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Corn Bible Academy Hosting 60th Annual German Feast and Auction



Valerie Fuller
CBA Administrative Asst.

The public is invited to Clinton, Oklahoma for Corn Bible Academy's 60th annual German Feast and Auction on Saturday, April 6, 2024. This will be the second feast at the school's new 40 acre campus in Clinton after operating in the town of Corn since 1903. The event will take place at 22387 E 1070 Road in Clinton from 10am until 2:30pm.

The meal will feature delicious verenika (cottage cheese dumplings) smothered in a ham and onion gravy, zwiebach, German sausage, cherry or pluma mousse, and New Year's cookies (fried raisin, chocolate chip, or apple fritters). A hamburger meal will also be served with chips, baked beans, and New Year's cookies.

You will not want to miss the exciting live auction featuring handmade quilts, handmade furniture, sports memorabilia, vacations and more. It will begin at 1:00pm in the gymnasium. There will be several big changes to the auction portion of the event this year. The doors will open for the bake sale at 10am.

Homemade breads, and other baked goods including hundreds of dozens of schnetka - a German pastry featuring cinnamon, sugar, and cream - will be available for purchase. There will no longer be a "Unique Finds" (garage) sale.

There will be a few minor changes to the event. The feast portion will be served from 11:30am until 2:00pm. The silent auction has become an online auction, with the bidding opening on March 9 and closing on April 2. See items on Heardauction.hibid.com. Winning bidders may pick up their online auction items on the day of the Feast from 10am to 3pm. The live auction will start at 1:00pm and end by 2:00pm, with both online and in-person bidding.

Tickets for either a verenika plate or a hamburger plate may be purchased directly from a CBA student or at cornbible.square.site prior to the event, or at the door on the day of the event. A verenika plate is \$15 and a hamburger plate is \$10. Online ticket sales will incur a small processing fee but will allow the guest to bypass the ticket sales line at the event.

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Laura McKinsey

Laura Nell McKinsey was born June 1, 1937, to Loyd Earl Westover and Ada Iona (Richardson) Westover and passed away Tuesday, February 20, 2024, in her home surrounded by her family.



Laura was raised and grew up on the family farm in Putnam, OK (which is still family owned). She started her schooling in Taloga but later transferred to Clinton, OK and graduated from Clinton High School in 1955. She soon married Charles Max McKinsey, Sr. on May 14, 1955, in Clinton. The two were a team and they were very active in supporting their children in school and sport activities. They were involved in the Red Tornado Booster Club and the Oklahoma University Take Down Club. They raised and bred quarter horses together.

She was a hard worker and her first job as an adult was with Jett Distributing Company where she was a dedicated and loyal employee for 65 years. The one thing she claimed to be the best at was being her three kids BOSS.

She is a member of the of the Clinton First United Methodist Church, ESA, Les Amies Bridge Club, and the Wednesday Bridge Club. She also frequented the coffee shop most mornings and had her favorite table and group of people she would meet with.

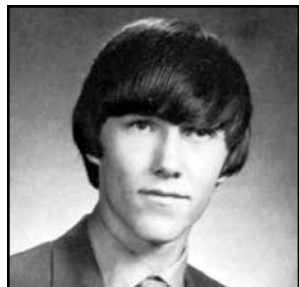
She was preceded in death by her husband, Max, Sr., February 14, 1983, her parents, her partner in crime, James "Jim" Gilbert in 2012, daughter, Mitzi Wohler, sister, Iona Thomas and her father and mother-in-law, E.R. and Leah McKinsey.

She is survived by daughter, Marty McKinsey, OKC, son, Max McKinsey, Jr., and Paige Poeling, Clinton, OK.

She is also survived by grandchildren, Trey McKinsey, Madison McKinsey and Cash Bush, McKinsey Wohler, Marc Wohler, and Martin Wohler, great-grandchildren, Blakely McKinsey, Charley Bush, Zalyann Moss, Rainn Wohler, Eden Chandler, and Journey Chandler.

Biff Walters

Donald Biff Walters was born September 10, 1958, to Sherman Junior Walters and Iva Mae Evans Walters in Stuttgart, Germany and passed away unexpectedly in his Cordell home on Sunday, February 18, 2024.



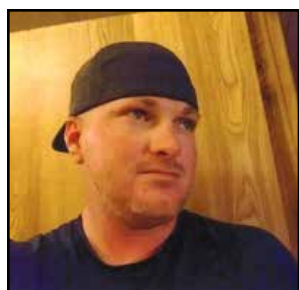
Biff attended Cordell High School and has lived there most of his adult life.

