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## "Cars for the Community" Community Event Returns to Elk City and Western Oklahoma

**Jesse Griffith**  
Elk City Business Owner

EC Auto Repair, an auto repair shop in Elk City, wants to make a difference in these tough economic times by giving away a car to a deserving person in western Oklahoma.

With this event, the shop is endeavoring to bring change, making a difference in any way they can. The team at EC Auto Repair is asking people to nominate someone they know that deserves the opportunity to receive a free 2008 Subaru Forester.

Cars for the Community was formed by a group of auto repair shop owners at a conference in Tennessee. The owners got together and decided that they wanted to do something to give back to the communities that support their shops and families by giving away a free car to a deserving person or family in their community.

**The criteria for nominations are:**

- What is the reason they need a free car?
- What is the reason they deserve a free car?
- How will a free car change their lives?

The car has been inspected and reconditioned to look

and drive like new.

The ideal person to receive this gift is someone who thinks not of themselves, but instead, always looks out for others. These vehicles are meant for people that could use a hand up, not just a hand out—someone that would have their life changed for the better by winning a free car! Each shop is asking their communities and whomever for nominations of deserving people to win a free car.

"This whole process is amazing! The real magic happens when you hand over the keys to the new owner, giving them something they could not afford and giving them the ability to have new freedoms," says TJ Crossman, a car shop owner in Vista, CA.

Nominations may be submitted by visiting the website [ECAuto.Repair/Cars-For-The-Community-3](http://ECAuto.Repair/Cars-For-The-Community-3). All information on the form must be completed in order to be a valid entry.

Submissions need to be received by December 17th at 9pm. All nominations will be reviewed by a committee and a deserving person will be selected as the new owner of the Subaru Forester.

The nominee that is chosen will be announced, and the car awarded to that nominee, on December 21,



Tony Cannon / WPS

Residents of Weatherford set up a newly hand-crafted Christmas Angel on the corner of Main and Washington in Weatherford.

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**Jeanette Peters**

Jeanette Peters was born on February 20, 1925, to John and Alice (Houtman) Van Voorst in Decatur, Michigan, and passed away Thursday, November 30, 2023, at the Weatherford Regional Hospital, at the age of 98 years, 9 months and 10 days.



Jeanette attended school and graduated from Decatur Public Schools.

After graduation, she trained to be a Registered Nurse in Chicago, Illinois.

While nursing, she met Leonard Peters, who became her husband on January 1, 1946. They moved to a farm near Decatur where Leonard farmed, Jeanette worked as a nurse, and they started their family.

Leonard and Jeanette moved from the farm to North Newton, Kansas, where Leonard worked on his college degree and Jeanette nursed at the Bethel Deaconess Hospital as time and family allowed. After Leonard graduated, they moved to Stapleton, Nebraska, where Leonard taught and coached and Jeanette continued to work part-time as a nurse while taking care of their growing family. Later, they moved to Henderson, Nebraska, to be near Leonard's mother.

Jeanette continued to nurse, frequently working in the Emergency Room. They moved later to Bloomingdale, Michigan, and then to Allegan, Michigan, and Jeanette continued to nurse while Leonard coached and taught.

Although the family enjoyed Michigan, they decided to move to Hesston, Kansas, to live in a dryer climate.

Leonard retired there and began building houses with his two sons. Jeanette was now working full-time and was promoted to Director of Nursing at the Bethel Deaconess hospital in Newton, Kansas. She was set to retire when Bethel Deaconess was merged with Halstead Hospital.

The companies convinced her to stay for an extra year to assist with the merger. After retirement, she began golfing with her husband. The couple also traveled extensively, visiting their children.

In 2010, their children that lived in Hydro, Oklahoma, encouraged them to move to Hydro, which they did. Leonard passed away in March, 2012, but Jeanette continued to live in their house until her death.

