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Weatherford Cheerleaders Named in “Top 40” to Attend US Army Bowl



Landri Jones (pictured, left) and Savannah Williams (pictured, right) have been chosen to perform for the US Army Bowl. They, alongside the nation’s other Top 40 Cheerleaders, will attend the All-American Cheerleading Program in Frisco, TX, from December 19 - 22.

"Being selected for the Army Bowl has been such a rewarding experience. It meant everything to me when I heard my name called as one of five from Oklahoma," said Landri Jones. "This is one of those awards that really makes all the hard work and dedication worth it. You get to represent the nation, represent Oklahoma, and represent your hometown, which always means the most. It makes all the late nights, tumbling lessons, and cheer competitions worth it. I'm so excited to experience this opportunity, and I can't wait to do it with one of my good friends!"

"I was not expecting to be chosen at all. I really didn't even know this was a thing but when I learned about it, I knew it was going to be an amazing opportunity. It makes me happy to know that hard work is recognized." Savannah Williams said. "I'm so excited we get to go and represent Weatherford."

The All-American Cheerleading Program, produced by the Ultimate Cheer Series (UCS), highlights the nation's top 40 cheerleaders. These elite athletes are chosen from UCS events, cheer camps, and combines across the country, with the best of the best showcased at the U.S. Army Bowl in Frisco, Texas.

The event, set to take place Saturday December 21st, will bring together top talent from around the country to showcase routines alongside the U.S. Army Bowl, a unique event that bridges athleticism with military honor.

Both cheerleaders are excited to represent Weatherford High School and are preparing routines that will capture the spirit and energy of their team and community.

Congratulations to Savannah and Landri on their remarkable achievement! We can't wait to see them shine on the national stage.

Two Weatherford High School cheerleaders have been selected to participate in the highly prestigious U.S. Army Bowl Cheer event, an honor that recognizes elite cheer athletes from across the nation.

Savannah Williams and Landri Jones, both seniors at Weatherford High School, earned their spots through hard work, dedication, and a passion for representing their school with pride.

The U.S. Army Bowl Cheer event is held alongside the annual U.S. Army Bowl, a platform for high school football and cheerleading talent to showcase their skills at the national level.

With such a tough selection process, only the most accomplished cheerleaders are chosen to join this elite squad, making Savannah's and Landri's accomplishments a point of pride for their community.



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Sue Ayn Moore

Sue Ayn Moore, a resident of Clinton, Oklahoma, peacefully left this world on November 17, 2024, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital, surrounded by her loving family.



Born on November 1, 1945, in Compton, CA, Sue Ayn Moore was the beloved daughter of M.A. and Virginia (Lorenz) Diel.

Sue Ayn graduated from Clinton High School in 1963 and passionately pursued education, earning her master's degree in 1986 from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, in Weatherford. This achievement led to a rewarding career as a teacher and an advocate for the science program at Clinton Middle School, where she wrote many grants for the science program which was instrumental in building one of the state's top science programs, as well as spending many hours helping students prepare for local, state, and national science fairs. This unwavering commitment to her students earned her the esteemed title Teacher of the Year for the 1992-1993 school year in Clinton, Oklahoma—a true testament to the profound impact she had on the lives she touched.

She spent her life serving not only her family, but also the community as a teacher in Clinton Public Schools for nearly 30 years. Together with her husband, Don Moore, they made their home, along with their two children in the community of Clinton, OK.

She found joy in reading, traveling, and being a part of multiple bridge clubs. While shopping for gifts for her family brought joy, it failed in comparison with the time spent with her family, especially her grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents M.A. and Virginia Diel; husband Don Moore; sister Joidy and husband Wayne Salisbury.

She leaves behind a legacy in her treasured children: son David Moore and wife Holly of Edmond, OK; daughter, Kasey Parr and husband Doug of Ninnekah, OK; three adored grandchildren, Cooper, J.P., and Tucker Parr; niece Kristin Arnold and husband James of Cleveland, OK; and nephew, Hal Salisbury and wife Tracy Ann of Tulsa, OK.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either the Clinton Public School science program or AFA Foundation of America. Those desiring to make a contribution to the Middle School Science Department, in Sue Ayn's honor, if you're writing a check, please write "CMS Science Dept." for the memo and make it payable to Clinton Public Schools at PO Box 729; Clinton, OK 73601.