He is survived by his sisters, Debra Walters, Fort Worth, TX and Shelley Walters, Cordell, OK; six nephews, Lance Walters, Travis Walters and Blake Walters, Clinton, OK and Chad Walters, Curtis Walters, and Christopher Walters, of Cordell, OK.

He is preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Mary Beth Walters, brothers, Terry Ray Walters, Sherman Lee Walters, and Darryl Kent Walters.

Joey Helt

Joseph "Joey" Allen Helt was born December 5, 1987, in Weatherford, to Glenn and Patty Helt and passed away October 9, 2023, in Chino Valley, Arizona, at the age of 35 years, 10 months and 4 days.



Joey was raised in Weatherford and attended Weatherford schools where he was active in basketball and football. He was a hard worker and worked since the age of 16, holding various jobs from fast food to oilfield to lumber companies.

He was recently working for Builders Lumber Company in Prescott, Arizona.

Joey loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting hiking, camping, gardening and spending time with family and friends.

Joey Helt was preceded in death by grandparents, Floyd Schmidt and Joe and Edith Helt.

Joey is survived by wife, Sara; daughter, Destiney; son, Destree all of Chino Valley, Arizona; parents, Glenn and Patty Helt of Weatherford; sister, Dondra Hollan and husband, Jason and their children, Hailey and Mason Hollan all of Weatherford; and grandmother, Dorothy Schmidt of Corn.

Phil Lanier

Phillip Ross "Phil" Lanier was born February 21, 1960, in Weatherford, the youngest of his 5 siblings, to Lloyd Udell and Norma Elizabeth (Hawkins) Lanier and passed away Friday, February 23, 2024, at his home in Weatherford, at the age of 64 years and 2 days.



Phil was raised and attended school in Weatherford, graduating with the Class of 1978. On November 11, 1982, he married Penny Lynn Loar in Weatherford where they made their home. In his younger years he worked in the oilfield, as a self-employed custom welder. Phil was sick off and on for 18 years with kidney disease before he received a kidney transplant in 1997. He was a 25-year kidney transplant survivor. Phil loved to hunt and fish, camping with his family and just hanging out outdoors. He will be remembered for his love of his family, especially his grandchildren and their activities or just coloring pictures with them.

Phil is survived by his wife of 42 years, Penny Lanier of their home in Weatherford; two daughters, Jade McDonald of Weatherford and Melinda Middleton and husband, Mark of Oklahoma City; one son, Ross Allen Lanier of Weatherford; one sister, Debbie Willis and husband, Tom of Weatherford; one brother, Bob Lanier and wife, Patti of Weatherford; and three grandchildren, Carter Reeb, Addilynn McDonald and Brenden McDonald. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Max Lanier and one in infancy, Larry; and one sister, Cindy Murray.



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Seniors Encouraged to Speak Up at the Oklahoma State Capitol March 11



Mary Peck
SWODA Marketing Associate

Oklahoma senior citizens, caregivers, and those interested in matters affecting aging Oklahomans are invited to the State Capitol for Senior Day on Monday, March 11. Attendees will have the opportunity to share ideas, needs and concerns with their state lawmakers, visit with organizations and state agencies to learn about services for older Oklahomans, and learn about current legislation that may affect older Oklahomans. The event is free to attend. All are welcome.

Attendees can arrive starting at 8:30 a.m. and sign in at the second-floor rotunda. Volunteers and signs will guide the way. The Senior Day session in the House chamber, fourth floor, begins at 10 a.m. with guest speakers. The event will run from 8:30 a.m.

until 1 p.m. at the State Capitol, 2300 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City.

All individuals and groups planning to attend are encouraged to register on the Oklahoma Alliance on Aging website's Events page, but it is not required. Nonprofit organizations requesting an exhibit table, and those interested in sponsoring, may use the registration link to apply.

The Oklahoma Alliance on Aging organizes the annual Senior Day event with the Oklahoma Aging Partnership; the Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislature Alumni Association; AARP; and the OKDHS Community Living, Aging and Protective Services Division.

For more information, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Cherrie Nutley at 580-562-5032.

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HIGHER GROUND

God's Rescue Plan

Jim Morrison

and tears, "take this cup from me. Yet not what I will but what you will." (Mk 14:36) It wasn't an act of anger but of love. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."

The Apostle Paul describes this operation in his letter to the Colossians in 1:13. "For he rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Sometimes as I visit with inmates at the county jail, one will acknowledge that his arrest was a good thing. They will say that they were rescued from a pathway of self-destruction.