Jeanette is survived by five daughters, Beverly Long and husband Larry, Janice Lichti, Meribeth Slagell and husband Virgil, Karen Entin and husband Eric, and Dori Slagell and husband Stephen, all living in the Hydro area. She is also survived by two sons, Kenneth Peters and wife Cynthia Lester of Lawrence, Kansas and Donald Peters and wife June of Hydro; 18 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one brother, John Van Voorst, and one granddaughter Cydney Claire Entin.

**Bobby Beard**

Bobby Beard was born May 30, 1976 in Clinton, OK to Daniel Bobby Beard and Violet Jean Washa and passed away on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at his home in Oklahoma City, OK.



Bobby was raised in Western Oklahoma and attended elementary school in Watonga before transferring to Weatherford where he graduated Weatherford High School. Bobby was a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. Growing up he enjoyed attending and dancing in Pow Wows and participating in Native American Church.

After graduation he moved to Missouri with his sister, where he lived for 20 years. In 2008, Bobby returned to Weatherford, where he made his home.

Bobby enjoyed his dogs, listening to music. He was easy to get along with and loved spending time with his family—especially his son, and nephews.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel and Violet (Washa) Beard. He is survived by one son, Tristan McClain of St. Joseph, Missouri and his two children, Maverick and Mataya; two sisters, Virginia Addison and husband Trey, and Danielle Chounet Beard; and many nephews, cousins, and friends.

**Skeet Ray**

James Garrett "Skeet" Ray was born on May 25, 1966, in Oklahoma City to Wayne and Carolyn Ray and passed from this life on December 4, 2023. He spent his early years in western Kansas, before the family moved to Weatherford, Oklahoma.



Skeet attended Elementary through High School in Weatherford, graduating in 1984. He excelled in sports, playing basketball, football, and baseball, and was highly active in the Weatherford Church of Christ youth group. He was very industrious, working multiple jobs from the age of 14. Skeet attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where he was known as "a professional student." He started as a music major and was in the choir. He completed his first degree program in 1990 but was nowhere close to being done. He completed a BS in Business and earned his teaching certificate in Business, Computer Science, Special Education, and got his certification in Social Work. From there, he went on to get his MBA. Even that was not enough; he completed his Licensed Professional Counselor program but didn't finish the clinical hours. While in college, he spent so much time at the Bible Chair that the director, Richie Hamm, just made him his own key. He led the Bible Chair's intramural programs and church league softball teams. At one point, he was the SWOSU intramural director, refereed for the OSSAA, preached, and delivered for Coca-Cola; on the side, he also had a group of guys who traveled to softball tournaments and basketball tournaments. Skeet was very adept at all kinds of sports and games, including cards, pool, bowling and ping pong; he loved anything he could compete in. He also enjoyed hunting, shooting, and fishing. But he especially loved catching catfish. Yes, he was good at that, too!

As if that wasn't enough, Skeet preached every Sunday in western Oklahoma including at congregations in Thomas, Canton, Watonga, and Corn/Colony, and others for over a decade. He worked as a Social worker assisting people with mental health issues for a number of years. Skeet married Machell Hamilton on December 12, 1992, in Oklahoma City, OK. They had two children, Jessa and Jayden, before moving to Mount Pleasant, Texas, where Skeet taught Special Education and Alternative School.

It was about that time that Skeet's health began to decline. It's impossible to talk about Skeet without mentioning his health problems. What started as back problems from injuries developed into autoimmune issues. For over two decades, his pain made so much of what he wanted to do impossible; however, he still continued to find ways to contribute. He spent several years helping with the YMCA in Weatherford, where he was active in the Youth in Government program. He mentored the Weatherford chapter to be a yearly contender for national awards. He helped dozens of young people through that program; several have attributed their experiences with that program as key to success. He was notable for his ability to connect with people where they were.