Grace Schantz

Grace Fannie (Johnson) Schantz was born January 24, 1935, at home near Detroit Lakes, MN, to George N. and Ida Mae (Holdeman) Johnson and passed away Sunday, November 17, 2024, surrounded by her family, after a short stay at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City, at the age of 89 years, 9 months and 24 days.



As the youngest of twelve children, Grace lived with her parents until their deaths when she was still young. After being moved between several older brothers, she eventually settled with her brother, Ralph and his family in Casselton, ND. There she accepted Christ as her Savior at age 9, was baptized, and joined the Casselton Mennonite Church.

She attended school at Casselton until her senior year when she attended Hesston Academy in Kansas.

While working at a hospital in Wichita, KS, she met Dean Schantz of Hydro, OK. They were married in Casselton, ND on November 9, 1954. They made their home on the Schantz family farm north of Hydro where they raised three children, Debora, Merlin and Steven, as well as fostering several more.

Grace was always involved in church including teaching Sunday School, Bible School, helping with quilting bees, and making crafts. Dean and Grace participated with Mennonite Disaster Service for many years.

On these trips, Grace would help where needed whether it was cooking, cleaning, or assisting with building efforts. When not working at the church, or cooking for the harvest crew, Grace enjoyed crafts, painting, and refurbishing furniture.

After the children were all grown, Grace worked for a number of years at Maple Lawn Nursing Home as the Activities Director.

In later years, she continued to work in her flower beds until she was no longer physically able to. In the last several years, Grace enjoyed reading and working on puzzles.

Grace's faith was a huge part of who she was. It was not unusual for the family to come in and see her praying with her Bible on her lap. She would tell the grandchildren that she was praying for them every time they came to see her or she talked with them on the phone. She enjoyed the great-grandchildren and they were always welcome to come in and play with her toys.

Grace always enjoyed working in her flower garden. She was an example to those around her through her words and actions throughout her time here on earth.

Grace is survived by her children, Debora (Anthony) Hooper of Oklahoma City, OK, Merlin (Lillian) Schantz of Hydro, OK and Steven Schantz of Lake St. Louis, MO; nine grandchildren, Larisa (Jason) Nelson, Kent (Amanda) Hooper, Denise (Adrian) Titsworth, Beth (Kurtis) Richert, Jana (Matthew) Machniak, Ben (Sarah) Schantz, Aaron (Kaylee) Schantz, Joseph (Courtney) Schantz and Danny Schantz;

Grace is also survived by 23 great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as various family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dean; siblings; daughter-in-law, Linda; and adopted daughter, Lea.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the NetMenders Ministry/Tom McConn, 971 Halsey Ave SE, Buffalo, MN 55312.

Dale Crowder

Eugene "Dale" Crowder was born June 27, 1929, in Corn, to V.F. and Ella Mae Crowder and passed away Friday, November 15, 2024, at Homestead Assisted Living in Weatherford, at the age of 95 years, 4 months and 18 days.



Dale graduated from Southwestern State College and lived his adult life in Weatherford. He retired after 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service.

Dale served many years as the Sunday School Superintendent at the First United Methodist Church; was Boy Scout leader for more than 10 years; was a 70 plus year member of the Masonic Lodge; and was a longtime member of Eastern Star, an affiliate organization.

Dale was a man of great moral character; had a razor-sharp memory and quick wit; and was a man of service to the causes he chose.

As we bid farewell to our dear family member, we take comfort in the knowledge that his legacy of devotion, service and humor will continue to guide us forward.

Rest in Peace: Eugene Dale Crowder, your memory will forever be cherished by those who loved you.

Dale is survived by his daughter, Linda K. Smith and husband, David; granddaughter, Catherine Lansford; grandson, Ryan Smith and wife, Katy; great-granddaughter, Olivia Lansford; and numerous extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mary Beth Crowder; two brothers, Verner Crowder and wife, Louise and Bob Crowder and wife, Jolene; and son, Mark Crowder.

