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WOCS Leadership Class Spreads Christmas Cheer for Corn Heritage



Provided

The Western Oklahoma Christian Schools (WOCS) Leadership Class of 2024-25 visited Corn Heritage Village last Thursday Morning.



Provided

The students walked the hall and visited the village's various activity areas singing Christmas carols.



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WOCS students visited a few residents' rooms to give them their own personal Christmas carol performance.



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Lucy Boeckman

Lucille "Lucy" Boeckman was born February 12, 1947, in Stillwell, to H.B. and Margurett (Gressett) Taylor and passed away Friday, December 13, 2024, at Integris Hospice House in Oklahoma City, at the age of 77 years, 10 months and 1 day.



Lucy was adopted at a very young age and was raised in Louisiana before the family moved to Dustin in eastern Oklahoma. Lucy's family owned and operated a Dairy Queen. She graduated from high school in Graham.

In August of 1967, Lucy married Bill McKinney, made their home in Chickasha and moved to Hydro in 1975, they were married for 22 years. Lucy made her home in Weatherford and married Bernard Boeckman in 1990.

She loved spending her time with family, friends and especially her grandchildren. Lucy also enjoyed painting, crafts, and sewing.

Lucy was preceded in death by her parents, H. B. and Margurett Taylor; husband, Bernard Boeckman; and son, Michael McKinney.

Lucy is survived by her son, Alvin McKinney and wife, Alice; brother, Eddie Taylor; four grandchildren, Randy and Mattea McKinney and Alvin and Morgan McKinney; and two great-grandchildren.

Sue Atchley

Eva Sue Atchley, age 81, passed away on December 15, 2024 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was born on November 20, 1943, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Lt. Colonel Hubert Warren and Mildred Marie (Randolph) Sanders.



Sue graduated from Custer City High School in 1961. She received a Bachelor of Education Degree with a minor in Music from SWOSU in Weatherford, Oklahoma in 1965. Later, she earned her Masters in Education.

She began her teaching career in Burns Flat for two years. She then taught in Weatherford for twenty-eight years for a total of thirty years. She was active in many educational organizations.

Sue married Warren Ray Atchley on August 13, 1965, in Custer City, Oklahoma. Warren and Sue had two children together: Shanna Rae and Shadd Warren.

Eva Sue was baptized at age 12 in the First Methodist Church and remained a member all her life. She taught many classes of Sunday School and helped with Bible School when Shanna and Shadd were young.

Over her life she was active in many civic groups: Beta Sigma Phi, Kappa Kappa Iota, Bridge Club, Athenians Club, various Library Groups and an active member of retired teacher's association. In her later years she resided in Elk City, Oklahoma. She helped start a book club 'The Bookends' in Elk City. She was an avid reader.

She enjoyed traveling to Europe and the Holy lands, reading, crafts, playing bridge and working crossword puzzles, and watching sports and movies. She also served as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Elk City Route 66 museum. She also helped assist as a hospital guest services volunteer. The last six years she resided in Jenks with her son Shadd and 2 granddaughters Camryn and Lauryn. She loved her family dearly. She enjoyed attending various activities that her grandchildren were involved in. She was a devoted mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and great grandmother.

Cherishing her memory is her daughter, Shanna and her husband Robert Bruner of Elk City, Oklahoma and son, Shadd Atchley of Jenks, Oklahoma; four grandchildren, Bailey and her husband Payton David of West Des Moines, Iowa, Abigail Bruner and fiancé Chandler Smith of Edmond, Oklahoma, Camryn Atchley and Lauryn Atchley of Jenks, Oklahoma; great grandson, Beau Max David of West Des Moines, Iowa; also three sisters, Paula Stevens and husband Norvil of Carson City, Nevada, Cheena Curtis and husband Carl of Memphis, Tennessee, and Rose Newton of Yukon, Oklahoma; brother, Randy Sanders of Guthrie, Oklahoma; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and family.

Sue is preceded in death by her parents, Lt. Colonel Hubert and Marie Sanders, husband, Warren Atchley, in-laws, Jimmie and Ethel Atchley, sister-in-laws, Starla Atchley Koehler and Roberta Atchley, brother-in-laws, Rick Newton and David Atchley, and nephew, Brice Atchley.