Skeet is survived by his mother, Carolyn Ray of Weatherford, OK. brother Dr. Jason Ray and wife Dr. Kathy Ray of Woodward and their children Jacquelyn Sims and husband Quentin of Oklahoma City, James Preston Ray and Jaelynn Ray of Woodward. Daughter Jessa Jarvis, and husband, Cody with their children Charlie Wayne, Chelsea, and Callum of Moore. His son, Jayden Ray and his wife, Kaylin of Tahlequah. Aunt Karen White and husband Ralph of Elk City, OK. Uncle Jerry Sanders of Oklahoma City. He was preceded in death by his father, Wayne Ray.

**Yonzell Vogt**

Viola Yonzell Vogt was born on August 6, 1932 in Shattuck, Oklahoma to Veta Pearl and Fred R. Barton. She passed away December 3, 2023 at the age 91 years, 3 months, and 27 days at Corn Heritage Village in Weatherford, Oklahoma. As a child, she lived on farms in Durham, Crawford, and Cheyenne, Oklahoma.



On January 28, 1953, she married the love of her life, Ivan Vogt. Together they farmed and raised cattle on the land homesteaded by Ivan's grandfather, Peter F. Kliewer, and lived in the two-story farmhouse built in 1915. In 1975, she and Ivan moved to Corn. In 2000, during her retirement years, she lived in Weatherford.

Yonzell was a homemaker, a teacher in Arapaho and Washita Heights for 10 years, Country Craft business owner, Town of Corn Treasurer and Council Member, a member of the Red Hat Society, and a member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Weatherford serving as a Pink Lady with the Weatherford Regional Hospital Auxiliary and volunteering for many community activities. She was a member of the Weatherford United Methodist Church. She loved sewing, dancing, painting, and crafting, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Yonzell is survived by daughter Connie Reimers and husband Marvin of Edmond, OK, son Tony Vogt and wife Ann of Corn; grandchildren Lacy Kempf and husband Jason of Edmond, Larin Rottman and husband Patrick of Washington, DC, Tyler Vogt and wife Laura of Weatherford, Toya Stunkard and husband Jake of Afton; great grandchildren Tinsley Vogt, Tugger Vogt, Tate Vogt, and Coy Stunkard; brothers, Jack Barton and wife Joanne of Clarendon, TX and Jim Barton and wife Alice of Clinton; and numerous nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ivan; and brothers, Robert Barton and Ray Barton.

**Uncle Bob**

Robert Egger was born January 20, 1947 in Mena, Arkansas to James Russell and Nancy Violet (Turner) Egger, and passed away late Sunday night in his Clinton home.



Robert was raised in Mena, and moved to Antlers, OK., in 1958 and graduated high school there in 1966, and moved to Oklahoma City, in 1968, where He worked for Tinker until his retirement in 1998. After retirement, he moved to Clinton to be closer to family.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. He loved to mow, weed, garden, and watch the cows, He especially loved sports OU, Thunder, and the WNBA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother in law Bob Smith.

He is survived by his sister Nancy Smith of Clinton, brother James Egger, and his wife Carrol of Bethany, nephews Brad Lambeth and his wife Joleen of Clinton, Jason Lambeth and his wife Anne of Clinton, his niece Jamie Foucher and her husband Scott of Noble, Shaun Horton of Oklahoma City, great nieces and nephews Ashton, Rhett, Grafton, Jordon, and Peyton, Brooks, Mason, Rachel, a great great niece and nephew Mia and Aiden, and other family members Mike Smith of Clinton and his daughters Sarah Copeland and Shea Smith.

**Laura Hutchens**

Laura D. (McCoy) Hutchens was born January 30, 1981, to Connie McCoy in Clinton, OK and passed away unexpected Tuesday, December 5, 2023, in her Woodward, OK home.



She was raised in Clinton where she attended most of her schooling but moved to Woodward where she graduated high school. She continued her education and attended Nursing School and achieved her Licensed Practical Nursing Degree. She worked for 20 years plus for the Grace Living Center in Woodward, OK.