Kenneth Hart

Kenneth Ray Hart, 84, of Elk City, Oklahoma, was born on October 31, 1940 near Berlin, Oklahoma. He went to walk the golden streets of Heaven on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at the family farm, surrounded by his loving family.



Kenneth was the son of Elvin Loris and Elva Jane (Klopfenstein) Hart.

Kenneth attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford, Oklahoma where he received his Masters Degree in Education. He also obtained his Administrative Certification at the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Kenneth married the love of his life, Verina Sue Dick on February 8, 1963 at First Assembly of God, Elk City, Oklahoma. They enjoyed sixty-one years of marriage together.

Kenneth was the Principal at Fairview Elementary, Elk City, Oklahoma for thirty-four years. After retirement, he was employed at First National Bank, Elk City, Oklahoma.

Kenneth was a generous man who volunteered his time in many clubs and organizations. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club where he enjoyed working at the carnival and T-ball.

Kenneth was an Ag Expo Board Member, a NorthFork Soil Conservation Board Member, and a member of Help, Inc. and the Elk City Housing Authority. Kenneth was also a member of the Elk City Historical Society, helping with their regular Flea Market.

Kenneth enjoyed raising cattle, golfing, and serving on Mission Trips. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, Elk City, Oklahoma. Kenneth loved his Sunday school class and enjoyed teaching. He cherished spending time with his family and friends. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Cherishing his memory is his loving wife, Sue Hart of Elk City, Oklahoma; two sons, Kevin Hart and his wife, Lisa of Hobart, Oklahoma, Kent Hart and his wife, Melissa of Edmond, Oklahoma; one sister, Sharon Nipp and her husband Gary, Fresno, California; one sister-in-law, Jean Wilson and her husband Wayne, Elk City, Oklahoma;

Kenneth is also survived by his six grandchildren: Katie Hart, Hannah Hart, Keegen Hart and his wife Kenzie, Kendel Hart, Keyser Hart, and Kaydem Hart; and his beloved schnauzers, Lola and Dudley; as well as numerous other extended family members and friends.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, Elvin Loris and Elva Jane (Klopfenstein) Hart; as well as his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lawrence and Verda Dick.

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Anthony Moore Elected Speaker Pro-Tempore for Oklahoma House



Provided by Oklahoma House of Representatives

The Oklahoma State House of Representatives took the oath of office on November 20th. This will mark the 60th Legislature in the state's history.

Tori Garrett
 GOP Communications Director

On November 19, Rep. Anthony Moore, R-Clinton, was elected Speaker Pro Tempore-Elect by the Oklahoma House Republican caucus to serve during the 60th Legislature. The Speaker Pro Tempore serves as the chamber's second highest officer and assists leadership in all facets of administering the business of the House. The position serves as a voting member on all House committees.

"It's an honor to be selected by my peers to serve in this capacity," Moore said. "I appreciate their trust and look forward to supporting the goals of our caucus and to serving as second to our new Speaker-Elect Kyle Hilbert. Together we will work toward improving our state's economy to ensure the needs of all Oklahomans are met, whether in our schools, on our state's roadways, in our hospitals, in our places of employment or in any agency that serves the public. Oklahoma's best days are in front of us."

Anthony Moore serves District 57 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. His district includes Custer and Roger Mills counties and part of Beckham County.

Moore was elected to the House in 2020. He most recently served as chair of the House Higher Education and CareerTech Committee as well as a member of the Appropriations & Budget Committee among others. During his time in office, he has voted on legislation to protect life and the Second Amendment, reduce rules and regulations, lower taxes, defend property owners' rights, preserve water resources, and protect girls' sports and parental rights. He's demanded law and order and voted to improve education and teacher pay, among many other conservative causes. Moore is a fifth-generation native of Custer County. He's a Clinton High School graduate, holds a BA from Oklahoma Christian University and a law degree from Oklahoma City University. He, his wife Rachel, and their three children live in Clinton.

All ninety-nine members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, including Moore took their oaths of office Wednesday, November 20, 2024, in the House Chamber. The House will consist of 81 Republicans and 20 Democrats. There are 17 new members and 84 returning members.

