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Weatherford Eagles Play in CCS Basketball Tournament Championships



Courtesy Kelley Schmidt Photography

The Eagles defeated Anadarko 66 - 36 in the Championship, with #23 Ethan Sage and #24 Tate Sage winning the All-Tournament Honors and #3 Walker Kennedy named Tournament MVP.



Courtesy Kelley Schmidt Photography

#35 CJ Nixon goes in for a layup before being fouled by the left-most Anadarko player.



Courtesy Kelley Schmidt Photography

#11 Marley Teasley (left) and #22 Talyn Payne (right) were awarded the All-Tournament Honors after the girls' Championship game.




Courtesy Kelley Schmidt Photography

The Lady Eagles played a well-fought Championship game against Community Christian School (CCS) in Normal, but unfortunately fell 41 - 48.

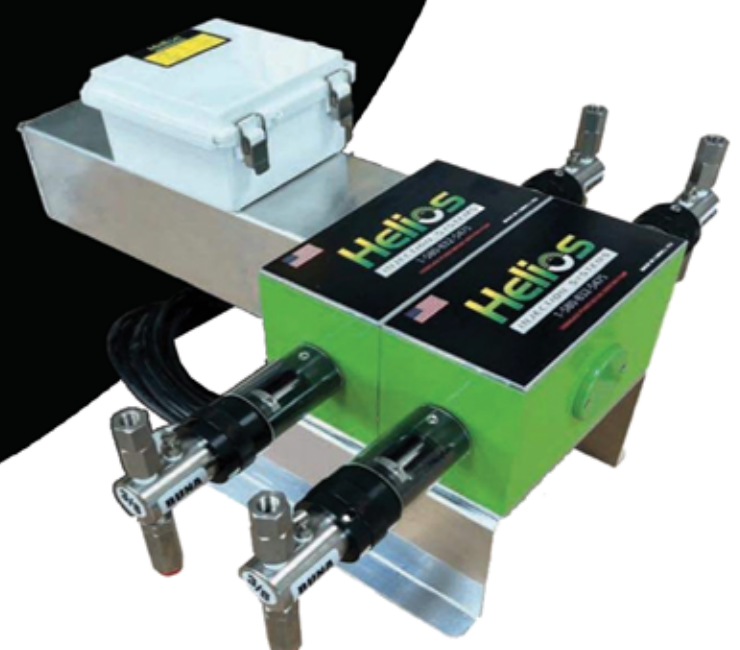
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Kenneth Reid

Kenneth Owen Reid was born Aug. 26, 1926, in Weatherford, and passed away Monday, Dec. 9, in Weatherford at the age of 98.



Kenneth was the first child born to John Wesley Reid and Helen Smith Reid and raised on the farm his family homesteaded located two miles north of Altus. Ken attended Altus schools, along with three brothers and two sisters, until his senior year in high school. He and a friend decided to join the WWII war effort where he served in Hawaii and was on his way to the Philippines when the war ended. While away, he wrote letters to his mother, who said he should somehow use his gift for writing. He returned to Altus, then Norman where he entered the University of Oklahoma on the GI Bill. At OU, Ken found his place in journalism and carried it through the rest of his life.

In addition, he also found the girl he wanted to marry, Phyllis Ruth Colpitt of Collins ville, when friends introduced them at a movie theater.

Ken and Phyllis were married in 1948 and a year later their first child Terry, was born. After graduation, Ken and his family moved to Claremore, for his first job, working at the Claremore Progress newspaper. In 1951 another daughter, Ruth Anne, was born.

After four years in Claremore, Ken and his partner Ed Burchfield purchased the Pauls Valley Democrat newspaper and the family made Pauls Valley their home for the next 19 years. The family grew in Pauls Valley with sons David born in 1955 and Phillip in 1959.

In addition to both Ken and Phyllis working hard to make the newspaper a success, they were also heavily involved in community projects as well as the First Presbyterian Church, Chamber of Commerce, Girls Scouts, school PTA and P.E.O.

During their years in Pauls Valley, Ken and his partner Ed also purchased the Frederick Leader newspaper as well as the Wewoka Times.