She loved music, singing, dancing and she enjoyed cooking and spending time with her family.

She is survived by two daughters, Mariah McCoy, and Jasmine Perez, both of Woodward, OK and two sons, Mario Perez, Jr., and wife, McKeleigh and husband Evan, mother, Connie McCoy, and Monica Rodriguez, and two brothers, Jose Rodriguez, and Rogelio Rodriguez, all of Woodward; and three grandchildren, Darvy Bailey, Amiriah Bailey and Luk Perez.



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The Weatherford Lady Eagles put in a strong showing at the 2023 Winter Classic, coming in third place after defeating the Woodward Lady Boomers 53-33.

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# HIGHER GROUND

## No Baby in the Manger?



Jim Morrison

We have all enjoyed the Christmas classic, It's a Wonderful Life. Geoge Bailey thought life was over and decided to end it until an angel showed him what life would have been like had he not been born. A recent magazine article brough forth the question, "What if Jeus Had Never Been Born."

With Christianity being described as a worst threat than terrorist by comedian George Carville, maybe it would be helpful to examine what it would have been like if Jesus had never been born. Although some terrible things have been committed by false teachers, it is important to seek the truth rather than accept the false claims of those who know nothing of reality.

C.S. Lewis, the British literary giant described it as always winter and never Christmas in his landmark story of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Just to

name a few; if Christ had never been born there would be no holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, and St. Patrick's Day. The Bible that has enriched the lives of multiplied millions would have not been written, at least the New Testament. The beautiful description of love as portrayed in 1st Corinthians 13 would be unknown. Great works of art such as the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and Handel's Messiah would be unheard of. Clara Barton's sensitive spirit issuing from her faith would have excluded the American Red Cross. Samaritan's Purse, with its outreach to tragedies all over the world would not exist. Joni Eareckson's ministry that has provided assistance to the disabled around the world for many years.

Hospitals and orphanages were founded by people of faith who followed the commands of Christ. Most of the Ivy league universities were founded to train pastors and missionaries. Science brought forth great advances in our quality of life and health because of the Christian belief in the orderliness of the universe and by the efforts of great men like Mendel, Newton, Pascal, and Faraday who were men of faith.

William Wilberforce's life-long efforts to demolish the slave trading business would have never existed. Billy Graham's influence as well as that of D.L.

Moody, Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley and others helped shape the moral structure of society. George Mueller who was rescued from a life of selfish pleasure by the power of God, to establish orphanages that fed, clothed and educated over 10,000 children in his lifetime.

We could go on but the greatest loss would be the absence of the knowledge of Gold's abounding love, mercy, and grace. Knowing that man left to himself would never rise above his selfish nature, God became flesh and made his home among us to show us how to live and finally to rescue us from the dominion of darkness and bring us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption the forgiveness of sin. (Col. 1:13,14)

Longfellow's poem and song speaks to our current situation.

"And in despair I bowed my head: "there is no peace on earth, "I said, "for hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep; "God is not dead, nor does he sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

To comment: 580-302-1142, [jhm82@outlook.com](mailto:jhm82@outlook.com)

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# LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



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## Weatherford Opens New Police Department



Chad Gray / WW

Weatherford community leaders, including Mayor Mike Brown and Police Chief Angelo Orefice, were joined by Oklahoma Senator James Lankford as well as other state officials to commemorate the opening of the new Weatherford Police Department. The ribbon cutting occurred Friday, December 8, with the new Police Department being located at 615 E Franklin.



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## WHS Rotary Students of the Month Named



Krystal Blackwell / WW

Congrats to the December WHS Rotary Students of the month, Jack Sadler and Amelia Childress. The award was presented by Michelle Hartman and Rotarian Heston Wright.