The oath was administered by the Honorable Dustin P. Rowe, vice chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. One member took the oath of office Monday and a second member will take the oath of office at a later time.

The full House will officially convene for an organizational day on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, and the First Session of the 60th Legislature reconvenes on Monday, February 3, 2025.

Newly-elected Republicans:

- Mark Chapman, House District 12
- Tim Turner, House District 15
- Jonathan Wilk, House District 20
- Ryan Eaves, House District 22
- Derrick Hildebrant, House District 23
- Jim Shaw, House District 32
- Molly Jenkins, House District 33
- Stacy Jo Adams, House District 50
- Jason Blair, House District 53
- Mike Kelley, House District 60
- Rob Hall, House District 67
- Mike Lay, House District 68
- Emily Gise, House District 90
- Gabe Woolley, House District 98.

Newly-elected Democrats:

- Michelle McCane, House District 72
- Ron Stewart, House District 73
- Ellen Pogemiller, House District 88.

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HIGHER GROUND

Giving Thanks, Regardless



The following material is an excerpt from an article by Texas Reverend Charles Rozell Swindoll. I don't know where I got it, so I can't give further credit; however, I thought it highly appropriate during these troubled times. I hope it is meaningful to you.

The year was 1944. Our nation was at war across the Atlantic into Europe as well as in the Pacific and far beyond.

Times were simple back then but they were rugged: everything was rationed; framed stars were hung proudly in neighborhood windows—and sometimes, they were quietly changed to crosses.

Everyone I knew was patriotic to the core. Without television, we relied on "newsreels" that were shown at the movies, bold newspaper headlines, and LIFE magazine, which carried the photos and moving stories of courage in battle and deaths at sea.

Draped high across the front of our classroom was a huge American flag with its 48 stars and 13 stripes. We began that Wednesday as we did every other day in school, standing erect beside our desks, repeating the Pledge of Allegiance and then bowing our heads as our teacher led us in prayer.

Hanging just below the flag was a large picture of our 32nd president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She always remembered to pray for him—and our 'soldier boys' who were serving their country in dark, dreary, and dangerous places half a world away from my fifth-grade class.

My teacher had lost her husband on the blood-washed shores of Normandy the previous June. After we had saluted the flag, a hush fell across the room as we bowed our heads together.

No one moved. As she began to pray and give thanks, her voice broke and she started to weep. I did too. So did Richard Webb, my best buddy. And Wanda Ragland. Even Charles White and Warre Cook, two tough kids who later played high school football when we were all Milby Buffaloes, wiped back their tears.

No one moved as she stumbled as sobbed her way through her prayer, which was filled with some of the most moving expressions of gratitude and praise that I have ever heard emerged from a soul plunged in personal grief and pain.

I was a 10-year-old-boy lost in sympathy and pity for his teacher.

I walked home much slower that autumn. Although only a child, I entertained deep and profound feelings of gratitude for my country, kept free by the bravery and blood of men and women only a few years older than I, most of them fresh out of high school.

On that cool afternoon I felt a renewed surge of thankfulness for my mom and dad...for my older brother and sister...for my maternal grandparents...for my friends...for my school...for my neighborhood...and for my church.

Though only a child, I promised God that I would fight to the end to keep this land free from the enemies who would take away our liberty and erase America's distinctives and steal the joys of living in this good land.

I have never forgotten that childhood promise. I remembered it at another Thanksgiving, fourteen years later in late November of 1958, when I wore the uniform and silently walked the same beaches of Okinawa where my fellow Marines had sacrificed their lives in the last great battle of the South Pacific in WWII.

As Thanksgiving returns annually, I still pause; I still let the wonder in."

As you read this, you may have had to wipe away a tear or two, as I did. May you have a joy-filled and Thankful day of remembrance.

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

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

Elk City Arts Council Brings Acapella Group “Home for the Holidays”

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Sheryl Ponce
 Contract Writer / Elk City

This holiday season, make plans to see the acapella group *m-pact's* “Home for the Holidays” show, which will take place Saturday, December 7, at the Kelli O’Hara Center for the Performing Arts.

The Elk City Arts Council has announced that tickets are on sale now. There are only general admission tickets available at \$25 each.