But it is not just inmates that need to be rescued. Left to ourselves, given the right circumstances, we are all capable of gross acts against our fellow man and God. Paul describes it as being under the "dominion of darkness." That does not mean that everyone is equally corrupt in their actions. But it does mean that every part of our nature has been tainted and stained with a bent toward living for ourselves instead of for God. This is Satan's plan. Money, education, better housing, etc. cannot change the inner heart where our will resides. Only the effects of the cross can bring redemption. It was there that deliverance from ourselves was made possible by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

We were redeemed, bought with a price. Only as we receive that gift by grace through faith can we be transferred into the kingdom where Christ reigns supreme. It is there that our sins are transferred to Christ and we receive in return His righteousness. (II Cor. 5:21) But it does not end there. For the Christ-follower, the journey has just begun. We were made for a mission. Charles Spurgeon, great English pastor said, "Every Christian is a missionary or he is an imposter." The Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations" is extended to all believers. The disciples must have been overwhelmed by such a departing command from their leader, and so are we today. Adoniram Judson, America's first missionary, labored thirteen years in Burma before he had enough believers to form a church. Yet at the end of his life he could identify 7,000 believers in Burma, a land where no one had even heard the name of Jesus.

We are part of God's continuing rescue operation. Will we join the fray or will we play it safe? Ships are safe in the harbor, but that's not what ships were made for. Prayer: God, heal our hearts and minds that we might catch your vision and passion for our world.

To comment: 1580-302-1142

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

Step Up Transitional Living to Host Night Circus Masquerade March 30th

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THE NIGHT CIRCUS MASQUERADE

Saturday, March 30, 2024
at Sorelle

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<https://www.stepuptransitional.org/events>



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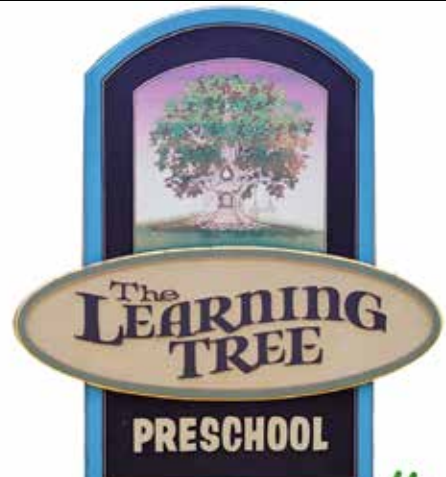
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EOE

Step Up Transitional Living's annual gala celebrating donors and volunteers of the charitable organization is bringing the circus back to Sorelle in Thomas with The Night Circus Masquerade on Saturday, March 24. The Gala event promises "a whimsical evening of wonder with stilt walkers, jugglers, strolling performers, aerialists, and an amazing fire show," according to the website for the event.

The Night Circus Masquerade is open to the public from 6:30 pm to 10 pm with tickets priced at \$75 per person. Tickets include dinner, cocktails, and a night filled with circus performances.

For individuals and organizations interested in providing more financial support to the Step-Up program there are also VIP donation tiers that offer perks at the event including access to the VIP reception from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, as well as additional tickets to the event, recognition during the event, and exclusive performances by the event's performers. VIP donation tiers range from \$300 to \$5000.

"This year, we're inviting people, if they want to, to wear a masquerade mask, and if they don't want to, then that's okay too. It's kind of just a time to have fun and dress to dazzle and be comfortable. We just want people to have a good time," said Dr. Amy Barnett, Board President and founder of the organization.

Step Up uses the proceeds garnered from the annual event to "provide transitional housing, case management services and employment services to youth that are either homeless or at risk of being homeless from ages 18 to 24," said Dr. Barnett.

Step Up began as a means to assist youth aging out of the foster system and teach them valuable life skills as well as set them on a pathway to success. Dr. Amy Barnett, while volunteering for the non-profit organization CASA, observed the growing homelessness crisis in America affecting the lives of young adults in Western Oklahoma with her own eyes. Barnett saw young people couch surfing or even sleeping in alleyways without a place to call home and had to do something about it.

"The need is larger than what most people recognize," said Dr. Barnett. "I think people are surprised to know that there are homeless youth in our area."

Since 2018 Step-Up has helped over 20 disadvantaged youths around Western Oklahoma by "providing transitional housing and support services; including education, counseling, and employment," according to their website. The program "is designed to move individuals from homelessness to self-sufficiency by addressing the individual's total life situation."

"We work really hard with them to get them independent," said Dr. Barnett and "I would like people to recognize there is a huge need for support."

For individuals or organizations interested in supporting Step Up you can visit their website stepuptransitions.org/get-involved to donate or volunteer your time to help at-risk youth around Western Oklahoma.