In 1968, the three papers were sold to a media group and Ken purchased the Weatherford News in 1972 from his father's old school friend, Jimmie Craddock. He and Phyllis owned and operated the newspaper for 26 years, with his sons engaged in the business with him for 12 of those years.

Ken and Phyllis quickly converted the newspaper from a weekly into a daily newspaper and from letter press to offset printing.

They also were very instrumental in the advancement of community journalism by serving on various boards of the Oklahoma Press Association. Reid has been recognized with honors for his newspaper achievements including the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Press Association president, University of Oklahoma outstanding Alumni Journalism Hall of Fame.

Upon retirement Ken and Phyllis enjoyed flying their plane and spent time at their cabin in Arkansas until Phyllis passed in 2015. Ken married

Billie Joe Johnston and made their home in both Weatherford and Oklahoma City.

Ken was preceded in death by his wife Phyllis, parents John and Helen Reid, two sisters Joyce Helen and Flora Nell, two brothers Ross and Forrest Reid, son-in-law Joe Colley and grandson Kyle Reid.

He is survived by: his wife, Billie Joe Reid; one brother, Gary Reid; daughter, Terry Magill and husband Bruce, and children, Matt Magill and wife Megan and their children, Maggie and Blythe, Wes Magill and wife Karen and their sons, Charlie and Porter, Ben Magill and wife Molly and their children, Doss, Booth and Olive; daughter, Ruth Anne Colley and children Erin Babcock and her husband Stephen and their children Callie, Bennett and Alice, Anna Newton and her husband Matt and their children Helen, Smith and Henry, Reid Ken Reid Colley and his daughter Palmer Grace; son, David Reid and wife Myra and their children Chris Reid and children Linden and Abigail and son Kory Reid and wife Tonya and their daughter Tatum; son, Phillip Reid and his wife Jeanne Ann and daughter Hayden Benton and husband Henry and their sons George, Arthur and Theodore, daughter Olivia Bey and husband Scott and their children Flora and Otis, and their son Owen Reid.

Kat Brown

Kathleen "Kat" Brown was born on August 20, 1931, in Spring Creek, OK, to Joe Herman and Syble Mae (Smith) Shook. She passed away on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at Weatherford Regional Hospital, at the age of 93 years, 3 months and 15 days.



Kat grew up and attended school in Spring Creek, where she was baptized at an early age in the local stream. As a young girl, she worked on the family farm and traveled to California during the summers to work in the harvest. On March 23, 1949, she married L.G. "Boots" Brown in Wichita Falls, TX, and they made their home in Spring Creek and Lookeba. They had three boys together and moved to Hydro in 1962, where they welcomed a baby girl. Although Kat and L.G. separated in 1975, they remained close until his passing in 1992.

Kat worked as a nurse's aide at Maple Lawn Manor and for Lucille Hamons at the original Lucille's on Route 66, as well as several other restaurants. She loved cooking and often prepared Sunday dinners for anyone who might stop by. Kat never met a stranger and welcomed everyone into her home to eat. She enjoyed doing word search and crossword puzzles, spending time with family and friends, and watching her grandchildren and extended family grow. She was also a huge Elvis Presley fan and loved watching game shows. Kat cherished sitting on the front porch with her sisters and mother reminiscing. She would always say those were the good old days.

Kat is survived by her son, Derral Brown and his wife, Donita, of Weatherford; her daughter, Pam John and her husband, Kevin, of Hydro; her sister, Fredia Cox, of Midwest City; nine grandchildren: Shane Brown, Shana Brown, Levi Brown, Chris Brown, Emily Wallace, Kasey John, Trey John, Jarin Deffenbaugh, and Lacy Ramey; twenty-eight great-grandchildren; four bonus great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren, with two more on the way as well as nieces, nephews and other numerous relatives.

Kat was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, L.G. Brown; two sisters, Janice Williams and Myrtle McCathern; two brothers, Bobby Shook and James "Sonny" Shook; two sons, Jerry Brown and Gerald Brown; a great-grandson, Rowdy Gormley; and a great-granddaughter, Maddison Brown.

Janalee Stanley

Janalee Stanley, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, peacefully passed away on December 4, 2024, at the age of 83, at Four Seasons Rehab in Durant, OK. Her departure leaves a profound void in the hearts of all who knew her.