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 was raised in Denver City, Texas and graduated from Sayre, Oklahoma, with the class of 1986.

After graduating high school, 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.

Devin 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 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.

Devin is survived by his mother, Janice Christine and Dennis Lowder of Sayre; longtime girlfriend Trina Williams; 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; two brothers: Jimmy Ray Hearn Jr. and wife, Missy of Carter, and Kevin Lowder of Sayre; three 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; and uncles Mark and Allen Hatfield; as well as many extended family members, nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Beverly Jones

Beverly Faye Jones, 81, of Sayre, Oklahoma was born on November 27, 1943 in Satanta, Kansas. She is the daughter of Lester Lindy and Kate (Ellis) Callis. She went to walk the golden streets of heaven on Wednesday, December 10, 2024 at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City, Oklahoma surrounded by her loving family.



Beverly attended school and graduated from Satanta High School, Santanta, Kansas. She married her best friend and soul mate, Red "Earl" Jones on June 1, 1975 at Elk City, Oklahoma. Together they spent many wonderful years of marriage together. He preceded her in death in 2011.

Beverly was a registered nurse for the State of Oklahoma and the Department of Human Services for twenty-five years.

Beverly enjoyed doing puzzles and going fishing. She treasured going to church and spending time with her family and friends and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Cherishing her memory is seven grandchildren; numerous great grandchildren; one daughter-in-law, LaDonna Jones of Sayre, Oklahoma; two sisters, Janice Compton of Azel, Texas, Linda Satchell of Fort Worth, Texas; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Beverly is preceded in death by her husband, Red "Earl" Jones; her parents, Lester Lindy and Kate Callis; three sons, Keith Jones, Tony Jones, and Alan Jones; and one brother, Doug Callis.

Memorials can be made to the charity of choice in care of the Martin-Dugger Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 707, Elk City, Oklahoma 73648

Bobby Jones

Bobby Jones, 94, of Elk City, Oklahoma was born in the rural community of Port, southeast of Elk City, Oklahoma. He is the son of Guy and Rosa Jones. He passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at OU Medical Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma surrounded by his loving family.



Bobby started school at Port, Oklahoma, and then attended Waco Star Schools. He finished his education at Canute High School where he graduated with the class of 1948.

Bobby met and married his first wife, Glenna Vernon, from Dill City, Oklahoma in 1950. With Glenna, four children were born, Micheal, Chris, Deborah, and Mickey.

Bobby spent most of his working career at the United States Postal Service, Elk City, Oklahoma for thirty-four years. He began his lifelong career, serving as City Carrier, and then worked seven and half years as Supervisor and seven and half years as the Postmaster.

In 1975 he married, Jackie Jacobs, of Clinton, Oklahoma.

After Bobby's retirement in 1990, he had many interests and stayed busy all the time. He was a member and served as president of the Lions Club. Bobby loved fishing and visiting with his family. He was an avid reader, reading one book per week, and has a list of all the future books he wanted to read.

Bobby was a formidable domino player. He knew every domino in everyone's hand, and usually had a strategy for plays two turns ahead. Almost every evening of a family visit culminated in a hard-fought domino game.

Bobby joined the First Baptist Church, Elk City, Oklahoma in 1976 where he was a longtime loving faithful member and served as Trustee for several years.

He loved spending time with his family and friends and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Bobby is preceded in death by his first wife, Glenna Jones; his second wife, Jackie Jones; one daughter, Mickey Leann Jones; his parents, Guy and Rosa Jones; three brothers, Travis, Beryl, and Harold; and his son-in-law, Boyd.

Cherishing his memory is his children, Michael Jones and wife, Debra of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Chris Jones and wife, Robin of Mangum, Oklahoma, and Deborah MacKenzie and husband, Dan of Ada, Oklahoma, and Paula Walker. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Amy, Aaron, Tim, Matt, Jesse, Lauren, Katie, and Jennifer; and ten great grandchildren, all of whom he loved to the depths of his heart. He also leaves behind hundreds of friends earned from a long life well-lived.

