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## Custer County Conflict Winner to be Awarded Gator from Wright Media



The 2024 football match-up between the Clinton Red Tornadoes and Weatherford Eagles marks the 100th meeting between the teams in what has since been dubbed the Custer County Conflict. The official record of the series stands at 68 wins for Clinton, 25 wins for Weatherford, and 5 ties.

To honor the rivalry, which has existed for over a century, Wright Media along with corporate sponsors are giving away a John Deere Gator to the winner.


There will be also tailgating before the Custer County Conflict this Friday, September 27th at Woody Roof field in Weatherford.

Historically, the first meeting between the two teams was in 1921 with Clinton taking home a 20-0 victory. In recent years, the competition has been evenly matched with the teams trading victories back and forth since 2020.

Kickoff is set for 7pm on Friday, and you'll be able to watch all the action live on Wright.Media. Coverage of the Custer County Conflict will be available on Clinton Red Tornadoes TV with Dennis Smith on the call, or alternatively on Weatherford Eagles TV with Chuck Ramsey on the call. For more details just visit Wright.Media

**The Gator was purchased with the help of:**

- The Clinton Chamber of Commerce
- Southwestern Oklahoma State University
- Napa of Weatherford
- CJ's Southwest Tire
- South West Air and Heat
- McDonald's of Clinton and Weatherford
- Cummins Auto Group
- Four Seasons Heating and Air
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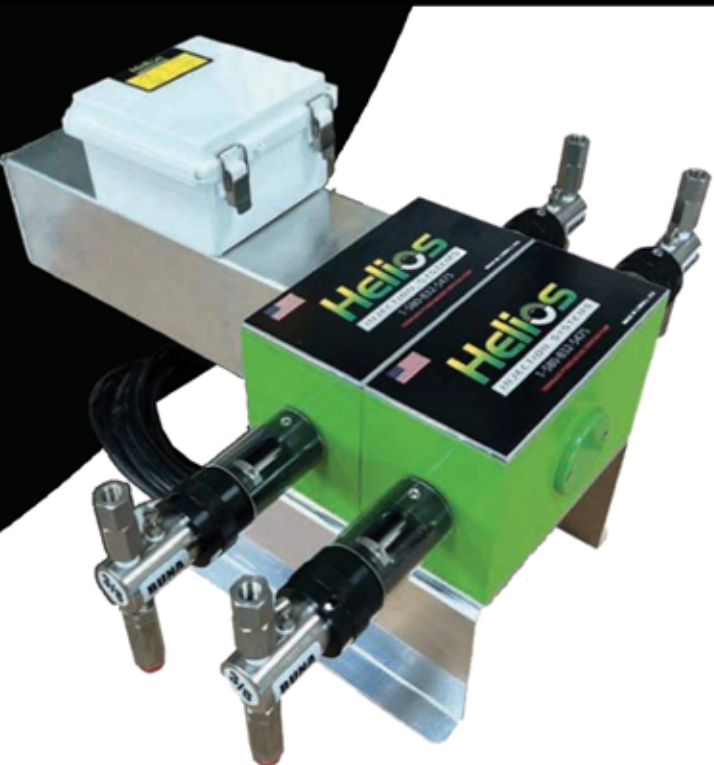
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**Cindy Box**

Cynthia Ranae Box (Cheek), Cindy, 58, passed away peacefully in her sleep on September 13, 2024, at her home in Clinton, Oklahoma.



Cindy was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma on December 29, 1965, she was the daughter of Fredrick and Louetta Cheek. She attended Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma studying education with the dream of becoming a teacher.

She discovered her passion for insurance and began her career with State Farm Insurance in their regional office in Dallas, Texas. She later became a State Farm agent with her office located in Clinton, Oklahoma in 1987.

Cindy enjoyed trail riding, nature, animal rescue support, was an avid Trump fan, and her farm life. Her pug, Pugga, meant the world to her and they welcomed a new addition, a Scottie named Murphy, to their family and every day she made sure they were put first. Cindy and Pugga are now reunited side-by-side.

In her farm life, her horse, Rosie, was her biggest pride and joy. Many stories she would share involved riding Rosie through the trails, and she always looked forward to the next trail riding trip. When Rosie wasn't bucking her off, she would run through barbwire fences, or trying to escape the land. Rosie was always keeping Cindy on her toes.