Tickets for the Step Up Gala "The Night Circus Masqueraded" can be purchased online at stepuptransitions.org/events.html

ELK CITY SCHOOLS / OPAA - Elk City schools will have their child nutrition services managed by OPAA food management beginning March 1st says superintendent Mike Sparks. Sparks hopes to finish the 2023-24 school year under OPAA's supervision so that the school district can "work through any bumps in the road we might have. [That way], when we do start school next year, we'll have all of those bugs worked out and be ready to roll. OPAA contracts with school districts in several states including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas.

WEATHERFORD SCHOOLS / HARMON - The Weatherford School Board of Education recently approved the hire of Mark Harmon as the school's newest Superintendent during a special meeting. Harmon comes to Weatherford after spending 2 years as Superintendent for Hobart Public Schools. "[My family and I] love Hobart. We love the relationships we've built down there. It's a great place to raise a family, to live," said Harmon It wasn't easy to make this decision, but [...] Weatherford may be the only place I would have ever left Hobart for." Richard Brownen has served the current school year as Interim Superintendent. Harmon will assume the duties of Weatherford Schools' superintendent on July 1.

SWOSU / #2 STATE RANKING - Officials at Southwestern Oklahoma State University say SWOSU is ranked second highest in the state by U.S. News and World Report for online bachelor's degree programs. SWOSU is only behind the University of Oklahoma for 2024 Best Online Programs. Online programs at SWOSU in RN-to-BSN nursing, Health Information Management, and Organizational Leadership make up the majority of the university's undergraduate degrees that can be completed 100% online. The online programs at SWOSU are ranked 128th in the nation.

SWOSU / FUTURE ENROLLMENT - Officials at Southwestern Oklahoma State University say enrollment for the 2024 Summer and Fall semesters is now open for athletes, student employees, juniors with at least 60 hours completed, seniors with at least 90 hours completed, and also graduate students. Students are asked to reach out to their advisors if they have any questions about enrollment.

BECKHAM CO / HOWELL - A Beckham County District Court Judge has denied a motion to dismiss any charges against 53-year-old Michael Scott Howell, who allegedly sent threatening messages by e-mail to a Sweetwater school official. The judge reset the jury trial for March 26.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!



OH HAPPY Day TO YOU!

Have a birthday, anniversary, or other special event? Email us at sales@westokweekly.com to announce it here for FREE!

Alcohol causing problems? Alcoholics Anonymous meets daily at 928 W. Main, Weatherford. Call (580) 819-0727 for more information. **Christian Free Store** - Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK, Community Center** "Bible Study," Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public. **OK Parkinson's Alliance**, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford's Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. Questions? Contact OK Parkinson's Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@OKpa.org. **Iron Sharpens Iron** is a Christ-centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for Feb. 28 - Shelby Carpenter, Steve Corbin, Yasmine Garcia, Grady Gaunt, Carter Mackey, Mark Payne, Steven Shankles, Cheri Thomason, Rick Thompson, Lisa Turney; **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 Ralston, Lee Rivera, Stacie Sawatsky, Michael Sewell, Chad Skinner, Tammy Wolsey; **March 3** - Keeli Cartwright, Douglas Cavanaugh, Roger Clonce, Kelly Earles, Logan Gemarchlich, Nova Long, James McKey, Lorri Menke, Michele McMullin 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, Calvin Lowrance, Betty Lyle, Zachary Maddox, Justin McCloy, Ryan Parman, Whitney Smith.

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Full-Sized Headboard - Silver Beaded. \$25. 580-808-5057.

Baby Crib Mattress - Like new. \$50. 580-613-0108.

Mitsubishi TV - 93" CRT. \$499. Super Bowl Special Price! 580-772-7997

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Adjustable Electric Fan - Both head and feet can be adjusted. Full-Size. Call 580-819-0484 for details and pricing.

Queen-Size Headboard - Match Leather. \$50. 580-808-5057.

Entertainment Center, \$100. Gun Cabinet, \$500. White Armoire, \$275. 580-330-1437.

Furniture! 7-Piece Tiger Oak Dinette Pioneer hutch buffet table and 4 chairs. Devilled glass and mirrors fruit motif. \$2,000. Call 580-772-4297.

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Chairs for Sale! Swivel (\$25), Dining, Cushioned, Rocking (\$65) and Patio Chairs. 580-613-0108.

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Baby Grand Piano - 2nd Owner. Vose and Sons. \$900. 580-613-0108

Chairs for Sale! Swivel, Dining, Rocking, and Patio Chairs. Call 580-613-0108 for details.

23 Dinner Plates - 75 cents each. 580-613-0108.

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STIHL Weed Trimmer - Never used. \$275. 580-774-8678.

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Weed Eaters - 10" Craftsman tablesaw. 580-819-1399.