Born June 19, 1941, in Orange, CA, Jan was the daughter of Fred Jr. and Vivian (Smith) Faber. In a beautiful celebration of love, she united in marriage with Stephen Stanley on January 2, 1970, in Las Vegas. Jan made a remarkable impact in her community through her dedicated career in social work with DHS, where she devoted over 25 years to helping others.

Jan's heart flourished with love, particularly for her grandchildren, whom she adored beyond measure. She found joy in nurturing her own garden, tending to both flowers and vegetables with a passion that mirrored the love she shared with her family. Craft shows were a special delight for her, a way to express her creativity and connect with the community.

Perhaps one of her greatest joys was cooking for others. Jan's love language was evident during the holiday seasons, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas, where her warm meals brought family and friends together in celebration and laughter. She was known for her festive New Year's Day gatherings filled with delicious food, camaraderie, and the excitement of football, a tradition that embraced the spirit of family and togetherness.

Jan is survived by her husband, Stephen Stanley, and their loving children, Steve Stanley and his wife Patty of McCloud, OK, and David Stanley and his wife Julie of Owasso, OK. She is also survived by her sister, Linda Duncan and her husband Glen of Yukon, along with three treasured grandchildren: Zac Stanley and his wife Shaunda of Copan, OK, Morgan Rom and her husband Michael of Yukon, and Josh Stanley and fiancé, Marlena Long, of Castlerock, CO. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren, Harley Stanley, Zoe Stanley of Copan, OK, and Lauren Rom of Yukon, OK. She is now reunited with her parents, Fred Jr. and Vivian Faber, who preceded her in death, welcoming her into eternal peace.

Jerry Gayer

Jerry Eugene Gayer was born to Richard and Ruby Gayer on Easter Sunday April 21, 1935, on their small farm just Northwest of Everton, Missouri. He passed away in the early morning hours of Tuesday December 10, 2024, in Norman, Oklahoma at the age of 89 years, 6 months and 19 days.



Jerry was raised by his parents on their farm, the oldest of three brothers, in Everton, Missouri where he graduated high school. After graduation he worked on the family farm for a year before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force at the age of 19. After a 12-month deployment to Thule, Greenland, Jerry was transferred to Altus, Oklahoma in November 1955. Three months later in February 1956, Jerry met the love of his life Melba "Gay" Heavener.

Jerry and Gay were married on June 9, 1956. About two years later, they learned they were pregnant with their first child, Sharon who was born March 10, 1959. Jerry remained in the Air Force until he was discharged in March 1962 as a Staff Sergeant. About that same time, Jerry and Gay learned they would be having their second child, Brian born November 27, 1962.

After leaving the service, Jerry went into sales for Standard Oil Co., W.R. Grace, Gulf Oil Corp., and the Williams Companies. He continued to work in sales until 1975 when he and Gay opened Gayer's Western Wear in Weatherford, Oklahoma. Jerry and Gay worked side by side every day and turned Gayer's Western Wear into a thriving business while raising their two children. In 1991 they sold the business to their son so they could spend more time traveling and with their two grandchildren Cody and Krystal. Aside from the time he spent with his family, Jerry enjoyed fishing and traveling with his wife. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a loyal friend.

Jerry is survived by his daughter Sharon Gayer, two grandchildren Cody Gayer and Krystal Gayer, and three great-grandchildren Braylon Gayer, Victoria Gayer, and Kobi Glover. He was preceded in death by his wife Gay Gayer, son Brian Gayer, brothers Wayne and Melvin Gayer, and parents Richard and Ruby Gayer.

Devin Hearn

Devin Glen Hearn, 56, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, at his home in Weatherford on December 11, 2024, at the age of 56 years, 5 months, and 7 days.



Devin was born on July 4, 1968 in Littlefield, Texas, to Jimmy Ray Hearn and Janice Christine (Hatfield) Lowder. He graduated from Sayre, with the class of 1986. Devin went on to study at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, in Weatherford. After some time in college, he stayed in Weatherford where he was proud to have lived for most of his adult life. In the early 2000s, Devin bought his farm north of Weatherford, where he enjoyed camping, riding four wheelers and dirt bikes, and target practice. Devin worked in many different industries while living in Weatherford; including 3M, ABC Realty, and finally crop insurance adjusting with Rain and Hail.