Cyndy was a strong supporter of animals, and was an active contributor to her favorite animal rescue organization, Fetch Inc.

Although, with all her hobbies and animals, her most prize title was being called "Aunt Cindy" to her beloved niece and nephew, Taylor and Kellen. Cindy loved her times with Taylor and Kellen when they were little.

Cindy loved taking Taylor and Kellen to the Oklahoma State Fair and allowing them to eat whatever they wanted whether it was cotton candy for breakfast or corndogs on a stick, as long as they followed her only rule: you had to hold her hand at all times. She loved filling them up with sugar and bringing them back to her brother, Jimmy.

She will be remembered most by her contagious laugh and always having something funny to say, her independence and being direct with how she felt, and of course her stubbornness, she must get that from the Cheek side, but the true Cindy was the most caring and giving person to all her family and friends. She always put everyone else first.

Cindy was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents James and Hellen Cheek of Vinita, Oklahoma, maternal grandparents Pleas and Louisa Trickey of Big Cabin, Oklahoma and Uncle Harold Cheek of Vinita, Oklahoma, Aunt Lora Mathis of Norman, Oklahoma, Aunt Ann Martin of Joplin, Missouri, and Rose Wolff of Jenks, Oklahoma.

Left to carry on her memory, she is survived by her parents, Fredrick and Louetta Cheek of Lawton, Oklahoma; brother Jimmy Cheek and wife Chrissy of Bixby, Oklahoma; niece Taylor Cheek of Princeton, Kansas; nephew Kellen Cheek of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Uncle George Cheek and wife Linda of Muscle Shoales, Alabama; and two aunts: Reba Cook and husband Jim of Richmond, Texas; and Dixie Mitchell and husband Jerry of Tulsa, Oklahoma, as well as a host of cousins and close friends.

**Sol Hatfield**

Sol Dixon Hatfield Jr., born on November 24, 1941, in Pueblo, Colorado, to Solomon Dixon Sr. and Margaret (Taylor) Hatfield, passed away on Monday, September 16, 2024.



A devoted husband, Sol shared many joyful moments with his beloved wife, Patricia, as they often enjoyed trips to Oklahoma City together.

Sol served his country and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1964.

He was a dedicated Mason and a faithful member of First Christian Church in Elk City where he served as a deacon for many years. In recent years, he attended First Baptist Church in Elk City, continuing his commitment to his faith and community.

He enjoyed his vegetable garden where he and Patricia would spend time together canning the harvest. One of Sol's other past times was spending time on the farm raising and nurturing his cattle.

He cherished spending time with his grandchildren, especially taking them fishing a hobby that brought him great joy and created lasting memories.

Sol's life was marked by love, faith, and family. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Sol was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 58 years, Patricia and his sister, Edith Maurine Jewell. He is survived by two sons, Matt Hatfield and wife Sherry, son, Michael Hatfield, one sister, Valerie Jean Driscoll and husband, Donald, three grandchildren, Kelby and Eli Hatfield and Libby Harp.

**Kay Cagle**

Kay Cagle, 81, formerly of Binger, OK was born on September 2, 1943, in Chickasha, Oklahoma, to Bill and Pearl (Cobb) Smith. She passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at Integrus Hospice House in Oklahoma City.



Kay graduated from Cement High School and married the love of her life, Lee Cagle, on September 8, 1961, at her parents' home in Cement, Oklahoma. The couple lived in Cyril before moving to Binger in 1962, where they made their home for many years. A devoted wife, mother, and homemaker, Kay also worked as a head peanut grader every fall for over 40 years.

She enjoyed visiting with friends and family. A talented singer and musician, Kay and Lee played and sang with the Steven's Family for many years. She was a dedicated and active member of Lookeba New Covenant Church and Binger Church of God.

Kay's love for her faith and her family was evident in everything she did, and she was passionate about sharing her love for Jesus with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She loved singing and listening to music, and her joyful spirit will be remembered by all who knew her.

Kay is survived by her sister, Cheryl Flow of Edmond, OK, as well as many nieces, nephews, and beloved friends.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Pearl Smith; her husband, Lee Cagle; her sister, Carolyn Vree Walker; her brothers, Billy Jean Smith and William Carol Smith; and two great-granddaughters, Penelope Olinger and Stormi Harris.