Troybilt Garden Tiller - 7HP motor, like new. \$600. 580-729-0001.

Lincoln Stick Welder - Comes with leads. \$300. 580-660-5978.

For Sale - Hoe, sprayer, ladders, post hole diggers, golf cart, kerosene stove and tanks, heaters, 245/60R18 tires, folding chairs, hand tools, work bench, lawn mower. 405-246-8952.

ANIMALS AND PETS

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Softball Standouts Hill and Hewitt Sweep Bulldogs of the Week

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Asst. AD

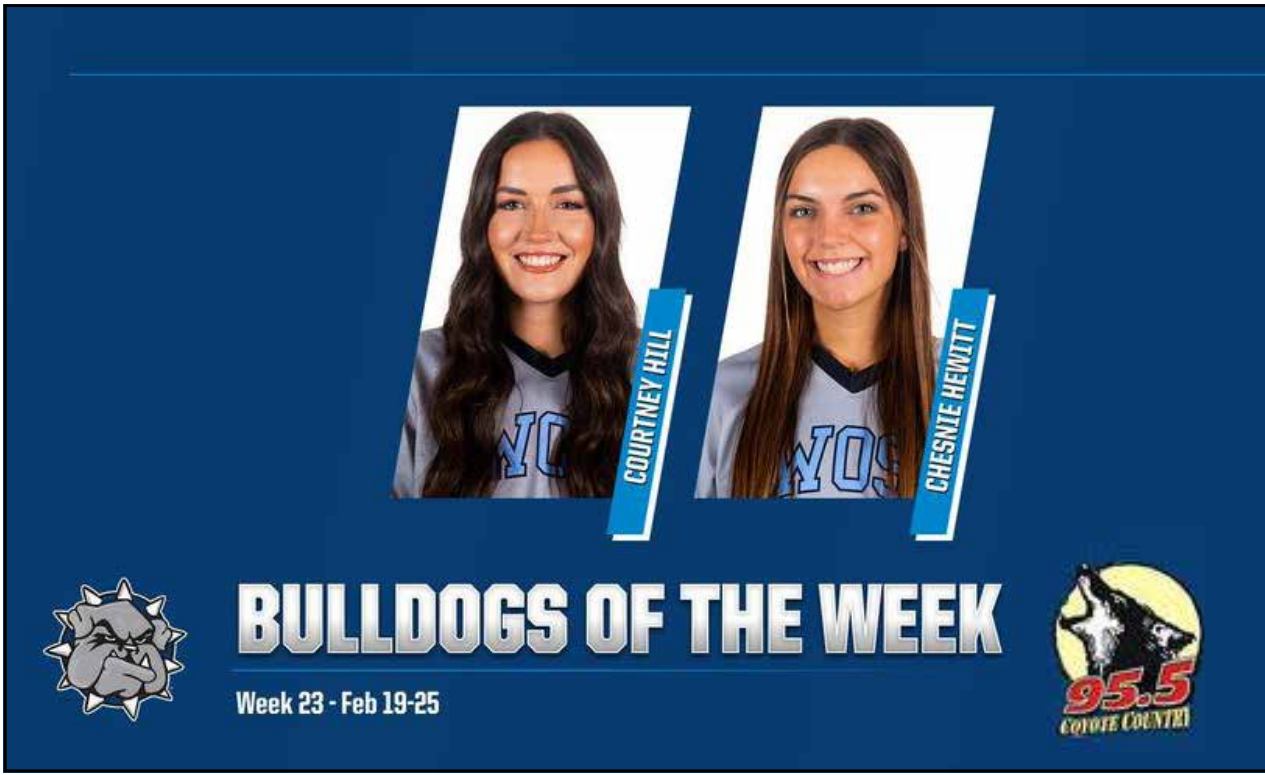
SWOSU Softball standouts Courtney Hill and Chesnie Hewitt have been named the latest Bulldogs of the Week. The weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media, the home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Courtney Hill (Fort Gibson, Oklahoma) threw SWOSU's first no-hitter since 2019 to earn her first win of the season.

Hill logged five hitless innings against Ouachita in game two of the series, striking out six and walking two in an 8-0 run-rule win.

Chesnie Hewitt (Deleware, Oklahoma) was SWOSU's top hitter over the weekend, finishing the Ouachita series with a .714 batting average and a .778 on-base percentage.

Hewitt was 5-for-7 on the weekend with a home run and a double. She walked twice, homered and doubled, had three RBIs, scored three times, and stole two bases to help lift the Bulldogs to a perfect 3-0 start to GAC play.



RFBO's 2023 Holiday Match Will Provide More Than 12 Million Meals



Austin Prickett
RFBO Marketing Manager

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is pleased to announce that the annual Holiday Match raised more than \$3.2 million for Oklahomans facing hunger.