The show will start at 7 p.m., with the house opening at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by visiting ElkCityArtsCouncil.org or by scanning the QR code above

Aside from classic carols, the show will include *m-pact's* most requested repertoire, featuring pop and jazz hits by artists such as The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, Earth Wind & Fire, Miles Davis, and more.

The m-pact “White Christmas” program features a diverse collection of the sounds of the season, including:

- Home for the Holidays
- Caroling, Caroling
- Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy
- Carol of the Drum (Little Drummer Boy)
- Silent Night
- Away in a Manger
- My Favorite Things
- Carol of the Bells
- Let it Snow
- Santa Claus is Coming to Town
- White Christmas


ARAPAHO / BROADBAND - A project launch was recently held in Arapaho for Broadband Service, says Oklahoma Broadband Executive Director Mike Sanders, who explained the benefits of the groundbreaking with Dobson Fiber. “We’re going to be putting in fiber to 120 businesses and homes there in Arapaho at the price tag of about \$700,000.” Sanders says the work will begin within a month. He believes the work will be complete and operational in 2025.

OHP / SUSPECT CAUGHT - The Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) says it was great teamwork by troopers from Troop H, the Beckham County Sheriff’s Office, and the Texas Department of Public Safety to capture a suspect of a hit-and-run in western Oklahoma. The suspect allegedly stole a vehicle in Mangum, crashed it, and then fled from the scene. Troopers say he ended up stealing another vehicle and getting in a pursuit with OHP and Beckham County. It’s reported the suspect blew through a construction zone on State Highway 152 at a high rate of speed, hitting cones with workers present. OHP says it was trooper Matthew Hoffman who safely performed a tactical vehicle intervention near the Oklahoma/Texas border and was able to take the suspect into custody.

CLINTON / ROUTE 66 MUSEUM - The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton will kick off the holiday season with an open house next month. The annual event will coincide with the festival of lights. The open house is from 1-4pm on this upcoming Tuesday, December 3rd. Additionally, the Route 66 Museum will also be entering a decorated classic truck in the festival of lights parade later that evening.

CLINTON / CLINTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL Clinton Regional Hospital has undergone significant changes following its closure and reopening, and more changes could be on the horizon says Clinton Mayor David Berrong. “We now are dealing with a possibility of going back to where we were 34 years ago with Rural Health Solutions, who have made a tentative proposal to come to Clinton and invest millions of dollars in the Clinton Hospital and surrounding smaller hospitals, making Clinton the hub of rural healthcare,” said Berrong. During a recent meeting, Clinton City Council approved a letter of intent for Rural Health Solutions, Inc. to operate the hospital and to potentially purchase the hospital. If that option to purchase becomes reality, it will be up to the voters inside the Clinton city limits to approve the purchase during a special election.

CUSTER CO / COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS The Custer County Courthouse is undergoing significant renovations, including updates to its historic law library, breathing new life into the decades old structure. District 3 County Commissioner Lyle Miller explained: “Times have changed, and very seldom does anybody open one of those books. The judges figured out how to get rid of the books legally and we’re going to turn that into three interview rooms so the attorneys and clients can come in and have a private place to sit down and visit. It will be a great improvement for the courthouse.” The excessive weight of all the cabinets, books, and files raised concern with the insurance company, which flagged it as a structural hazard. This prompted discussions about necessary changes, including converting the abandoned jail into a storage facility.



WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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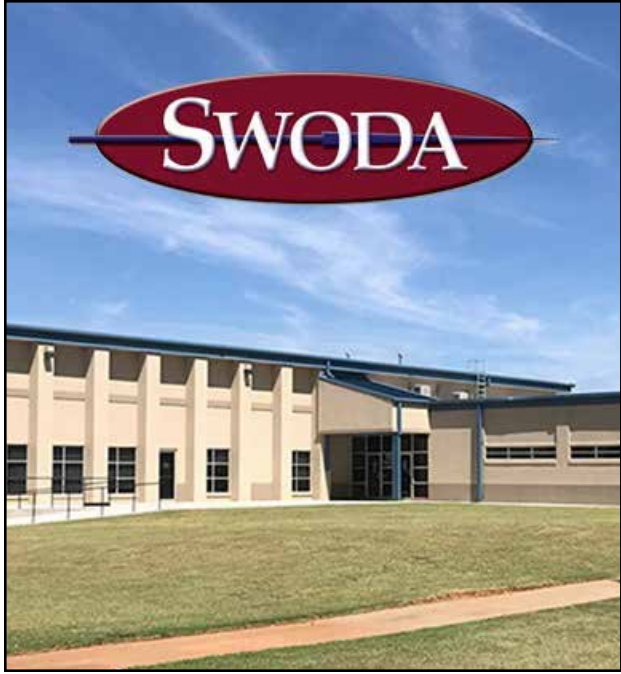
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Christian Free Store – Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK, Community Center** “Bible Study,” Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00 Hwy 58. 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 November 27 - Garrison Carpenter, Jim Hulsey, Sheila Kimble, Matthew Seward, Brett Smith; **November 28** - Zachary Caler, Jimmy Emmons, Linda Gallagher, Russ Lynde, Chad Lyon, Victor McKinsey, Mabry Nailon, Jennifer Potter, Jayder Quintero, Phillip Reed, Amy Rodolph, Tanner Weaver, Lois Windberry. **November 29** - Isabella Amen, William Balcom, Jessica Blackwell, Raul Olguin, Eileen Pitzer, Bridgett Sims; **November 30** - D’Fawn Downs, Marjorie Loar, Sam Shell, Dalton Thomas, Matt Thorpe; **December 1** - Angela Castorena, Austin Castorena, Olivia Celsor, Barbarie Dodd, Lyndon Hart, Kevin Kreizenbeck, Brad Lax, Natalie Meyer, Jacque Morlan, Franklin Ralston, Linda Smith, Justin Snider; **December 2** - Becky Ball, Raevyn Cavanaugh, Doni Duggan, Gavin Hayslip, Ronnie Hazel, Lisa Hearn, Konner Hood, Terry Jensen, Janet King, Cassandra Ladd, Sy Stewart, George Wilkinson; **December 3** - Tarra Barton, Morgan Brown, Ken Brown, Verda McKellips, Brian Tompkins.

National Family Caregivers Month Gives Caregivers Financial Help



Joanie Swanson
SWODA / AAA Program

November is National Family Caregivers Month, a time to honor the dedication of caregivers who selflessly care for their loved ones.

In southwestern Oklahoma, the South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA) Area Agency on Aging (AAA) offers a program that may help many caregivers in the region.

Caregivers are defined as individuals of any age who are providing care for someone 60 years or older who has two or more impairments in Activities of Daily Living—such as dressing, bathing, eating, transferring, toileting, or walking—or requires substantial assistance due to cognitive or other mental impairments.

Research shows that caregivers experience better health, reduced stress, and improved caregiving outcomes when they can take occasional breaks from their responsibilities.

The SWODA AAA, in partnership with Oklahoma Human Services' Aging Services Division, provides respite services to eligible caregivers. Respite services provide caregivers with the opportunity to step away, even if only for a few hours.

Caregivers can use respite services for various activities, such as attending a doctor's appointment, getting a haircut, meeting friends at a coffee shop, or enjoying a movie. The service can also allow caregivers to simply take a much-needed nap and recharge.

To apply for respite services, caregivers can contact Joanie at SWODA AAA by calling Ext. 126, 1-800-627-4882.

SWODA AAA is committed to serving all eligible individuals regardless of race, national origin, ancestry, color, religion, gender, age, or disability. For more information, visit SWODA AAA's website or reach out to their office for assistance.



Krystal Blackwell / WW

A class at Weatherford High School received a gardening lesson from local Corn Heritage Village resident Wayne Schoonmaker. Pictured (from left): Kylei Taylor, Shpresim Topalli, Curtis Turney, Jadya Weaver, Bella Soto, Hannah Wilhite, Ty Vogt, Dylan Rena, Jake Crisp, Yukon Butler, Wayne Schoonmaker.