From a marriage in June of 1996, Devin was blessed with four sons- Jared, Kelyn, Benjamin, and Caleb. 'The Boys' as he affectionately called them, were Devin's pride and joy. He loved sharing his interest of outdoor activities with them, and would often be planning the next adventure before the last had finished.

Devin loved being with his family: traveling, kayaking, camping, jeeping, skiing, and antiquing. He enjoyed spending time at their lake home in Lake Eufaula with his girlfriend of six years, Trina Williams. He often attended his grandkid's events and enjoyed lots of concerts with friends. He was a dedicated Texas Longhorn's fan and would often instigate fun trash talk with his buddies.

Devin is survived by his mother, Janice Christine and Dennis Lowder of Sayre; four sons- Jared Fox and wife, Cherice of Taloga, Kelyn Fox and wife, E'Laura of Taloga, Benjamin Hearn of Colorado Springs, and Caleb Hearn of Weatherford; longtime girlfriend Trina Williams; brothers: Jimmy Ray Hearn Jr. and wife, Missy of Carter; Kevin Lowder of Sayre; sisters: Christy Bell and husband Bryant of Sayre, Amy Silk and husband Bandy of Sayre, and Misty Hearn of Abilene, Texas; four grandchildren- Rylynn, Rustyn, Kyson, and Kipton Fox; uncles Mark and Allen Hatfield; many extended family members, nieces, nephews, and close friends. Devin was preceded in death by his father Jimmy Ray Hearn, and grandparents Granny Christine and Papa W.A. Hatfield; Granny Betty Jo and Granddad Herman Hearn.

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Donations to fight hunger in Oklahoma are doubled in impact throughout the holiday season thanks to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Holiday Match.

Through January 15, all donations will be matched, up to \$350,000, thanks to presenting sponsor APMEX and with support from the Cresap Family Foundation.

"As we enter the festive season, we have a wonderful opportunity to come together and support our community. By contributing to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, we can uplift and improve the lives of our fellow Oklahomans," explained John Cresap, president of the Cresap Family Foundation. "Please join us in providing warmth, nourishment and hope to those who need it most."

The Regional Food Bank is able to provide three meals for every \$1 donated. During the match, every dollar will help provide six meals to Oklahomans living with hunger.

"The holidays are such a crucial time for Oklahomans experiencing food insecurity," said Stacy Dykstra, Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Food Bank.

Each year, the Regional Food Bank distributes, on average, 50 million pounds of food to its network of nearly 1,300 partners in central and western Oklahoma. This includes partners like Connections Food & Resource Center in Weatherford.

Shirley, who cares for her son and nephew in Weatherford, visits the Connections Food & Resource Center for food assistance. Shirley fills her cart with chicken, pork chops, lettuce, onions, tomatoes and cucumbers.

"This place is a blessing. It really is," Shirley said. "It's nice to get fresh vegetables or fruit. That's kind of a luxury item for us right now."

Help deliver hope this holiday season by making a donation at rfbo.org/give, by calling 405-600-3161 or by texting "MealsOK" to 53-555.

"The giving season is perfect time to make a tax-deductible donation to help provide much needed meals and nutrition to Oklahoma families," said Drykstra.

Donations may also be mailed to:
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
Holiday Match
P.O. Box 270968
Oklahoma City, OK, 73137-0968

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is leading the fight against hunger in 53 counties in central and western Oklahoma and envisions a state where no one goes hungry.

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is the state's largest domestic hunger-relief 501(c)(3) nonprofit that distributes food through a network of community-based partner agencies and schools.

After being founded in 1980, the Regional Food Bank has strived to serve chronically hungry children, seniors living on fixed incomes and hardworking families struggling to make ends meet throughout Oklahoma.

The Regional Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's network of food banks. To join the fight to end hunger, visit rfbo.org.

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HIGHER GROUND

Letters to Live By

Jim Morrison

who have lost their lives to follow Christ."

That is the ideal, although, never completely realized because it is made up of imperfect people who are constantly beset with selfishness and pride.