**Michael McKinney**

Michael Ray McKinney was born September 25, 1972, in Chickasha, to Billy Junior and Lucille (Taylor) McKinney and passed away Saturday, September 14, 2024, at Weatherford Regional Hospital, at the age of 51 years, 11 months and 19 days.



Michael was raised and attended school in Hydro, and graduated from Hydro High School in 1990.

Michael married Melissa Reynolds in 1994 and to this marriage two children were born, Mattea McKinney and Randy McKinney.

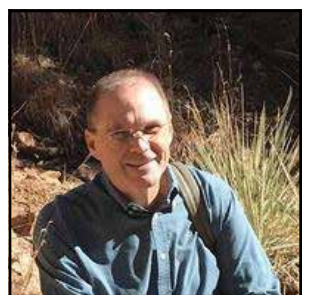
He loved sports and loved talking to anyone about the sport in question. Michael has worked and managed Dollar General and Family Dollar stores for over 30 years.

Michael is survived by his daughter, Mattea McKinney of Weatherford; his son, Randy McKinney of Bridgeport; his two grandsons, Dawson McKinney and Kayden Eddings; his father, Bill McKinney and wife, Beverly of Sulphur; his mother, Lucille Boeckman of Weatherford; his brother, Alvin McKinney and wife, Alice of Snowball, AR; his nephew, Alvin McKinney of Cache; and his niece, Morgan McKinney of Cache.

He was preceded in death by his step-father, Bernard Boeckman.

**Mike Walkup**

Michael "Mike" Grant Walkup was born March 13, 1962, in Hollis, OK to Richard Grant and Pamela Kay (Caswell) Walkup and passed away suddenly on Sunday morning, September 15, 2024, at the age of 62 years, 6 months and 2 days.



Mike grew up in Hollis, OK and graduated as high school president and valedictorian in 1980.

He married his high school sweetheart, Lauren Delle DeVries, in October of the same year. They owned the local grocery store, then went on to own the Dixie One Stop, Boomerang Restaurant, and Little Friends Daycare in Hollis.

He went back to college to earn his pharmacy degree, relocating himself and his family to Weatherford in 2003. Mike graduated with his doctorate in Pharmacy in 2005, working at Pharmcare in Hydro from 2008 to 2015, followed by working at More than Medicine in Weatherford until his passing.

He served faithfully as a deacon for First Baptist Church in Weatherford and taught Sunday School for almost two decades. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend.

Mike is survived by his wife, Lauren Walkup; children, Ashley Walkup; Michelle (Walkup) Compton and her husband, Blake Compton; and Morgan Walkup and his wife, Chelsea Walkup; his grandchildren, Addie, Levi, and Judah Compton, and June and Heidi Walkup; his sister, Chris (Walkup) Kennedy and wife, Jill Kennedy; and many other beloved friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his brother, John Lee Walkup; his parents, Richard Grant and Pamela Kay Walkup; and his grandparents, Dewey and Orene Caswell, and Ray and Mary Helen Walkup.

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<b>Sunny</b>  H: 85° L: 55° <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Sunny</b>  H: 82° L: 55° <b>Thursday</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>  H: 83° L: 58° <b>Friday</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>  H: 80° L: 57° <b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunny</b>  H: 86° L: 59° <b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mostly Sunny</b>  H: 86° L: 56° <b>Monday</b>	<b>Mostly Sunny</b>  H: 78° L: 52° <b>Tuesday</b>
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**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

The General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum will host a Virtual Silent Auction as part of its annual Celebration of Freedom, taking place on Saturday, September 28th, at Hobart's Harvest Fest.

The auction will feature exclusive experiences, memorabilia gift baskets, jewelry, art, and more, with all proceeds benefiting the museum's educational programs. These include the Inspired Leadership Challenge, Four Star Leadership with General Tommy Franks, the Inspired Leadership Experience, and the Mobile Classroom & Roadshow. Full event details and auction information are available on the museum's website.

The Celebration of Freedom is a major community event in Hobart. This year's festivities include a Lil Mr. & Miss Pageant, exotic petting zoo, Poker Run, hayrides, chalk contest, and a patriot parade. Attendees can also enjoy a variety of shopping and food vendors, family-friendly games, and live entertainment.