Courtesy Tim Billy

Thomas-Fay-Custer Terriers running back Landon Wald charges ahead, skillfully dodging defenders under the Friday night lights. The Terriers triumphed over Hominy with a 20-14 victory, advancing to face Talihina in the Class A-II state semifinals, set for Friday, December 6th, at Harrah High School. Catch the action live on wright.media

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Hailey Grant and Tobias Roland Awarded Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Following a SWOSU sweep of UCO last week, a pair of basketball standouts – Hailey Grant and Tobias Roland – have been selected as 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.

Grant (Claremore, Okla.) stuffed the stat sheet against the Bronchos in limited floor time on Saturday. She scored 11 points, grabbed eight rebounds, had three blocks, three steals, and two assists to help the Lady Bulldogs notch an 86-51 blowout win. Her rebounds, blocks, and assists numbers all were the most she's had so far this season.

Roland (Oklahoma City) too set multiple early season highs when he led SWOSU to a 65-57 win on Thursday against UCO. The junior finished with 23 points, a season best, on an efficient and season high 9-of-13 shooting from the field and 3-of-6 from beyond the arc. He grabbed six rebounds, also a new season high.

Oklahoma History: The Father of Native American Musical Composition



Courtesy NAXOS Classical Music Label



Mark Coffey / Liberty Sun-News

The album cover for a collection of Ballard's most famous compositions. It was released in November 2023 and conducted by John Jeter, Fort Smith Symphony.

Ballard's collection of Native instruments. In his right hand, he holds a handmade rattle with a human face.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Louis Wayne Ballard (1931–2007), often called the "Father of Native American Composition," was a groundbreaking Cherokee-Quapaw musician and composer. Born on July 8th, 1931, by Devil's Promenade, near Miami, Oklahoma, he was given the Quapaw name Honganózhe ("Stands with Eagles"). Ballard dedicated his career to merging Native American musical traditions with Western classical forms, creating a unique and influential body of work.

Raised in a family that valued music and culture, Ballard grew up surrounded by the sounds of tribal songs, dances, and oral storytelling, and showed musical promise from a young age.

After staying with his grandmother, who got him a piano by leasing property rights on her home, Ballard had mastered difficult piano pieces by his sophomore year.

Out of high school, he began formal studies at the University of Tulsa, earning degrees in music theory and music education in 1954, and later became the first Native American to receive a master's degree in music composition from the same institution in 1962.

Ballard further honed his craft under prominent composers like Darius Milhaud and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco during his time at the Aspen Music Festival.

Also, by 1962, the Institute of American Indian Arts had opened, where Ballard directed the music and performing arts programs. Here, he honed his style and produced a variety of works.

Ballard's compositions drew heavily on Native American rhythms, melodies, and stories, but he always ensured they were entirely his own, blending traditional influences with contemporary techniques.

His work spanned genres, including orchestral pieces, chamber music, ballets, and choral works. One of his most notable pieces is Why the Duck Has a Short Tail (1967), a chamber opera that draws on a Cherokee legend.

Other significant works include Incident at Wounded Knee (1974), which reflects on the massacre of Lakota Sioux people, and Four Moons (1967), a ballet that celebrates the dances of four Native American tribes.

His symphonic works, such as Ritmo Indio (1966) and Scenes from Indian Life (1970), showcase his ability to integrate Native themes into complex orchestral structures.

As a music educator, Ballard significantly influenced Native American music education. He developed teaching materials such as American Indian Music for the Classroom (a box set of recordings, music scores, and a teacher's guide) and became a curriculum specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"This guidebook means a lot to me...this is America's cultural heritage. I want the tradition of our songs and our music to live on, and the best way to do that is to teach all teachers how to teach them. Simple as that."

These resources helped preserve Native American cultural heritage through music.

Ballard's music received international recognition, with performances at esteemed venues like Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. His achievements include the McDowell Award for American Chamber Music and multiple National Indian Achievement Awards.

His influence extends through his educational work and through composers he inspired, such as Brent Michael Davids, who called him a mentor and friend.

After premiering concerts internationally, Ballard received a Cherokee Medal of Honor in 2002 for his service to the Native American community.

Ballard's dedication to creating and teaching music that bridges cultures left an enduring mark on both Native American and classical music traditions.

Today, his legacy lives on in recordings, performances, and the continuing efforts of Native American composers to share their stories with the world.