Dorothy Womack

Dorothy Evelyn Womack, 94, of Elk City, Oklahoma, was born on September 7, 1930 in Elk City. She was the daughter of John Albert and Mattie Viola (Ferguson) McCormack. She went to walk the golden streets of heaven on Monday, December 9, 2024 at the Elk City Nursing Center surrounded by her loving family.



Dorothy grew up in the Merritt community and graduated from Merritt High School with the class of 1948.

Dorothy married her best friend and soul mate, Billy Riley Womack on March 4, 1950 in Merritt, Oklahoma.

Dorothy enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She loved her cats, reading, and doing crossword puzzles. Dorothy was a member of the Eastside Baptist Church of Elk City and enjoyed attending for sixty to seventy years.

Dorothy faithfully served as a Sunday School teacher for thirty years. Dorothy will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Billy Riley Womack; one son, Tim Womack; and her parents, John Albert and Mattie Viola McCormack; four brothers; and two sisters.

Cherishing her memory is two daughters, Sharon Marshall and husband, Jerry of Elk City, Oklahoma, Janet Miller and husband, Larry of Elk City, Oklahoma; one son, Jeff Womack and wife, Jaye of Elk City, Oklahoma; eight grandchildren; fourteen great grandchildren; three great great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Cloudy H: 50° L: 41° Wednesday	Rain H: 52° L: 40° Thursday	Mostly Cloudy H: 56° L: 38° Friday	Mostly Sunny H: 61° L: 39° Saturday	Partly Cloudy H: 63° L: 41° Sunday	Partly Cloudy H: 66° L: 36° Monday	Mostly Sunny H: 52° L: 28° Tuesday
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CASA

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FOR CHILDREN

CASA of Western Oklahoma

Jackie Aaron
CASA Executive Director

What a wonderful New Year's Resolution for 2025.

Volunteering for our most vulnerable children across Western Oklahoma is definitely a resolution that you won't regret.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteers are concerned citizens who are trained to be the eyes and ears of the juvenile court judge. These everyday heroes interview children, their families and anyone who has information regarding the family. After reading and studying all reports pertaining to the families, volunteers report their findings to the court, make recommendations concerning the best interest of these children who have been abused and/or neglected.

CASA is the voice for deprived children in Custer, Washita, Beckham, Roger Mills, and Dewey counties. In FY 2023-24, 73 CASA of Western Oklahoma volunteers served 214 children on 102 cases in our service area. This number represents only about 66% of the children that are currently in the foster care system in our service area.

We are currently seeking individuals that might be interested in becoming a CASA volunteer to help close this gap while serving the needs of these children.

CASA Volunteers must be 21 years of age, obtain 30 hours of free in-depth training and pass an OSBI and national background check. CASA volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and circumstances.

Many volunteers work a full time job while contributing to CASA's mission while others work part time, are retired, or are college students. The common thread that links all volunteers together is the desire to make a difference in the life of an abused child.

CASA of Western Oklahoma has begun a hybrid training class allowing half of the training to be on-line and half in-person. Training classes will begin on February 17th on-line. For more information, please contact Jackie Aaron at jackie@casawok.org or Tamra Misak at tamra.misak@casawok.org. Be Their Voice.

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HIGHER GROUND

A Baby Born to Die

Jim Morrison

"Jesus is the reason for the season." In this post-Christian era the name of Jesus is seldom used in connection with Christmas. You can watch a full slate of Hall- Mark movies and never hear His name mentioned. To the commercial businessman the season is about the bottom line. Will the sales in the final weeks of December offset the financial weakness of the previous months and produce a profit?

To the harried family with six children, their concern is, how can I possibly give each child a joy-filled Christmas morning. I thank God for community programs like Care and Share, Angel Tree, and the Salvation Army. But these are largely band-aid approaches to the real needs of families and children. The toys will soon be broken or discarded. The new clothes will wear out or lose their fashion.