Presenting sponsor APMEX and the Cresap Family Foundation and other generous donors matched all donations dollar for dollar up to \$450,000.

KOCO 5 News partnered with the Regional Food Bank as the official television partner throughout the match.

"We are so grateful to everyone who supports our vision of an Oklahoma where no one goes hungry this holiday season, providing nutritious foods to Oklahomans who face hunger," said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank. "Each donation we receive means one more

opportunity to impact the lives of our food insecure neighbors. The success of the Holiday Match would not have been possible without so many generous donors."

Gifts from APMEX and the Cresap Family Foundation and other donors matched every donation made up to \$450,000, between Nov. 15 and Jan. 15.

"At APMEX, we believe in being a part of the community," said APMEX founder Scott Thomas. "That is why we've partnered with the Regional Food Bank for over a decade. We are thankful for the opportunity to do our part in making a difference."

The gifts from the Holiday Match campaign will help the Regional Food Bank provide more than 12.8 million meals for residents in central and western Oklahoma living with hunger.

"We, along with our fellow Oklahomans, remain dedicated to fighting hunger in our state" said John Cresap, president of the Cresap Family Foundation. "We are immensely proud to partner with our community in support of the mission of the Regional Food Bank."

KOCO 5 served as the official television partner of the Holiday Match featured the impact of the Regional Food Bank's programs throughout the match with news coverage and on-air promotion.

"The Holiday Match Drive is a fundamental aspect of our mission to serve our community," said Brent Hensley, president and general manager of KOCO 5. "I am deeply moved by the passion and generosity of our viewers to help others who are less fortunate."

Learn more about the fight against hunger in Oklahoma by visiting rfbo.org.

Local Optometrist Receives High Accolades from OAOP for 2023



Dr. Tyson Allard of True Vision Optometric Group of Weatherford and Altus has been named optometric physician of the year by the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP). Dr. Allard has been practicing in Weatherford for the past 6 years. "You never expect to get anything—you never want to," says Dr. Allard in a recent interview following the news. For me, I always focus on "how can I be better?" [...] I've always valued being involved in our profession. I've always wanted to be a good mentor to other doctors."



Pioneer Fiber Makes Generous Donation to Connections Food & Resource



Pioneer makes a \$500 donation to Connections Food and Resource Center. Pictured left to right is Director Elizabeth Amen, and Pioneer representative Cindy Harris and Connections Assistant Director Eddie Bennett.

Wings of Time, Volume II - The Air Revolution of the Early-Mid 1900s



Bessie Coleman in 1923.

Courtesy US Library of Congress



North American Aviation's Dutch Kindelberger and Lee Atwood.

Courtesy SDASM Archives

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Welcome to the next installment of the series Wings of Time! In the last section, we went through the forerunners of aviation, Charles F. Willard, Clyde Cessna, and Joseph Bartle. Now, we'll continue with a few more early aviation icons. As this series unfolds, it is safe to say that everyone mentioned absolutely stands among the rest as equal faces in history. I greatly encourage you to check out more about these people, because there is a great tapestry of connection between each one. A veritable web of awe leading between what each accomplished and how they were influenced by one another. The world of aviation is close-knit, and the camaraderie is contagious. Without further ado, let's soar into the past!

Bessie "Queen Bess" Coleman was undoubtedly one of the most influential people in the world in the 1920s. Bessie, born in Texas, spent time visiting her father in Oklahoma and later attended Langston University for a term before migrating north to Chicago where her dreams of flight continued to build. Like many others, she faced difficulties with opportunities as pilots would refuse to give her instruction due to segregations dictated by law. Luckily, Bessie met Robert Abbott, the publisher for the Chicago Defender, who would tell her flying stories of pilots coming home from World War I. After her brother came home from serving in the war in France, he left her with the remark, "I know something you'll never do...fly!" From there, she was determined. After Robert encouraged her to study abroad, Bessie received financial backing from the Chicago Defender, learned French, and attended the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) school in France where she graduated and earned her license on June 15, 1921, making her the first African American woman pilot.

