Fort Smith. Suddenly, Doolin and Dalton became co-leaders and the Wild Bunch began to prepare.

The gang went on a spree that garnered them infamy between November 1892 and April 1895; Doolin even adorned a Robin Hood-like persona in the eyes of the public for his targeting of wealthy institutions. During this time, some of their biggest heists included a county bank in Spearville, Kansas, for \$1,500 in treasury notes, a Santa Fe train in Cimarron, Kansas, for \$1,000 in silver, a bank in Missouri for \$4,000, and the Santa Fe Railway station in Woodward for over \$6,000. According to the Official Data Foundation, "\$100 in 1892 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$2,847.26 in 2020." So, the Wild Bunch's scores may be pushing the half-a-million-dollar mark in today's market.

Their methods of success would soon be their undoing. Because of the violent nature of their robberies, they quickly gained the attention of U.S. Marshal Evett "E.D." Nix. His main priority: toppling the Doolin-Dalton Gang. He employed one hundred U.S. marshals to assist him, and he insisted they hunt down every last member of the outlaw gang. His unwavering conviction to end their spree at any cost led him to instruct his deputies to do whatever they felt was necessary to bring them down. He supported any means they used, and with his support, the marshals began to methodically hunt down each member.

The beginning of the end for the Doolin-Dalton gang could be seen when the gang ran into a posse of police detectives, led by Marshal Nix on September 1st, 1893, in Ingalls, Oklahoma Territory. The historic Battle of Ingalls resulted in the deaths of three of the fourteen lawmen, two citizens, three outlaws, and the capture of Wild Bunch member "Arkansas Tom Jones". "Arkansas Tom" was charged and sentenced a few months later in Guthrie for manslaughter, and records show that the judge told Marshal Nix to "bring them in dead".

Following the battle, the gang went on hiatus until early 1894 where they did several small jobs throughout the region of the Oklahoma-Kansas border. In March, Nix called upon three of his best men that had been apart of the original Dalton gang's demise at Coffeyville, Kansas, and issued a directive that stated, "I have selected you to do this work...to cope with these desperadoes and bring them in – alive if possible – dead if necessary." The three marshals would become known for their bounty hunting abilities as "The Three Guardsmen," a name given to them by their prey for their dauntless pursuit through weather, terrain, and distance. They would go on to have over 300 desperado arrested over the next decade.

The Guardsmen's pursuit of the gang grew so relentless that the gang felt their only hope for reprieve was to split the group with Dalton, leaving and attempting a bank heist in Longview, Texas, where three of the four members were killed by a posse. Dalton was later tracked down to his home in Pooleville, Oklahoma, and perished in a shootout with deputy marshals.

The rest of the Doolin-Dalton gang would be tracked down, one-by-one, as they were either killed or arrested by The Three Guardsmen and the men they led. The Guardsmen were directly responsible for the killing of leader Bill Doolin and other members: "Dynamite Dan" Clifton, Richard "Little Dick" West, and William F. "Little Bill" Raidler. Other members of the gang were killed or captured by bounty hunters during those final couple years.

A Custer County Posse was responsible for the killing of member George "Red Buck" Weightman near Arapaho, Oklahoma, in March of 1896, two years before the final member of the Wild Bunch met their end.

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Pair of SWOSU Pitchers Claim Bulldogs of the Week