This is not to say we should disregard our efforts to express love for each other through the exchange of gifts. But we must not let the greater gift and the larger purpose of this season recede into the background. It was because, "God so loved the world that he gave..." Why was it so important to God that he became flesh--a cute, little flesh and bones baby that needed his diaper changed, who cried in the night, and needed to be held and nourished. Incarnation means God emptied himself of the glories of his real home to, "make of himself nothing and take on the form of a servant...becoming obedient to death, even to death on a cross."(Phil. 2: 7,8)

The apostle Paul further exclaims;" For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity (Godhead) lives in bodily form." (Col. 2:9) Jesus himself dares to say "If you have seen me you have seen the Father."(John 14:9)

Yes, he came out of pure love, but for what purpose? He came to set captives free. Every baby born into this world, no matter how cute and cuddly they are, is held prisoner to a sinful nature that will erupt in selfish, angry, and sometimes violent ways, if not checked or restrained. Jesus came to die a horrible death on the cross to take upon himself all the sins of mankind so that they could have access to God and all his resources.

2 Corinthians 5:21 speaks of that; "God (the Father) made Him (the Son) who knew no sin to become sin for us, so that in him (Christ) we might become the righteousness of God."

The life change from this sacrificial death is pointed out in 2 Corinthians 5:14,15. Paul declares; "For Christ's love compels me (thrust me out, or constrains me) because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

While that sinful nature is not totally destroyed; the Holy Spirit, comes to take up residence within us when we surrender to His Lordship. He acts to guide us into all truth, to bring to our remembrance the teachings of Christ, provide comfort and act as an attorney on our behalf to lead us to recognize Satan's devices, and gives us strength to endure and obey.

All this is what makes Christmas special! It's not about us it is about the great wonder of a great love that was demonstrated and began with a little baby that you could hold in one hand; who was born to die for you and me. "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

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Jena Skarda / WOCS
Western Oklahoma Christian School Principal Erin Funk (left) and Head of School Dora Miller (right) congratulate their November Students of the Month Graham Thomas and Addalie Evetts. Lucille's Roadhouse sponsors this monthly award.



Provided
Blue Sky Bank recently donated \$1,000 to the Weatherford High School softball team to support their efforts in purchasing their first-ever state championship rings to celebrate their historic achievement.

CLINTON / HOSPITAL CREDIT LINE - In a recently held emergency meeting, the Clinton City Council and the Public Works Authority have approved an updated line of credit agreement with the Clinton Hospital Authority totaling \$750,000 with a draw of \$580,000 says Clinton Hospital Authority Chairman Ken Baker. "S750,000 a day would pay the [employees'] payroll," said Baker. "We would hold back another \$180,000 for the payroll December 31st, just [to] make sure we have about \$400,000 for the payables that are due." The city continues to work to sell the hospital to rural hospital solutions.

WEATHERFORD/AIRPORT RD DEDICATION A dedication ceremony is planned for January 9th at 3 pm for the Airport Road Bridge, which will be held at the Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford. "That intersection will be dedicated to General Stafford," said Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell. According to Creswell, the Airport Road bridge project is currently in the wrap-up phase.

WRH/PORTABLE ULTRASOUND- Weatherford Regional Hospital is in the process of purchasing a portable ultrasound machine after receiving a \$62,000 check from the hospital foundation, says Chief Executive Officer Darin Farrell. "These are quite common in larger emergency rooms...[for] a patient with trauma [or] a pregnant patient," explained Farrell. "This is a great addition to our hospital. It'll improve quality of care." Farrell also says the equipment may not arrive for about 8-10 weeks. The foundation raised the funds during a recent Arts Festival event held in Weatherford.

CLINTON / NEW HEALTH CLINIC - Residents of Clinton and the surrounding area will have another option for healthcare beginning in the spring of 2025. Heide Edwards, the Communications Supervisor for Variety Care, says the clinic will provide greater access to essential healthcare services. "Will offer checkups, lab work, chronic disease management, urgent care, that sort of thing," explained Edwards. The clinic will be located at 316 South 4th Street, just off Highway 183 in Clinton.

SWOSU / COLLEGE CONFERENCE - Oklahoma State Representative Anthony Moore [R-57] has proposed legislation for a system that could create a new sports conference made up of Oklahoma colleges. Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) President Diana Lovell shared details on the study behind the proposal, stating that the primary goal would be to reduce the costs of traveling for away games under the Great American Conference (GAC). As Lovell explains it, of the 12 schools in the GAC, "half of our schools are in Arkansas and half are in Oklahoma. There's not a lot of other football schools we could add just in Oklahoma, and we're going to need to have that many games, for instance. And then, of course, you have all the other sports." Lovell says that Representative Moore along with State Education officials are expected to provide further updates as the study progresses.