If we are to become radical believers making up a radical church, should this not be the vision both individually and corporately?

We must ask some hard questions that may involve sacrifice and inconvenience.

As we examine what it means to lose our lives and to follow Christ, it becomes a little shaky. It sounds good in the abstract, but in the concrete decisions of life it becomes a bit scary.

Peter spoke of Jesus, saying "He was not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9).

If we are to take on His character and be the fragrance of Christ in the world then we must consider this facet of his life.

Are there those in our community and in our world that we are quite willing to allow to perish? One of the reasons that the church is expanding so rapidly in the areas where persecution abounds is that every believer of Christ is seen as a witness to the faith. They seem not to fear if they offend somebody.

From the beginning they have caught the vision that the natural thing to do is to "go into all the world and make disciples."

The gospel basically means "good news." It is news that will lift people out of poverty of spirit and a life based on materialism and pleasure. It means being set free to serve even if it means painful loss and sacrifice.

Reflecting on Pratt's theme again, "the gospel is the reason a family will move with their infant child to live among one of the most dangerous unreached people groups in the world.

The gospel is the reason a family sold their large house in the suburbs to move into a small home in a low-income inner-city community.

The gospel is the reason college seniors are turning their backs on the American dream and senior adults are backing out of the American dream in order to pursue a higher goal."

When rightly understood, sacrificial love is not our duty but our delight. We love because He first loved us. There is joy in the journey, even though there may be the pain along the way. To coment: 580-302-1142 or jhm82@outlook.com

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Tickets on Sale for 55th Annual SWOSU Jazz Festival Featuring the Count Basie Orchestra



J. Boone Clemmons
 SWOSU PR & Marketing

Tickets are now available for the 55th Annual Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Jazz Festival, scheduled for Feb. 13-14, 2025. This upcoming festival will feature performances by the world-renowned Count Basie Orchestra and other events open to the community. The festival begins on Thursday, Feb. 13, with the "In the Mix" Combo Performance at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium, featuring members of the Count Basie Orchestra. Following this, the "In the Mix" Hors d'oeuvres Rendezvous will take place at 9 p.m. in the Lobby Lounge of the Best Western Plus, with snacks provided by the SWOSU Music Department.

Friday, Feb. 14, includes a full day of events, including the Big Band Festival from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Middle school, high school, and collegiate big bands will perform in various locations, including the Fine Arts Auditorium and Berrong Recital Hall. Additional events include:

- 9:30am: Rhythm Section Clinic, Hilltop Theatre
- 11am: The Count Basie Orchestra, Hilltop Theatre "1935-2025: A Complete History"
- 1pm: SWOSU Jazz Concert, Fine Arts Auditorium
- 3pm: Playing the Basie Way, Fine Arts Auditorium
- 5pm: Jazz with Pizzazz Buffet Dinner, Day Center
- 8pm: Count Basie Orchestra, Fine Arts Auditorium

For a more detailed overview of the event schedule, visit www.swosujazzfest.com

Regional university, high school, and middle school jazz bands are invited to participate in the Big Band

Festival and perform for comments and ratings from judges. The registration deadline is Jan. 19, 2025.

Outstanding soloists will receive certificates, with two exceptional soloists awarded free tuition scholarships to a 2025 SWOSU Music camp. Bands interested in participating can sign up at swosujazzfest.com/director-information/.

Tickets for the concert are now available for purchase! Prices for the Count Basie Orchestra Concert are \$10 for students, \$20 for seniors, and \$35 for general admission. The "Atomic Basie Pass," which includes a concert ticket and a buffet dinner ticket, is available for \$55. Tickets for the SWOSU Jazz Orchestra are \$10 for students, \$15 for seniors, and \$25 for general admission. Tickets for all events can be purchased online at bit.ly/48SmU4n

The jazz festival is generously supported by the SWOSU Foundation. Donations help provide participating high school bands with music masterclasses and offer accommodations for featured artists and organizers. To support SWOSU Jazz through donations, visit swosufoundation.com/give/give-to-swosu-jazz

SWOSU Jazz alumni have a special invitation this year. All former SWOSU Jazz students are invited to join Dr. Terry Segress on stage as the opening act of the festival. This alumni band performance will celebrate the rich history of the jazz program at SWOSU and provide an opportunity for past students to reconnect. Alumni can sign up at swosujazzfest.com/alumni-information

Non-performing groups are encouraged to attend and observe. All clinics are free and open to the public. For further details about the festival schedule, ticket purchases, or Big Band Festival registration, contact Dr. Richard Tirk at richard.tirk@swosu.edu.