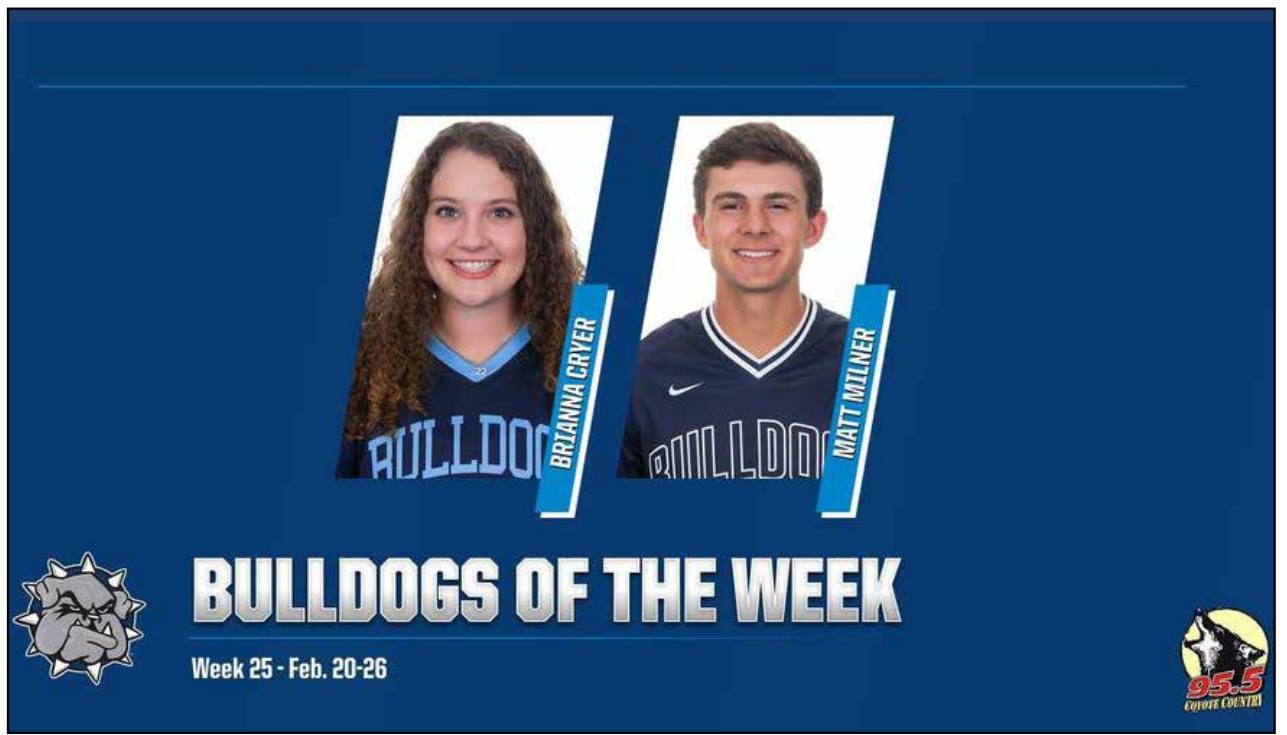
Grant Kopycinski
SWOSU Sports Assistant

Brianna Cryer (softball)
and Matt Milner (baseball)

have claimed the newest Bulldogs of the Week awards. This award is brought to you by Wright Wradio, the official partner of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Cryer (Fort Worth, TX) look solid in the circle for SWOSU softball this weekend. She made two starts in the three-game series with Ouachita, including a complete game shutout. In the 9-0 win that was cut to just five innings due to the score, Cryer allowed just four hits (all singles), no runs, struck out four batters, and walked just one. This win gave the Bulldogs their first GAC win and Cryer's second win of the year.

Milner (Duke, OK) gave the Dawgs a good showing in the first game of their Ouachita series on Saturday. Milner started in game one of a doubleheader and set the pace for SWOSU. He threw six scoreless innings to help defeat the Tigers, 4-2. He gave up four hits to 25 batters faced, while striking out five. This win improved Milner's record to an even 2-2 and helped SWOSU pick up the first tally in the win column in conference play.



General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum Names Jill Green New Executive Director

The General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum is pleased to announce Jill Green, Ed.D. as its new executive director.

Green brings more than 17 years of experience in development, community and donor relations, strategic planning, museum archive management and team building. As executive director, Green will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for staff, programs, expansion and execution of the Museum and Institute's mission.

"It's an honor to join the General Tommy Franks Leadership and Museum team," said Green. "I am eager to work in a role where the sky is the limit and for an organization that has many possibilities for growth."

Green earned a Doctorate in Education in educational leadership from Liberty University as well as a master's degree in adult education management and education from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and a bachelor's degree

in early childhood development from Arkansas Tech University. Prior to joining the Museum team, Green served as the director of development and donor relations of the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation and the director of alumni and community relations for Northern Oklahoma College. She has also worked in accounting for the State of Arkansas and in civilian roles for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army. Green is a member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, is a volunteer member of Team Patriot through Samaritan's Purse, is a graduate of Leadership Tonkawa and has served on the Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

The General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum was created as an historical foundation, dedicated to telling the story of the United States military and education. Its mission is to inspire leadership, patriotism and service. For more information, visit TommyFranksMuseum.org.



Elk City Alumni Reunion Coming This Summer (Finally!)



Bruce Sowders / Elk City Alumni

Attending Class of 1967 alumnus posed for a group photo at 2017's Elk City High School Reunion.

Basil Weatherly
ECHS Foundation Board

Planning is underway for the Elk City High School tri-annual reunion of all classes through the school year of 2003.

This event is a big reunion for anyone who attended Elk City Public Schools and will take place at the Convention Center on August 4th and 5th, 2023.

Eligible alums will be notified via mail. Addresses for those who have moved in the last six years need to be forwarded to ECHSalumni@att.net or mailed to P.O. Box 1929. There will be an update on the Elk City Alumni Facebook page once the ECHS Foundation Board sends out invitations.

Anyone with contact information can also be relayed to the following foundation board members:

- Angie Blackman at (580) 799-0119
- Linda Cook at (580) 799-0432
- Basil Weatherly at (580) 821-2795

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