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**WASHITA CO / ELECTION** - We're just over a month away from Washita County voters deciding whether to continue a 1.25% county sales tax. The tax funds Washita County's Justice Center, County General fund, Fire Departments, Ambulance Services, OSU Extension and the 4-H Program, Senior Citizen Centers, and the County Free Fair. However, county clerk Kristen Dowell says percentage allocations have changed for this election. The Free Fare, Ambulances, and Senior Citizens will receive as much as a 1% boost in their cut of sales taxes. Washita County Fire Departments will receive a 3% increase in tax revenue. The OSU Extension Services, however, will have their percentage nearly cut in half, from 12% to 7%. Election Day is January 9th.

**CLINTON / STRUCTURE FIRE** - Clinton Fire crews worked a structure fire in the 900 block of North 19th Street, says Fire Chief Brett Russell. "The fire vented out of the West side of the structure," Russell explained. "It looks like, on preliminary investigation, candles left burning started the fire around the sofa area in the living room and the flames extended up into the attic." Chief Russell says the home was a total loss. No injuries were reported.

**ELK CITY / GUN RECOVERED** - A 14-year-old Elk City High School student was taken into custody after the juvenile allegedly sent pictures of having a gun on the high school campus. Superintendent Mike Sparks says school resource officers sprang into action "within two to three minutes at the most" after a report was made about the student possessing what turned out to be an unloaded gun, which was "found in a bathroom trash can." Sparks says the school was placed under lockdown for a short time as a precaution.

**FOSS STATE PARK / HIKE** - Oklahoma State Parks officials recently recommended 12 trails around the state that are heart-healthy trails for this Christmas season. Foss State Park Manager Barry Hardaway says Foss has one of those trails. "It goes from Cottonwood to the Cedar Point area," says Hardaway. "It'll start at Cottonwood on the very North End of it and then it'll work its way around. You'll come out from the cabins." Hardaway says it's a great way to take advantage of the outdoors in western Oklahoma. The Foss State Park is currently working to shorten the trail as a way to fix a flooded, "marshy" portion of the path.

**WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!**

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**Happy Birthday Wishes for December 13** - Valerie Farriss, Tre Ingram, Steven Kixmiller, Sara Martin, Pat Meyer, Richard Meyer, Kaleb Miller, Addison Holland, Irl Nikkel, Holly Noel Ronan, Lisa Snider, Bret Wood; **December 14** - Audrey Christian, Elise Cox, Rodolfo Guyman, Amber Koch, Martha Martinez, Maddie Newman, Joella Poauty, Jackie Robinson, Tember Thomas, Michael Tippens, Mark Woods, Glenn Wynn; **December 15** - Lorna Kay Altland, Jo Crowdis, Maegan Fite, Kandy Harrall, Clint Holsted, Patricia Keezer, Keryl Lacy, Ray Lee, Scooter Leggit, Lynn Martin, Scott Sanders, Debbie Sanders, Kelsey Wager, Sheree Wood, Margaret Wright; **December 16** - Amanda Arriaga, Renee Basgall, Todd Doyals, Betty Goldman, Brandon Green, Christine Irish, Victor Izaguirre, Steve Josey, Ben Kuykendall, Melissa McCoy, Richard Palmer, Steven Pounds, Peggy Reynolds, Ashley Ricks, Ronnie Skinner, Mike Smith, Sylvia Spain, Karey Stufflebeam, Steve Tomkins; **December 18th** - Jan Bowden, Matthew Davenport. Collin Dixon, Cayden Gossen, Adrian Huitaa, Jeff Lunday, Chad Miller, Jackie Nutry, Justin O'Connor, Phillip Payne, Tyler Shadid, Kit Stephenson, David Wedel; **December 19th** - Becky Barton, Ranea Bryan, Matt Cox, Kent Dewees, Jasi Froneberger, Devan Hewitt, Mark Hix, Darell McCray, Joyce Norris, John Page, Kim Richmond, Sharon Segress, Steve Spain, Tabitha Washa, Harold Washa;