HYDRO / CITY COUNCIL VACANCY - Due to a recent resignation by a city council member, a seat on the Town of Hydro's board of trustees is now vacant. The town's remaining board members are seeking a volunteer that will be appointed by the board of trustees to fill the vacancy. If you are interested, please contact the Town of Hydro's City Clerk at 405-663-2531, Monday through Friday between 8:30AM and 4:30PM. Qualifications to be considered include residency and registration to vote in Hydro.

WEST OK / FRAUD ALERT - Fraud and identity theft are on the rise and experts are urging caution. Bryan Baca with Advanced Financial Strategies warns listeners to be wary of unsolicited callers, saying that scammers often pose as legitimate businesses or government agencies to steal personal information, even though neither will ever ask for such details over the phone. "Staying vigilant is the first line of defense against fraud," said Baca.

CORDELL SB / BOND - Patrons of the Cordell School District recently gathered as school officials began seeking input on the future needs of the district, says Superintendent Travis Victory. The district will continue to work toward deciding which needs will be presented to the public through a future bond issue.

WEATHERFORD / SB CONCESSION - The Weatherford School Board of Education decided to move forward with a project that calls for the demolition and construction of a new concession stand at the football field. CJ Cook, president of the Quarterback Club, says the worst-case scenario is a \$30,000 cost to the quarterback club to do the project.

BECKHAM CO / FATALITY - The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says an Elk City woman who was hospitalized following an accident in Elk City earlier this month has died. OHP says 79-year-old Martha Stumbaugh died at OU Medical Center. Troopers say Stumbaugh was driving a vehicle on W 20th Street when she made a hard left turn into a ditch.

CLINTON / HOSPITAL UPDATE - Clinton Regional Hospital may soon be under new leadership after the city recently entered into a letter of intent for Rural Hospital Solutions, Inc. to purchase the hospital. It's a move that CEO Len Lacefield says is critical for survival as rural healthcare institutions continue to shut down at an alarming rate. Lacefield also shares why many are at risk of closing in the next 60- 90 days and that, to avoid that cascade effect, the answer is for rural hospitals to form partnerships that will allow them to work together to operate and keep their doors open.

WEATHERFORD / SALES TAX DECREASE - Sales tax revenue has declined this year for the city of Weatherford. Mayor Mike Brown weighs in on the decrease, offering his perspective on the factors contributing to the downturn: "I really feel like that road construction influenced the sales tax to the people on Airport Road. They said their businesses' sales were down 30%. I think even though it's going to be great now that [it's almost] completed, I think we suffered a little bit because of it. Hopefully, getting those roads open, getting easy access to these businesses will help us and I think we'll see it in the sales tax." Mayor Mike Brown has encouraged residents to support local businesses in Weatherford in order to help improve future sales tax collections.