A highlight of the day is the Veteran Tribute, scheduled for 1:00 p.m. at the Rotary Pavilion in Hobart's downtown square. Visitors are also encouraged to explore the museum, which features military memorabilia from around the world, including

one of only two Medal of Honor awards given in Oklahoma, a significant collection of challenge coins, rare historical artifacts, photographs, and videos.

The museum and its programs, founded by General Tommy Franks and his wife Cathryn, serve to honor the sacrifices made by U.S. military families and to support the next generation of leaders. The Mobile Classroom & Roadshow travels to nine counties, showcasing 25 cultures from Africa to the Middle East, reflecting General Franks' experiences as Commander in Chief of U.S. Central Command.

For those interested in learning more about the leadership and outreach programs, including the Four Star Leadership summer program, which selects 70 of the nation's top high school students for leadership training with national and international figures, details can be found on the museum's website.

"Leaders are not born; they are developed, and it is my passion to [create] a world-class facility to inspire the next generation of leaders."

- General Tommy Franks

For sign-ups, auction participation, and program information, visit the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum website.

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## HIGHER GROUND

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Many letters written from prison have achieved notoriety years after they were written. We can think of Martin Luther King Jr. "Letters from a Birmingham Prison." John Bunyon's classic, "Pilgrim's Progress" was composed while he was serving a sentence brought against him for preaching the gospel outside the state church. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote "Letters and Papers from Prison" while awaiting his execution at the hands of the Nazis.

But perhaps most significant in their scope of influence are the Prison Epistles written by the Apostle Paul while imprisoned in Rome. They are the New Testament books of Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, II Timothy, and the little letter to his friend Philemon. I'm sure the lighting was poor, the temperature uncomfortable, and hygiene conditions miserable. But Paul could not contain himself. His heart was so consumed with his concern for these new churches that he must have pushed himself to the end of human strength to instruct these young churches in the

ways and truths of God.

He knew that Satan would bring divisive forces to lead them astray and destroy his efforts.

As a byproduct of his loving obedience, we have these letters to instruct us 2000 years later. While many scholars have their favorites, the Letter to the Ephesians is seen by many as the "Prince of the Epistles."

There is some confusion as to which church this letter was written. While most translations state "to the saints in Ephesus" this phrase is not in the best ancient manuscripts. Most scholars agree that it was intended to be a circular letter to be read by all the churches in the areas, then being left in the church in Ephesus since it was the largest city in the area. Nonetheless, it's timeless truths ring through the ages to strengthen all believers.

Paul's heart is poured in two prayers for the believers. He never mentions any individuals by name as he does in his other letters. He is concerned that they be unified around spiritual truth and understanding.

The two prayers he offers are found in 1:15-20 and 3:14-20. It is difficult to determine where Paul's prayers end and his teaching begin. Both these prayers warrant our sincere meditation and even memorization.

A look at a statement from each of these prayers perhaps will give you a thirst to linger long on each of them. In his first prayer he writes, "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of

wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better."

To have wisdom and the revelation of truth is in great demand today. False claims to reap votes for a partisan candidate is on display from both sides of the aisle. But that certainly extends beyond the political arena.

The devil presents himself as an angel of light to persuade us to be distracted and destroyed. Christians are very vulnerable and we tend to believe that which enhances our preconceived ideas.

The second prayer in chapter 3 has Paul asking that "out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

He goes on to say in verse 20 that he (God) is "able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us."

Note that in these prayers there is much intercession and little praise and thanksgiving. This is not to say that praise and

Thanksgiving are not important. It is that we are prone to center in on praise and thanksgiving. Intercession requires thought. "What does God want to see happen. What is the will of God in this service or in this person's life." We are prone to do that which is easiest.

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

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# LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



**Mike Smith**  
News Director

## Corn Bible Academy Football Team Defeats Sharon-Mutual Trojans

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Zach House / CBA

On Thursday, September 19th, the Corn Bible Academy (CBA) Crusaders faced off against the Sharon-Mutual Trojans. Final Score: CBA, 20-6.