WEATHERFORD / NEW HOURS - It is asked that all trash be placed by the curb by 7 am, beginning December 30th. City officials say Weatherford will implement these new hours to ensure a smoother, more efficient curbside pickup.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!



Happy Day TO YOU!

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

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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 Dec. 25 - Teresa Andrews, Pat Barnett, Steve Bellew, Brady Coffelt, Ronda Harmon, Jake Ivy, David Martin, Michael Mendez, Hank Peter, Linda Pye, Mary Stelting; **Dec. 26** - Kenny Bragg, Nick Davis, Curtis Duff, Ruben Garlin, McKayla Goodwin, Michelle Williams, Carl Wilson; **Dec. 27** - Erno Cook, Abby Ewing, Gabe Ferrell, Lee Hamilton, Mark McClure, Chad Meinhardt, Fay Schwartz, Matt Wisdom; **Dec. 28th** - Kayla Albert, Beth Bendure, Debbie Dehn, Pam Garrison, Mark Mapel, Margaret Meek, Marylou Mejia, Debbie Mosburg, Tracy Murray, Craig Price, Ginger Reed, Kaila Royalty, Hannah Sandoval, Lexi Sheperd, Kaye Soddars, Larla Wisdom, Josephine Whiteskunk; **Dec. 29th** - Darrell Coit, Westyn England, Bayley Forbes, Randy Goucher, Garret Graybill, Logan Guthrie, Nicole Horn, Shawn Lindsey, Ruth Mogg, Lars Sittingbear, Triniti Sparks, Tiara Tripp, John Yelloweagle; **Dec. 30th** - Karen Bragg, Carlos Diaz, Kim Hicks, Danny Lenaburg, John Nutry, Charlotte Perry, Sharon Snider, Charlene Tanner, Randy Wynn; **Dec. 31st** - Emma Brown, Bill Bursosky, Lexi Hamilton, Myron Lustfield, Jerald Stelting, Tracy Watkins.

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Miss SWOSU 2024 McKedy is Now Gunning for Miss Oklahoma 2025



Mike Smith
News Director

Miss SWOSU 2024
Mackynzie McKedy recently

won Miss Lincoln County in August and will soon compete in Miss Oklahoma. McKedy, who plays music with her family, is majoring in Music Therapy at SWOSU, and much of her Lincoln campaign was based on her efforts to spread awareness on the benefits of music therapy.

“It’s my mission to go out across the state of Oklahoma to bring more awareness of music therapy because we are a true medical practice working on cognitive, emotional, social, and physical communications as we use music as our facilitator to reach those nonmusical goals,” said McKedy at the most recent Weatherford Rotary meeting. “We work on the same goals [as other forms of therapy]. We use music as our tools to address those needs and those goals because we are a true medical practice.”

The Miss Oklahoma Competition Week is scheduled to start on June 1, 2025.

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Dale (2A)

Owasso (6A)
Thurs, Dec. 26, 5:30 pm
Wilson-Henryetta (B)

Fri, Dec. 27 10:30 am

Consolation (5th)
Sat, Dec. 28 1:30 pm

7th Place
Sat, Dec. 28 10:30 am

Fri, Dec. 27 5:30 pm

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History Special: How Icons of the Christmas Season Rose to Prominence



Courtesy Skvidal / Flickr

Rockettes performance during a December 2007 show performing their iconic "kickline."

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Although the Christmas season has come and gone, for this week's history story, we wanted to give an rundown on a few iconic elements of the holiday season.

The Rockettes: Precision and Christmas

The Rockettes have become a Christmas tradition as iconic as the Rockefeller Center tree. They first performed in 1925 as the "Missouri Rockets," but by 1933, they were headlining the Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular. Known for their perfect synchronization and dazzling high kicks, they've been wowing audiences ever since. Every year, millions flock to see their festive routines, which have been polished to perfection. Part of the magic lies in their symmetry—each Rockette has to meet strict height requirements to create the seamless lines and stunning visuals that make their performances unforgettable.