Bessie returned to the states, flew in an airshow for veterans of the all-black 369th Infantry Regiment under the billing as "The world's greatest woman flier." And fly she did. For several years, she garnered adoration for her daring demonstrations of loops, figure eights, and low ground flights. Eyes everywhere wanted to witness her myriad of stunts, and she made sure to never lose her passion for equality by only agreeing to perform if the crowd was desegregated. Unfortunately, a tragedy struck in 1926 when her plane unexpectedly dealt with jammed controls leading to the loss of her life. The world lost a talented and passionate flier, but her legacy continues, inspiring millions. In the 1930s,

William Powell established the Bessie Coleman Aero Flying Club in Los Angeles and agreed with Bessie that aviation was a pathway to integration. In Chicago, the Challenger Air Pilots Association sponsored annual memorial flights over "Brave Bessie's" grave. In 1992, NASA astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison carried a photo of Bessie Coleman with her on her first mission in the Space Shuttle Endeavor as she became the first African American woman in space. In her own words, Bessie Coleman truly meant, "You've never lived until you've flown."

Our second influential pilot was also the second woman pilot in Oklahoma licensed by the state and Oklahoma City's best stunt flyer. In 1931, Dorothy Barrack Pressler Morgan earned her license after learning to fly an open-cockpit American Eagle plane. Her license was signed by Orville Wright who could tell she had all the telltale signs of a pilot, specifically, a sense of humor. During the '30s, aviation grew exponentially regardless of the devastation wrought on by the Great Depression. In the early years there were no airfields, navigators, or towers. Morgan even explained "those planes didn't have automatic brakes... you dragged your tail to make them stop." Morgan was a powerhouse in the cockpit, participating in barnstorming, exhibitions, and air races. She entered the first women's air race in Oklahoma City in November of 1930 and won in front of a crowd of six thousand prompting articles about her speed and skill.

Morgan became fast friends with other notable pilots like Wiley Post and Amelia Earhart. Wiley returned to Oklahoma City after his flight around the world and flew a new "Wiley Post" version Curtiss-Wright biplane. He offered her a chance to fly the plane after familiarizing her with the inner knobs and gauges, and to her brief surprise at the offer he responded, "you can fly as good as those fellows can."

Morgan and Amelia's relationship was extremely close. They first met flying for Oklahoma City's Milk and Ice Fund Air Show in 1931 where they both put on a dazzling display. Amelia flew first and Morgan later captivated the crowd with a series of death-defying stunts. The show was the city's highest in the 20-year history of the fund. Amelia and Morgan continued their friendship from that first meeting with letters, exhibitions, and support as they worked together to inspire the next generation of women pilots. Morgan believed, "any woman that could ride a horse could fly." Together, they were apart of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of licensed women

pilots. Earhart served as the first president and Morgan acted as Secretary for 1937-1938. The group had many publications sent out to the members bi-monthly about the organization to keep everyone updated on events, development, scholarships, and support. The group is headquartered out of Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City and the 99s Museum of Women Pilots is located at their headquarters.

The unwavering acceleration of aviation was just beginning. In 1928, a young engineer in Oklahoma built a new low-wing aircraft dubbed the "Okay Monoplane." The innovation was just the first in many groundbreaking designs John "Lee" Atwood would create. Atwood's creations were phenomenal and numerous. According to the National Aviation Hall of Fame, in his lifetime, he was "directly responsible for the design of more aircraft than any one person." Each creation was astounding and revolutionized the manpower in the air with each production. To name a few, he designed the P-51 Mustang fighter giving air superiority back to the Allies; the B-25 Mitchell bomber used in the famous Doolittle Raid; the T-6 Texan flown by almost every US and British airman in WWII and designed from his original Okay Airplane; and he revolutionized humanity in space when he worked on the X-15 hypersonic plane which set speed and altitude records. The X-15 set an official world record for highest speed ever by a crewed and powered aircraft that remains unbroken. The X-15 program had pilots reach the atmosphere hitting the criteria to be considered astronauts. Soon, Atwood took that knowledge and developed the Redstone rocket used in the Apollo program for the first American astronauts. Atwood and his leadership led North American Aviation to 3 Collier Trophies, a presidential citation from Harry S. Truman for his contributions in WWII, the Air Force Association's Hap Arnold Trophy, and the Wright brothers Memorial Trophy from the National Aeronautic Association. He was inducted into the International Air & Space Hall of Fame and the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Bessie, Morgan, and Atwood share a trait of revolutionizing flight. Displaying skill and cunning, they showed that in the air, anyone can be a pilot and that ingenuity creates magic. Next time, we'll cover Charles Lindbergh's historic flight in the Spirit of St. Louis and his inspiring "Lindbergh Boom" of aviation. He'll be featured alongside the youngest pilot in the United States at the time, Eula Pearl Carter Scott from Marlow, Oklahoma, who flew solo at 13 years old.

Dora Miller, WOCS Awards Students of the Month for December, January



Jena Skarda / WOCS

December Students of the Month at Western Oklahoma Christian School (WOCS) in Clinton are Tripp Miller of Weatherford (left) and Paige Sewell of Clinton



Jena Skarda / WOCS

January Students of the Month at Western Oklahoma Christian School (WOCS) in Clinton are Liam Schmidt of Corn (left) and Elisabeth Knop of Cordell.