Zach House / CBA

Braxton Souza (#12, pictured left) and Cruze Bittle (#70, pictured right) were highlighted as the "Players of the Game."

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**HYDRO / STORM SHELTERS** - Residents within the Hydro Fire Department's jurisdiction are being encouraged to register their storm shelters. Officials say it is a crucial step in ensuring safety during severe weather events. If you live within the Hydro Fire Jurisdiction, you can stop by Town Hall or reach out to Fire Chief Ben Slagell to get a form so your shelter can be added to Hydro's city database.

**ODOT / HENDERSON** - The Director of Operations for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Shawn Davis, says Taylor Henderson of Weatherford has accepted the role as Assistant Director of Operations at ODOT. Henderson previously served as Division 5 Maintenance Engineer and State Maintenance Engineer.

**CUSTER COUNTY CONFLICT / FOOD DRIVE** Connections Food and Resource Center in Weatherford kicked off its Custer County Conflict Food Drive in Weatherford and Clinton public schools. The food drive concludes September 27th. On that night at the Weatherford/Clinton football game, it will be revealed the total amount of collections and the school that collected the most food.

**CLINTON / EXIT 65** - Once road work begins on the new Exit 65/65a project in Clinton, it will have some impact surrounding emergency response says Fire Chief Brett Russell. The project is a significant infrastructure initiative by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) with the primary focus on rehabilitating the interchanges at Gary Boulevard and Neptune Drive.

**WEATHERFORD / KARLIN** - Former Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin, who recently retired as Fire Chief, remains with the city of Weatherford in a different capacity as Emergency Manager for the city. Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown made the announcement of Karlin taking over as Emergency Manager during a recent meeting.

**WEATHERFORD / ROTARY** - Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown was the most recent guest speaker at Rotary in Weatherford. Mayor Brown says there are some big things on the horizon for the city, including additional expansion underway at the Stafford Air & Space Museum. Brown says several road projects are winding up in the Weatherford area, including the widening of the Airport Road Bridge.

**WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!**  
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**Happy Birthday Wishes for September 25** - Stephanie Bradley, Parker Christian, Julie Funkhouser, Pat James, Kasey Jeffers, Luther Newman, Harold Tags, Jerry Waldrop, Tommy Wheeler, Micah Williams; **September 26** - Ray Bagby, Holly Bellamy, Jacqui Ivy, Whitney Littleton; **September 27** - Chandler Arriaga, Latisha Graybill, Larry Green, Erin Hinton, Justin Johnson, Fanny Lunsford, Matthew Murray, Tammy Pigg, Euline Sharp, Shelly Stephens, Vanessa Valli, Kacie Wallace, Cara Jean Williams, Jane Wilson; **September 28** - Kayla Albert, Beth Bendure, Debbie Dehn, Pam Garrison, Mark Mapel, Margaret Meek, Marylou Mejia, Debbie Mosburg, Tracy Murray, Craig Price, Ginger Reed, Kayla Royalty, Hannah Sandoval, Lexi Sheperd, Kagan Soddrie, Garla Wisdom; **Sept. 29th** - Darrell Coit, Westyn England, Bayley Forbes, Shelly Goucher, Garret Graybill, Logan Guthrie, Nicole Hom, Shawn Lindsey, Ruth Mogg, Lars Sittingbear, Trinity Sparks, Tiara Tripp, John Yelloweagle; **September 30** - Karen Bragg, Carlos Diaz, Kim Hicks, Danny Lenaburg, John Nutry, Charlotte Perry, Sharon Snider, Charlene Tanner, Randy Wynn; **October 1st** - Emma Brown, Bill Bursosky, Lexi Hamilton, Myron Lustfield, Jerald Stelting, Tracy Watkins, Josephine Whiteskunk.