Santa Claus: The Evolution of a Legend

Santa Claus began with Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century Bishop known for his generosity. Over the centuries, his story evolved, blending folklore with the modern image we know today. The 1823 poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas solidified his role as a jolly gift-giver, and Coca-Cola's 1930s ads introduced his now-iconic red suit and white beard. Created in 1939 by a Montgomery Ward copywriter, Rudolph's glowing red nose was a marketing tool that quickly became part of the holiday canon.

Christmas Cards: Sending holiday cheer

Christmas cards started in 1843 when Sir Henry Cole, a busy British official, wanted a quicker way to send holiday greetings.

Cole commissioned John Callcott Horsley to create the first card, which featured a cheerful family scene and cost a shilling—a luxury at the time.

The tradition exploded in popularity when printing became more affordable. By the early 1900s, companies like Hallmark transformed Christmas cards into a booming industry. Today, Hallmark's cards are synonymous with heartfelt holiday messages, and the simple act of sending a card—whether handwritten or digital—remains a timeless way to connect with loved ones.

The Christmas Tree: An Evergreen Icon

The Christmas tree tradition dates back to 16th-century Germany, where people decorated evergreen trees with candles, apples, and other ornaments. The custom made its way to England in the 1840s when Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's German-born husband, introduced it to the royal family. Since then, the Christmas tree has become a centerpiece of holiday celebrations.

From traditional live evergreens to artificial versions decked out with lights and ornaments, each tree reflects the personality and memories of the family who decorates it.

A Charlie Brown Christmas: Heart of the Holidays

When "A Charlie Brown Christmas" debuted in 1965, it was a gamble. Executives worried its slow pace, melancholy tone, and use of child voice actors would miss the mark. Instead, it struck a chord with audiences and became a holiday classic.

The special's simple message about the true meaning of Christmas, symbolized by Charlie Brown's scraggly little tree, continues to resonate today. Add in Vince Guaraldi's timeless jazz soundtrack, and it's no surprise that this humble cartoon has remained a favorite for nearly 60 years.

Advent Calendars: Counting Down to Christmas

Advent calendars have been a part of Christmas celebrations since 19th-century Germany, where families marked each day leading up to December 25th with chalk or candles.

In 1908, Gerhard Lang introduced the first printed advent calendar, adding little doors that opened to reveal Bible verses or festive illustrations.

Now, advent calendars have taken on a life of their own. From chocolate-filled versions to luxury ones featuring toys, beauty products, or even wine, the excitement of opening a door every day keeps the anticipation of Christmas alive.

Candy Canes: Sweet and Symbolic

The candy cane isn't just a festive snack; it's packed with history and meaning. Legend has it that in 17th-century Germany, a choirmaster bent sugar sticks into the shape of shepherds' crooks to keep children quiet during church services. Later, the red and white stripes were added, symbolizing Christ's blood and purity.

By the early 1900s, Bob McCormack of Georgia began mass-producing candy canes, making them a staple of Christmas celebrations.

Whether used as tree decorations or eaten as treats, they've become an enduring symbol of the season.

Eggnog: A Festive Favorite

Eggnog has been warming holiday gatherings for centuries. It began in medieval Britain as "posset," a creamy drink made with milk, eggs, and ale or wine. When the recipe crossed the Atlantic, American colonists swapped in rum, creating the version we know today.

Rich, spiced, and often spiked, eggnog is a holiday staple. Whether served in a punch bowl at a party or sipped by the fire, it's the perfect way to toast the season.

These traditions—whether sweet, simple, or steeped in history—are part of what makes Christmas feel magical. They remind us that the holidays are about connection, celebration, and a little bit of sparkle.

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SWOSU Men and Women Lose Last Basketball Matchups of December



The seven points allowed inside the second quarter is the lowest scoring quarter outside of a five-point fourth quarter by Harding.

The Lady Bulldogs were able to keep the score low by causing 11 turnovers in the opening half. Seven different Dawgs notched a steal led by Mason Jones with two. The tides would turn inside the last quarter, with SWOSU jumping ahead 35-31 with 8:20 remaining. The Lions used a 9-0 run over the next two minutes that proved to be enough to stay ahead of the Lady Dawgs for the remainder of the game. Inside the fourth quarter the Lady Bulldogs shot 4-of-15 (26.7%) and only 1-of-8 from the deep ball while MSSU went 58% from the field and 50% from beyond the arc.