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 Dec. 18 - Jan Bowden, Matthew Davenport, Collin Dixon, Cayden Gossen, Adrian Huitaa, Jeff Lunday, Chad Miller, Jackie Nutry, Justin O'Connor, Phillip Payne, Tyler Shadid, Kit Stephenson, David Wedel; **Dec. 19th** - Becky Barton, Ranea Bryan, Matt Cox, Kent Dewees, Jasi Froneberger, Devan Hewitt, Mark Hix, Darell McCray, Joyce Norris, John Page, Kim Richmond, Sharon Segress, Steve Spain, Tabitha Washa, Harold Washa; **Dec. 20th** - Dr. Michael Aaron, Donna Durnell, Edward Engel, Norma Fisher, Melanie Gates, Phyllis Gibson, Larry Howes, Burl Kennedy, Ernie McCoy, Lela Ma McGill, Victoria Rodriguez, Jarde Sister, Laura Toczko, Ruby Wright; **Dec. 21** - Leslie Acuna, Boyce Ashcraft, Sonya Blagg, Jackie Flaming, Wendy Garrison, Nicole Glance, Paul Harner, Damon Kautz, Sandra Kidd, Anna Koop, Lynn Koop, Trapper Roark, Maria Settles, Dalton Sisson, Jeannie Spain, Allen Tinton, James Vanderbroeck, Jylian Voight; **Dec. 22** - John Brown, Kelsie Cardenas, Nicholas Davis, Michelle Dry, Ivan Escobedo, Murlin Henderson, Alisha Henderson, Donald Melton, Dennis Messmer, Deryl Roark, Nova Schafer, Rossalyn Simpson, Phyllis Stevenson, Michelle Stinson, Blake Whitson; **Dec. 23** - C.J. Barnhill, Jared Deaton, Lynn Graham, Jason Hines, Lisa Lee, Jacqueline Parker, Dusty Rhoads, Andy Sister, KeKe Sutton, Anthony Thomas, Larry Waldrup, Bentli Whitson; **Dec. 24** - Marquez Borjas, Patrick Bostwick, Dorothy Burns, Zachery House, Kaitlin Kimble, Lucielle Ralston, David Richmond, Hannah Spler;

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Oklahoma History: OKC's Christmas Traditions



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

Photos of Christmas decorations and celebrations in Oklahoma City. These photos were taken circa 1936 (left) and 1962 (right).

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The late 19th century brought about a unique and challenging period for settlers in the Oklahoma Territory. As families sought to establish their homes and communities in this rugged and untamed land, the spirit of Christmas persevered, weaving a tapestry of warmth and joy amidst the harsh conditions.

Many of the people who migrated to the frontier brought along their cultural traditions but found that the new landscape required them to create some new customs or tweak their old ones. For example, the standard Christmas tree was traditionally a pine tree. However, within the new territory, a substitute was required and picked as the native oak or blackjack tree.

These Christmas trees, if available, were small and adorned with candles, paper ornaments, and whatever shiny trinkets the settlers could fashion. Early Christmas celebrations in the Oklahoma Territory were marked by simplicity and resourcefulness. Families adorned their humble homes with handmade decorations crafted from natural materials like pinecones, twigs, and dried berries.

With familial connections to the East limited, communities began to host Christmas celebrations together in a local church or school. Some early influencers of Oklahoma's style of Christmas before statehood were immigrants from Czechoslovakia and members of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Churches, often the heart of these budding communities, organized special Christmas services that provided a respite from the challenges of

frontier life. Christmas dinners featured buffalo tongue, goose, wild turkey, sauerkraut, and bread dumplings. With limited access to stores, families exchanged handmade gifts, such as knitted scarves, embroidered handkerchiefs, and crafted toys. Despite the hardships, the pioneers of the Oklahoma Territory infused Christmas with a spirit of resilience and hope.

In 1832, missionary Henry Wilson from the Presbyterian Missionary Board visited Dwight Mission in Indian Territory (near Marble City, Oklahoma) and recorded his experience in his journal.

He lamented about the mission bells he heard ringing, guiding him to the Christmas celebration. Along the way he noted the bells calling others to the church, Cherokee citizens.

"When I entered the mission church, they were singing hymns in the Cherokee language. Never before did music appear half so sweet to me; the language is music itself".

That day, Wilson spent the Christmas with almost 100 families and wrote, "This was the happiest Christmas I ever spent, though far from home and friends and destitute of the luxuries and comforts to which I have become accustomed."

The holiday season became a time to reflect on the challenges faced throughout the year, express gratitude for the small victories, and look forward to a brighter future. Today, as we look back at these humble beginnings, we can appreciate the tenacity and determination that laid the foundation for the festive spirit that continues to flourish in the state of Oklahoma.

The Elderly? Awesome!



Maxine McCullough

Living in a senior citizen area has proved to be very satisfying to me. Out of this experience has grown a sisterhood of women that offer companionship, caregiving, backyard therapy, and comedic relief. Our ages range from 60's to 90's. Faith and politics run the gauntlet A to Z, but we choose friendship.

In each of our lives, we've had our ups and we've had our downs. We share heart breaks, physical set backs, losses of loved ones as well as joyous times. We're elderly, but still intelligent and share common sense. We're what years of just living life has made us.