# CLASSIFIEDS

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**2001 Honda 600CC** - Navy Blue. 16k miles, \$2,000. 405-892-8301

**2003 Chevy Trailblazer** - good tires. \$5,750. 580-330-3489

**4-Michelin used passenger tires** - 20 inch. 580-393-1444.

**Motorized Mountain Bike** - Comes with detachable 1-wheel trailer. Lots of extras. Low miles. \$600. 580-890-9442.

**2009 Mercury Grand Marquis LS** - \$3,750 OBO. 580-330-3489.

**For Sale** - Porsch 924, good engine. Dune Buggy frame. Buy both for \$1,000! Contact 405-639-9667.

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# 2024 SWOSU Homecoming Schedule Announced for October 25-26



**SWOSU HOMECOMING SCHEDULE**



**Homecoming Mixer**  
October 25, 6pm - 8pm  
Jerry's Diner, 1000 E Main



**"Hair of the Bulldog" Brunch**  
October 26, 10am - 2pm  
Day Conference Center



**Homecoming Parade**  
October 26, 10am - 2pm  
Downtown Weatherford



**Homecoming Tailgate**  
October 26, 10am - 2pm  
Day Conference Center

**SWOSU HOMECOMING GAME**



**KICKOFF AT 2PM**



**SCAN TO REGISTER AT**  
**SWOSU.EDU/HOMECOMING**

The 2024 Homecoming at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) is set for October 25-26. Registration is required to attend any of the key 2024 SWOSU Homecoming events, listed below. Sign up for the events you'd like to attend by scanning the QR code above.

This year's SWOSU Homecoming theme is "Dawgs Through The Decades." Longtime SWOSU benefactor MA+ Architecture is the Official Sponsor of the 2024 SWOSU Homecoming, providing generous financial support for a wide variety of gatherings, recognitions, and events during the annual celebration.

Traditionally, SWOSU honors its Fifty Year alumni with medallions during its Homecoming festivities. 1974 SWOSU graduates who would like to be recognized with Fifty Year Medallions (or other

SWOSU graduates who have not yet received their Fifty Year Medallions at previous homecomings) are advised to register for the Homecoming Brunch. This event will be held Saturday, October 26 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Timothy T. Day Business Enterprise Center, 1121 N. 7th St. Sign up to be honored by President Dr. Diana Lovell and the SWOSU Alumni Association.

Updated 2024 SWOSU Homecoming information is being published and is readily accessible online at [www.SWOSUHomecoming.com](http://www.SWOSUHomecoming.com). The site hosts a listing of events being held in conjunction with the 2024 SWOSU Homecoming.

Questions regarding the Fifty Year Medallions recognition may be directed to the staff of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. by calling 580-774-3267 or by e-mailing [alumni@swosu.edu](mailto:alumni@swosu.edu).

Key 2024 SWOSU Homecoming Events:

2024 SWOSU Homecoming Mixer

This event will be held at the Jerry's Diner, 1000 E. Main St., in Weatherford from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Friday, October 25.

2024 SWOSU Homecoming Parade

This event will be held on Saturday, October 26, 10:00 a.m., on Main St. in Weatherford and will feature various high school marching bands and floats from various organizations and businesses.

2024 SWOSU Homecoming Football game

The SWOSU Bulldogs Football team take on Southeastern on Flex-Chem Field at Milam Stadium with a 2:00 p.m. kickoff.

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# Oklahoma History: William Lawrence Boyd as “Hopalong Cassidy”



Courtesy American Heritage Center / University of Wyoming

**William Lawrence Boyd dressed for the role of “Hopalong Cassidy,” the cowboy hero featured in over 50 years of novels, films, comics, and radio and TV shows (Photo taken in California, circa 1945).**



Courtesy State Library of New South Wales

**William Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy) and his wife Grace at an event in Sydney, Australia to promote the television series with Sydney Press (November 26, 1954).**

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

Born on June 5th, 1895, William Lawrence Boyd is best known for his portrayal of the iconic Western hero Hopalong Cassidy. His journey to stardom was not a straightforward one, as Boyd experienced both meteoric rises and devastating falls in his career before finding his place as one of Hollywood’s most beloved cowboy stars

Boyd and his legendary portrayal of Cassidy paved the way for Westerns to hit their peak, providing the wholesome, morally upright hero that audiences craved.

Boyd’s early life was not marked by luxury or proximity to the film industry. Born in Ohio, his family moved frequently, and eventually settled in Tulsa, OK for a few years during his early years. After his father died when Boyd was only seven, his mother worked as a cook to support her family. Boyd worked odd jobs as a kid and there are limited records of his school life.

Eventually Boyd made his way to the land of dreams and engrossed himself in Hollywood. Boyd found his first Hollywood job as a movie extra at Universal Studios. His striking appearance, with wavy hair and chiseled features, helped him stand out from the crowd.