Even with the strong fourth quarter by the Lions, SWOSU held MSSU to just 34.5% overall from the field in the game – their lowest mark in a loss this year. The Lady Dawgs shot 33.3% collectively and 18.2% (4-22) from the three-point line with one make in each quarter of the game.

Layni Zinn led the way with 10 points on 4-9 (44.4%) shooting, Averi Zinn added nine points and knocked down her only three-point attempt of the game. Hailey Grant (six points) had her season high for rebounds with 10 to go along with two blocks and a steal.

Bulldogs vs. Oklahoma Baptist: 78-63

SWOSU Men's Basketball couldn't find an offensive rhythm in the final game before Christmas Break after falling 78-63 to conference leading Oklahoma Baptist.

The Dawgs also ran into a hot shooting OBU team who didn't shoot below 50% from the field in either half and was 40% (6-of-15) from the three-point line. SWOSU managed to shoot 34% from the field and just 25% from three despite seven makes.

The first half the game remained tight, sitting at 24-23 in favor of the Dawgs, but a 14-6 run by the away team to close out the half grew the lead to seven points – proving to be a margin that was too much to overcome. OBU would not let SWOSU catch any momentum in the second half, masking any bucket that the Dawgs were able to knock in with their own. Trailing 37-30 at halftime, the Dawgs were then outscored by eight points after the break in the loss.

Kray Rogers had the best game of his freshman season, scoring a game high 18 points on 7-of-16 shooting while knocking down four three-pointers. Tobias Roland added 12 points with a perfect 4-4 at the free throw line and Elijah Williams notched a season-high with 12 of his own.

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

The SWOSU Men and Women Basketball teams suffered two losses, leading into Christmas Break. The ladies (6-5, 2-3 GAC) have their next game on Saturday, January 4 on the road against Southeastern Oklahoma State at 1:00 pm. The men (6-4, 3-2 GAC) will face Southeastern in Durant on Saturday, January 4th at 3:00 pm.

Lady Bulldogs vs. Southern Missouri: 49-44

The Lady Bulldogs suffered a 49-44 loss on Saturday against Missouri Southern in the final non-conference game of the year. With the game up for grabs in the fourth quarter, SWOSU couldn't produce enough offense to finish ahead. The Lady Bulldogs were outscored 18-11 in the final 10 minutes with just four field goals.

The first half saw nine lead changes and three ties for 20 minutes, with SWOSU eventually being able to earn a five-point lead at 24-19 going into the half. MSSU's 19 total first half points is the lowest allowed by the Lady Dawgs this season.



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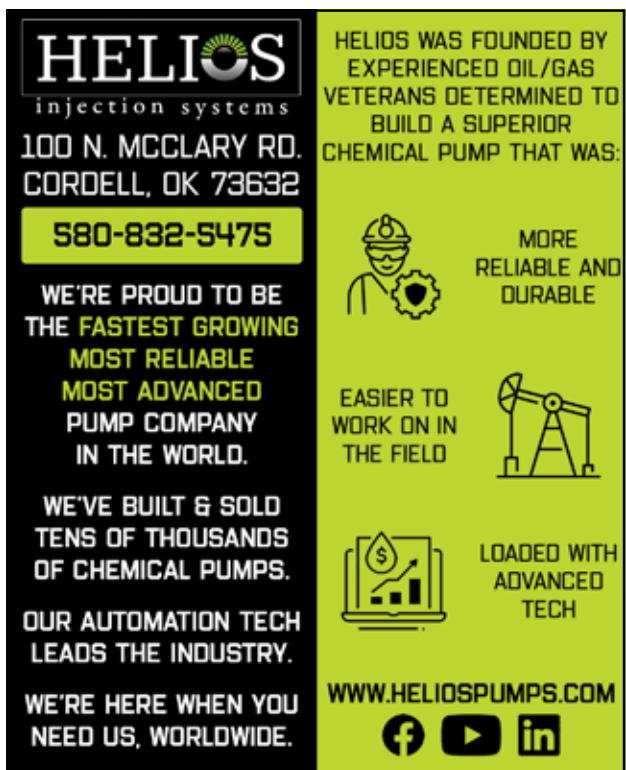
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