Many of his symphonies and works are available to listen to, recorded and performed by groups like the Fort Smith Symphony (conductor John Jeter), The St. Paul Chamber

Orchestra (conductor Dennis Russell Davies), and the largest live concert recording of his work by the Arizona State University's Visiting Composer Series in 1992, which includes a piano performance by Ballard himself.

You can find many of Ballard's works on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music, and from the ASU Library School of Music Performance Archive.



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Jon Chidester
 SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Women's Basketball made their way east to play visitor to MIAA foe Central Oklahoma in a Saturday night game. The Lady Bulldogs used a burning hot shooting start to take control of the Bronchos and went on to win going away, 86-51.

SWOSU scored 24 points in the first quarter for their highest first quarter scoring output of the young season. Averi Zinn led the way early with 11 points in the opening frame, shooting 5-6 from the field and 1-2 from beyond the arc. The Lady Dawgs would cash in on three deep balls in the period, which is tied for the most in a single quarter this year. They then surpassed that record with five three-pointers in the second quarter to balloon the lead to 25 points going into half.

Six players hit 3-pointers in the first half for the Lady Bulldogs, led by Chloe Cantrell (2-2) and Mason Jones (2-4). SWOSU scored 24 points off the deep ball (8-15) in the first half, matching UCO's entire first half scoring output. The Dawgs did not let up from there, with their lead never dipping below 20 points in the second half and

a margin that grew to as many as 38 in the fourth quarter.

For a fourth straight game, SWOSU won the turnover battle and forced the opposing team into 20+ turnovers. UCO ended with 23 compared to SWOSU's 16. The Lady Bulldogs scored 20 or more points in the first three frames of the contest, leading to their highest scoring output of 86 points to finish off the 35-point victory. In the game, SWOSU shot 50.8% from the field and knocked down 13 three-point shots on 28 attempts. They were 7-8 from the free throw line. On defense, they limited UCO to 31.1% shooting and just 6-of-27 from beyond the arc.

Averi Zinn (13), Libbi Zinn (12), Layni Zinn (11) and Hailey Grant (11) all crossed the double figure points mark to lead the way. Averi led the team with seven assists, while Grant stuffed the stat sheet by adding eight rebounds and three of each steals and blocks.

SWOSU, who now sits at 4-0, will head to Lubbock, Texas to play against a nationally ranked and undefeated Lubbock Christian squad on Tuesday, November 26th at 4:00 pm. This will be the last non-conference matchup before starting GAC play on December 5th.

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Jon Chidester
 SWOSU Media Relations

The SWOSU men's basketball team welcomed Central Oklahoma to the Pioneer Event Center on Thursday night and used a fierce defense to shut down the Bronchos in a 65-57 victory.

The Bronchos came into the game scoring an average of 86.7 points per game, while SWOSU had only allowed 72 points per game. The Dawgs would be the ones to back up their numbers, holding UCO to the lowest scoring output of the year by 21 points. UCO's previous scoring low had come one week prior against No. 3 West Texas A&M when they scored 78 points.

Thursday's game was closely contested in the first half before a late run allowed the Dawgs to hold a seven-point lead heading into the break. SWOSU was able to build the lead thanks to a 9-4 advantage in offensive rebounds giving them a six-point boost in second chance points.

In the second half the Dawgs were able to lead wire to wire, maintaining their lead thanks to efforts from both

Tobias Roland and Eli Al-Debaran who combined for 40 points on the night on 15-for-27 shooting. They hit a combined five three-pointers in the second half with an additional three coming in the first.

MJ Warrior had a few clutch buckets in the final minutes of play which helped ice the win. His eight points made him the Dawgs' third leading scorer and he also added a team high seven assists without a turnover.

Final numbers had the teams at near identical shooting marks – 38.5% vs 38.2% – in favor of SWOSU. Both teams also finished at 25% from the three-point line and each team committed 10 turnovers, but it was SWOSU who won the rebounding battle 42-35 with 13 offensive boards in total.

The next game will take the Bulldogs to Lawton, Oklahoma to face off against Cameron on Tuesday, November 26th at 6:00 pm in what will be the final non-conference game before the GAC schedule gets going in December.

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