By 1925, he had started to land leading roles in silent films, often portraying the romantic lead. Boyd’s career truly took off with roles in films such as *The Volga Boatman* (1926) and *The Yankee Clipper* (1927), both directed by renowned filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille. These roles helped cement his status as a rising star in Hollywood, and he was quickly seen as one of the most promising actors of his time.

However, the transition from silent films to talkies in the late 1920s proved difficult for many actors, including Boyd. His career suffered during this period after a mistaken identity in 1931 further derailed his path. Boyd was confused with another actor who shared his name and had been involved in a public scandal, which led to studios becoming wary of casting him. Despite the newspaper that mistakenly used his name issuing an apology and correction, the damage was still done. This low point in his career left Boyd virtually blacklisted in Hollywood.

Boyd’s career took a dramatic turn in 1935 when he was cast as the lead in *Hop-a-Long Cassidy*, a Western film based on Clarence E. Mulford’s character from a series of novels. A casting that almost didn’t happen. Boyd was initially cast in a secondary role, but he pushed to be considered for the lead.

Unlike the rough, crude red-haired version of Cassidy in Mulford’s books, Boyd’s portrayal softened the character, making him a more honorable and heroic figure.

Boyd’s Hopalong Cassidy was a cowboy with a sense of justice, courage, and loyalty. His Cassidy had a distinctive look with his all-black attire, including a black Stetson hat, which became a signature feature of the character.

Paired with his white horse Topper, Boyd proved to be incredibly popular, and what was initially intended to be a single film turned into a franchise that included 66 feature films produced between 1935 and 1948.

His embodiment of the character became so beloved that he eventually bought the rights to the Hopalong Cassidy character, along with the film backlog, in 1944 when he saw that Republic Pictures, the studio that produced the films, was planning to sell them off after the drop in popularity.

Seen initially as a move of desperation, Boyd’s securement of the Cassidy name not only solidified his financial future but also gave him creative control over the character’s image.

Hopalong Cassidy eventually made the jump to television in 1949 after NBC became the only studio to take a chance on the old western hero. It was a bold move that would pay off in ways few could have predicted.

After the first episodes of the program aired, the character’s wholesome appeal made him an instant hit with a new wave of TV audiences, especially children, who admired Cassidy’s sense of right and wrong.

The television version of Hopalong Cassidy was an enormous success. NBC wanted to capitalize on the stardom and worked with Boyd to edit down the past feature films into TV versions.

The show itself became a pioneer in what would later be the television Western genre, paving the way for other popular series like *The Lone Ranger* and *Gunsmoke*.

Boyd starred in 52 episodes of the Hopalong Cassidy TV show, which ran until 1954. Beyond television, the character also became a staple on radio, with Boyd lending his voice to a radio series that ran from 1948 to 1952.

This multi-platform success made Boyd one of the most recognizable stars of his time, and his creation of a multimedia empire around the Hopalong Cassidy brand was revolutionary.

Alongside the films, television shows, and radio programs, Boyd capitalized on merchandising. Toys, comic books, lunchboxes, and other Hopalong Cassidy-themed products flooded the market, making the character a cultural icon during the 1950s.

Boyd cared about the influence of children and ensured that his image and that of Cassidy’s was never used on products that would be harmful and that his public appearances always included free entry for children, decisions that only elevated his stature as the titular moral character.

William Boyd’s contribution to the Western genre cannot be overstated. He helped define the ideal of the cowboy hero for generations of Americans, and Hopalong Cassidy became one of the first truly cross-media franchises.

Boyd’s success with Hopalong Cassidy had him become so identified with the character that it became difficult for him to secure roles outside of the Western genre.

As a result, Boyd effectively retired from acting after the end of Hopalong Cassidy. In his later years, Boyd enjoyed his retirement in Southern California, occasionally making public appearances but largely staying out of the limelight.

William Boyd passed away on September 12, 1972, at the age of 77, but his portrayal of Hopalong Cassidy continues to be remembered as one of the definitive performances in the Western genre. His ability to transcend multiple media platforms while maintaining the integrity of his character set a standard for actors and producers alike.