You know when you're in the middle of a story, then stop because you're stuck on a detail, name or date? Well, usually one of the women can come up with it and the tale teller can continue. We chalk this sort of thing up to age, believing that memory fades with time. But recent studies no longer support the view. They say memory isn't the problem. Its retrieving these memories that's the problem. It's simply not sharing the experience, letting them lay dormant for years. Then they are harder to access. Anyway our group is retrieving memories and sharing. Details may be a little fuzzy, embellishment goes on, but all in all entertaining tales.

This might be a good place to admit, out of all our group- how can I put this? Well, I'll just put it! I talk too much. There, I've said it. I try to blame it on the fact I'm the oldest. The one with the longer time to store up memories to share! In truth, I was the little girl that had 'whispers too much' checked on her report card. I was the teenager that was told by her mother, to go have fun with your friends, but cautioned honey don't talk too much!

I hate a lull in a conversation. I'll jump right in and fill that void. Sorry. Out of our little group, I'm the one that stays up late, and sleeps late in the morning. I'll admit around 2am I peek out of the blinds to check to see if everyone's car is in their place. I like all my ducks in row. Everyone home and safe.

Here's to our little group! Here's to the elderly! May we continue to grace this world with our life lessons and wisdom. You're welcome. Merry Christmas!

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SWOSU Men and Women Fall to the Undefeated Southern Nazarene



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU fell to Southern Nazarene (SNU), with men losing 53-61 and the women 49-74.

This game marked the Dawgs' first conference loss of the season (5-3, 2-1 GAC) and the fourth straight loss for the Lady Bulldogs (4-4, 0-3 GAC).

The Women's trend of cold shooting continued against SNU. SWOSU shot a season low 25% from the field and connected on just 3-of-22 (14%) attempts from beyond the arc. In the second half, the Lady Bulldogs made just

five field goals and missed all 12 of their 3-point shots.

In the third quarter, SNU shot 45% in the game and better than 50% in the second half. For the first time all season, the Lady Bulldogs committed more turnovers than their opposition. They ended with a season high 20, compared to SNU's 15.

Maebry Shields led the team with a career high 10 points, building off her nine-point performance a week ago against Tech. Averi Zinn chipped in eight points with three steals.

The Dawg defense limited SNU to 37.5% shooting overall on Saturday, tied for their season low, and 18% from beyond the arc with just three makes – both also new SNU season lows. That defense was reciprocated though, with the Crimson Storm keeping SWOSU under 40% shooting on the day with just four three-pointers.

Free throws were a big difference maker in favor of SNU. For a second straight game, the Bulldogs finished right at 50% from the line with nine makes on 18 attempts. Meanwhile, the Storm made 41 trips to the charity stripe with 28 makes. It's the most foul shots a SWOSU opponent has taken so far this season.

Things were close throughout inside the Sawyer Center, as SWOSU held a 40-39 lead with 6:40 left to play before the Storm made enough plays down the stretch to win it. Both teams struggled offensively in the early going with a 23-16 halftime score in favor of SNU.

The Dawgs shot just 7-for-28 (25%) in the first half but regrouped at halftime and shot 54% after the break which included three of their four three-point makes on the day.

Eli Al-Debaran led the Dawgs with 13 points on 4-of-10 from the field. MJ Warrior added 12 with five rebounds, four steals, and four assists.

Maebry Shields and MJ Warrior are the Latest Bulldogs of the Week

BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK



Women's Basketball
Maebry Shields



Men's Basketball
MJ Warrior

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Maebry Shields and MJ Warrior have been selected

as the newest 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.

Maebry Shields (Perry, Okla.) scored a career high 10 points off the bench for the Lady Bulldogs on Saturday, December 14th against Southern Nazarene University.

This is Shields's second straight game posting a career high scoring number after she finished with nine points a week ago against Arkansas Tech.

MJ Warrior (Oklahoma City, Okla.) stuffed the stat sheet against the Crimson Storm on Saturday, December 14th,

Warrior finished the game with 12 points, five rebounds, four assists, and four steals. The senior's rebounds and steals numbers both set new season highs.



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