# Jalen Johnson and Libbi Zinn Are Named Bulldogs of the Week

**Grant Kopycinski**  
Sports Information Graduate Asst.

Libbi Zinn and Jalen Johnson have been selected as the newest Bulldogs of the Week, brought to you by Wright Wradio – SWOSU’s home for athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Zinn (Anadarko, Okla.) had her best week on the hardwood for SWOSU last week. She averaged 12.5 points on 58% from the field, 63% from three, and 100% from the line. This includes her setting a new season high with 13 points against East Central on Saturday. These efforts helped the Lady Bulldogs go 2-0 for the week and extend their winning streak to four games.

Johnson (Oklahoma City, Okla.) was lights out on the offensive end in men’s basketball’s lone game of the week. He scored a team high 20 points and hit four three-pointers at East Central. Both of these marks tie his career high in the respective categories. It was his second 20-point performance in a Bulldog jersey.

**BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK**  
Week 14 - Dec. 4-10

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# Oklahoma History: Unwrapping the History of Christmas Music



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

Gayla Peevey, the Oklahoma native who performed "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas," visits Matilda at the Oklahoma City Zoo.



Roger Klock (Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society)

Oklahoma Actor Ridgely McClure "Ridge" Bond (left) and Oklahoma singer-songwriter Ralph Blaine (right) fawn over the sheet music for "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

In the symphony of Christmas classics, certain melodies have become emblematic of the festive season, transcending time and generations. Two such iconic songs, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas," stand out not only for their enchanting tunes but also for the intriguing stories behind their creation.

### "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"

The year was 1944, and the world was ensconced in the throes of World War II. It was against this backdrop of uncertainty and separation that songwriters Hugh Martin and Ralph Blaine composed "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Originally written for the film "Meet Me in St. Louis," the song was performed by Judy Garland and encapsulated the bittersweet emotions of wartime, offering a message of hope and comfort.

Blaine's contribution to the song's creation was pivotal, as he crafted lyrics that resonated with a universal longing for joy amidst hardship. The line "Someday soon, we all will be together, if the fates allow" captures the essence of the era and the collective yearning for a brighter future. Over the years, the song has evolved through various renditions, each iteration carrying the enduring spirit of togetherness in the face of adversity.

Ralph Blaine was an Oklahoma-born composer, hailing from Broken Arrow, whose repertoire of music credits feature other memorable melodies earning him multiple Tony nominations and an Academy Award nomination. Born Ralph Uriah Hunsecker, he eventually pursued his passion in New York City to study music and adopted the name Ralph Blaine to better fit the theater.

His final work had him work as a lyricist for the music in the classic movie Home Alone in 1990.

### "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas"

Fast forward to the 1950s, and a different kind of Christmas wish echoed through the airwaves. "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" emerged as a whimsical holiday tune penned by Jon Rox and sung by ten-year-old Gayla Peevey, an Oklahoma native and singing star. The song exudes childlike innocence and a sense of humor, as Peevey playfully expresses her desire for a most unconventional Christmas gift.

Peevey's infectious rendition of the song captured the hearts of listeners, and her Oklahoma roots added a touch of regional charm to the tune. The catchy chorus and playful lyrics turned the song into an instant holiday favorite, showcasing how even the most unconventional wishes can find a place in the festive season. Her career in showmanship began on an OKC radio broadcast where she held a guest spot alongside her uncle.

Following quick and successful tours and television contracts, Peevey's music prowess was quickly spotted by Columbia Records, and in 1953, a record contract was signed, and she soon recorded the Christmas hit in NYC.

The Oklahoma City Zoo championed her song and launched a campaign to "Buy a Hippo for Gayla". Eventually, baby hippopotamus Matilda was purchased, gifted to Gayla on Christmas Eve – December 24th, 1953 - and she quickly donated her to the zoo. Every year, Gayla proved her success with more hits, song writing, teaching, and ran her own advertisement operations. All the while, Matilda spent a happy 45 years at the Oklahoma City Zoo.