Jena Skarda / WOCS

December Students of the Month at WOCS in Weatherford are Jett Hinz (left) and Ella Daniel, both of Weatherford.



Jena Skarda / WOCS

January Students of the Month at WOCS in Weatherford are Dani Boelte (left) and Trey Brownen both of Weatherford.

SPORTS *Presented by:*

Senior Night: Bulldog Teams Beat Harding as GAC Tournaments Approach



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Asst. AD

SWOSU Women's Basketball had a productive Senior Day, knocking off No. 3/5 Harding 54-51 to guarantee a spot in the upcoming Great American Conference Tournament.

It's the program's first win over a ranked opponent since October 30, 2021, and defense was the foundation for the result. SWOSU limited Harding to 29% shooting from the field – a season low for them – and surrendered just three three-point makes on 20 attempts.

Additionally, SWOSU Men's Basketball secured an 80-77 overtime victory at home on Senior Day over Harding. With the regular season dwindling down, the win proves to be crucial to push SWOSU to the nine-win mark in GAC play and keep them firmly in the top-8 of the league with two games left to play next week.

SWOSU will close the home portion next Thursday against East Central before playing the regular season finale at Southern Nazarene on Saturday. The GAC Tournament will be held March 7-10 in Shawnee, OK inside FireLake Arena.

OSSAA Basketball Playoffs Whittle Down Teams Heading Towards State



Courtesy of Kelley Schmidt Photography

Both Weatherford Basketball teams returned from Cushing with their heads held high. The Weatherford boys were crowned Regional Champions, while the Weatherford girls brought home a Consolation plaque. Area play will begin Thursday at 1pm for the Lady Eagles against Plainview. The boys will face Blanchard Friday night at 7:30pm. Both games will be hosted in Hennessey and streamed on wright.media on EaglesTV.

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The Oklahoma High School Basketball Playoffs are heating up as we move to the final rounds of the postseason. On the Wright Media Network several teams postseason hopes were dashed, but a couple of teams were able to advance towards the final stages of the playoffs.

Starting in Class 2A basketball, last weeks regional playoffs began on Thursday in Merritt pitting two Wright Media network schools, Sayre and Watonga, against each other in elimination matches in the girls and boys brackets. In the girls game the Watonga Lady Eagles were victorious defeating the Sayre Lady Eagles 63-39. The Watonga Eagle boys followed up with a victory of their own defeating the Sayre Eagles 47-42.

The Watonga Eagles girls and boys then traveled to Fairview on Friday where the both teams would have to face-off against the hosts, the Fairview Yellowjackets. The Watonga Lady Eagles were able to secure a victory against Fairview defeating the Lady Yellowjackets 44-42 and securing a place in the Regional consolation championship game. However, the Watonga Eagle boys were not so fortunate in their game against the Fairview Yellowjackets, falling 37-89.

The Watonga Lady Eagles luck would run out in their regional consolation championship game as they were defeated by Hooker lady Bulldogs 37-64.

Moving to class 4A basketball, the Weatherford Eagles and the Clinton Red Tornadoes traveled Cushing and Bethany, respectively, for their regional tournament play.

In Bethany the Clinton Red Tornado boys would play Western Athletic Conference rival the Elk City Elks on Thursday. The Red Tornadoes defeated the Elks 43-37 moving them on to face Bridge Creek on Friday. The Red Tornadoes were eliminated from playoff contention, however, in their game against Bridge Creek, falling 45-60.

In Cushing, the Weatherford Eagle girls and boys played against the Mannford Pirates on Thursday to start their regional tournament play. The Weatherford Lady Eagles were unable to handle the Mannford Pirates losing 26-48 moving them to the consolation side of the bracket. The Weatherford Eagle boys fared better with an 82-33 victory against the Mannford Pirates advancing them to the Regional Championship.

On Friday the Weatherford Lady Eagles defeated the Oologah-Talala Mustangs 71-37 advancing the lady eagles to the Regional Consolation Championship game.

The Weatherford Lady Eagles played against the Woodward Boomers in the consolation championship on Saturday. They defeated the Lady Boomers 50-30 claiming a regional consolation championship. The Weatherford Eagle Boys also claimed a new piece of hardware winning their Regional Championship by defeating the Community Christian Royals 63-35.

Both Weatherford Eagle teams will advance to the Area tournament at Hennessey this week. The Lady Eagles are set to play Plainview Indians at 1pm on Thursday with the Eagle boys playing in the Area championship game at 7:30pm on Friday against the Blanchard Lions.

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