For many Baby Boomer children, Hopalong Cassidy remains the quintessential cowboy, a character who embodied the values of justice, fairness, and courage—values that Boyd himself lived by. Boyd was the black-clad cowboy who rode into the hearts of Americans and left a lasting mark on the history of American entertainment. In 1995, he was inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

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# SPORTS *Presented by:*

## All-Around Effort Gives SWOSU Football Road Win Over East Central



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	F
Southwestern Okla.	0	6	7	6	19
East Central	0	0	3	0	3

	Team Statistics	
	SWU	ECU
Total Yards	400	327
Pass Yards	129	138
Rushing Yards	271	189
Penalty Yards	7-82	7-80
1st Downs	19	23
3rd Downs	4-13	4-14
4th Downs	1-2	2-3
TOP	26:40	33:20

**Jon Chidester**  
SWOSU Media Relations

Four forced turnovers from an opportunistic defense, 271 rushing yards on offense including a pair of 100-yard milestones, and a pair of second quarter field goals and third quarter touchdowns helped lift SWOSU Football to a 19-3 road win over East Central on Saturday night.

The win is head coach Andrew Rice's first as a collegiate head coach, and naturally, first as a Bulldog. It also snaps a 13-game program losing streak that dated back to the start of the 2023 season.

SWOSU entered the game with a league-leading six forced turnovers and had that number to double digits by the end of the night. The Dawgs grabbed four interceptions to steal possessions away – one in the first half and another three after halftime. Desmond Greene had two of the four and now has three on the year.

ECU had 10 total possessions, four of which were spoiled by the SWOSU secondary. Another two were squandered in the first half thanks to field goal misses.

The Bulldogs held the Tigers to a third quarter field goal, forced two other punts, and were on the field as time expired for the remaining four.

With the defense doing its thing, the offense capitalized. After a scoreless first, SWOSU found success on back-to-back drives (21 combined plays, 118 yards) in the second quarter to jump ahead 6-0. Ethan McBee knocked down 37 and 39-yard field goals to give the visiting Dawgs a halftime lead.

The first touchdown of the night came after both teams turned the ball back to each other after the break. Kai Kunz broke free for a 42-yard touchdown run to push the margin to 13-0. East Central finally answered with a scoring drive right after, but instead of a touchdown, they were limited to three following a defensive stop in the red zone.

Now 13-3, it was SWOSU's turn to answer. Kunz capped off a nine play, 80-yard drive with a 17-yard run for the final score of the night in the early part of the fourth quarter. A missed extra point made the score read a peculiar 19-3, where it remained the rest of the way.

Kunz ended the night 11-for-18 through the air for 129 yards with another 106 yards (13 rush; 8.2 avg.) on the ground and two scores. Running back Malik Roberson added another 114 yards rushing. His 68-yard run in the fourth quarter put him over the century mark, but he fumbled back over to ECU on the play.

Michael Arceneaux II caught three balls for 74 yards to lead the receivers. His 50-yard catch in the third quarter set up Kunz's long TD run a play later.

Other interceptions on the night came from Cadynce Hall and Wyatt Rohmer. Zack Roberts and Felipe Tristan led the way in tackles with eight apiece. Keshawn Jackson secured SWOSU's lone sack on the night.

The team totaled exactly 400 yards of offense in the game and finished 4-13 on third down.

SWOSU moves to 1-2 on the year, heading into a home matchup with Southern Nazarene next weekend on Family Day. Kickoff for that game will come at 6:00 pm on Saturday, September 28 in Weatherford.

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 <b>CLINTON RED TORNADOES</b>	vs. Chandler	<b>W 21-0</b>
 <b>SAYRE EAGLES</b>	@ Carnegie	<b>W 44-8</b>
 <b>THOMAS TERRIERS</b>	vs. Hinton	<b>W 35-7</b>
 <b>WATONGA EAGLES</b>	vs. Mangum	<b>L 7-34</b>
 <b>SWOSU BULLDOGS</b>	@ East Central	<b>W 19-3</b>

Tune in to the Chuck Edward's Sportscast on The Coyote 95.5 at 7:50am and 5:30pm and NewsTalk 99.3 at 7:40am and 5:30pm for more information. Tune in to the Zoo Sportscast on the Zoo 101.7 at 8:40am & 5:40pm.



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