As we adorn our homes with festive decorations and gather with loved ones, the melodies of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" continue to serenade us through the holiday season. Each song, with its unique history and timeless appeal, serves as a musical testament to the talented folks of Oklahoma and to the enduring spirit of Christmas – a celebration of hope, joy, and the magic of the season.



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## Lady Bulldogs Earn Fourth Straight Win



**Grant Kopycinski**  
 Sports Information Graduate Asst.

The SWOSU women's basketball team won their third consecutive Great American Conference game in dominating fashion on Saturday night, taking down East Central 65-35. It's SWOSU's first win by 30-plus points since February 19, 2022.

The Lady Dawgs stay perfect in GAC play at 3-0 and extend their win streak to four. They will have their toughest test of the season next when No. 6/16 Southern Nazarene comes to Weatherford on December 16 at 1:00 pm.

SWOSU got off to a hot start offensively. The Lady Bulldogs shot 50% from three in the first quarter and the misses came on some quality looks. East Central grabbed five offensive boards which allowed multiple second chance opportunities, keeping the score close at 16-15 after one.

The second quarter saw SWOSU's shooting cool off to just 1-9 from behind the arc. While they didn't shoot well, they turned up the heat on the other end. Their full court press caused 14 turnovers in

the first half and helped them walk into the locker room with a 28-27 lead at the break.

The defensive intensity increased in the second half. SWOSU completely shut down the Tigers offensively. After giving up the lead at the 7:34 mark in the third quarter, SWOSU ended the game on a 35-4 run. They limited ECU to four points in each quarter, shooting 2-22 in the latter half.

Offensively, they shot an efficient 14-27 in the final two quarters to completely overpower East Central.

SWOSU shot 25-57 (43.9%, season high) overall and 7-25 (28%) from three. ECU finished 12-44 (27.3%) from the field and 6-24 (25%) from three. The Lady Bulldogs forced 25 turnovers and scored 33 points off of those turnovers.

Averi Zinn led SWOSU with 18 points, six rebounds, five assists, and five steals in the win. Libbi Zinn scored 13 points, her new season high, with five rebounds and two steals. She has finished in double figures in each of the past two games.

## SWOSU Bulldogs Come Up Short Against Ada



**Jon Chidester**  
 Sports Asst. AD

SWOSU Men's Basketball played from behind all night in a 65-54 loss to East Central on Saturday inside Kerr Activities Center.

The Bulldogs (1-6, 1-2 GAC) shot just 37% in the first half including 1-of-10 from three-point range which had them chasing the Tigers from the onset. Cold shooting down the stretch in the second half had SWOSU's second half numbers reflecting similar results as in the first, though the Dawgs did connect on five three-point shots after the intermission.

SWOSU trailed 30-22 at halftime and could not produce a run large enough in the second half to gain a lead.

Just past the halfway point of the second half, SWOSU trailed 50-40 and used an 8-2 run to cut their deficit to four points with 6:25 remaining. ECU was able to push the margin back out to double digits with a timely answer to deter SWOSU's final

push and earn the win.

Jalen Johnson tied a career high with 20 points on 8-of-18 shooting. He added five rebounds in 24 minutes of floor time.

Ben Smith, who entered the night inside the Top-5 of the Great American Conference (GAC) in scoring and rebounding, was held to six points (3-14 shooting) and three rebounds.

Mark Berry and Eli Al-Debaran chipped in 10 points apiece. Berry set a new season high with nine rebounds.

SWOSU outrebounded the Tigers 30-24 on the night and 13-2 on the offensive boards. It was overshadowed by a 50% shooting mark from East Central, who knocked down 8-of-18 from deep in the contest.

The Tigers had the same number of made field goals in the second half as SWOSU despite taking 11 less shots. They shot 60% after halftime to spoil any chance of a Bulldog comeback.

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