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Connections is Calling for Competitors at Grand Can Sculpture Contest



Grand Can
SCULPTURE COMPETITION
Compete so others can eat!

Registration Opens: January 20
Construction Begins: April 9
Viewing & Voting: April 11



Connections Food & Resource Center in Weatherford has opened entries to their 2025 Grand Can Sculpture Competition which is scheduled to take place April 9th – April 11th. This annual competition showcases local organizations’ and businesses’ creativity while also providing critical donations of various foodstuffs to Connections who uses those donations to support Western Oklahomans in need.

For a \$50 entry fee anyone can register their group for the competition, but entries are limited, so make sure to apply before the March 7th deadline. Once registered, groups are tasked with designing a sculpture completely built with canned goods and other shelf stable food.

From 9am - 9pm on Wednesday, April 9th and Thursday, April 10th, teams will build their sculptures at the Connections Food & Resource Center’s warehouse (122 S. 8th Street, Weatherford).

On Friday, April 11th, from 11am to 5:30pm, any interested spectator will be allowed to view and vote on the year’s best sculptures. Grab a bite to eat from the food trucks and vendors at the event.

Voting will take place through monetary donations given to participating organizations at the event as well as through liking photos of the teams sculptures on social media.

At 6pm on Friday, April 11th, after voting has concluded, several awards will be given to participants of the event. Awards are decided by an impartial committee, unless otherwise specified. These awards include:

- Best Use of Labels Award**
- Structural Ingenuity Award**
- Best Original Design**
- People’s Choice Award**
Determined by monetary donation; \$1 = 1 point
- Most Pounds of Food Award**
1 pound = 1 point
- Grand Can Grand Champion Award**
The team with the most points wins

“It is a huge pump to us because we can spend about \$10,000 a month buying groceries from the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma,” said Elizabeth Amen, Executive Director of Connections Food & Resource Center.

Last year’s event brought in 15,445 pounds worth of food and raised nearly \$8,000 in cash donations for Connections Food & Resource Center. Those donations alone provided over 47,000 meals to families and individuals in need around Western Oklahoma.

“For us, we know that those cans are going to save that money for us to either purchase the next thing on the list that’s wearing down here or put in the savings for a rainy day,” said Amen.

For more information about the event, to sign up to compete, or to volunteer you can visit Connections Food & Resource Center’s website at www.connectionscenter.org or you can find them on Facebook by searching Connections Food & Resource Center.

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Keith Koehn

Keith Alan Koehn, beloved son of LaVern Koehn and Virginia Koehn and Virginia (Seiler) Koehn, was born on February 27, 1960, in Wichita, Kansas. He peacefully passed away on January 19, 2025, in St. Anthony's hospital due to health complications, at the age of 64 years, 10 months and 22 days.



Keith was a 1978 graduate of Newton High School, Newton, Kansas. After high school, he pursued a career at Idaho Timber, in Halstead, Kansas, where he dedicated many years of hard work and passion. Keith left Idaho Timber for a brief time of employment at Skyline Manufacturing before returning to Idaho Timber until moving to Weatherford, Oklahoma in January of 2011. He started working at Wood 'N' Engine as a lube technician and was employed there until his death. Keith had many other small jobs helping local farmers, mowing with Chase, and helping trim trees as well as going on a custom harvest crew for a summer with his Uncle Butch.

Although Keith did not have any children of his own, he poured his love and care into his family and hobbies, particularly farming. He found joy in helping his father farm and grow crops. Keith was always a willing individual to help anyone in need and volunteered at the church on work days from time to time.

Keith will be remembered for his warm smile, kind heart, and unwavering dedication to his work and hobbies. He brought laughter and light wherever he went, and his presence will be greatly missed by all who knew him. You will always be cherished in our hearts and memories.

Keith is survived by three sisters, Janet Ratzlaff of Weatherford; Jeanne Holdeman and husband, Donovan of Bartow, Georgia; and Angela Stutzman and husband, Tim of Weatherford; stepmother, Twila Koehn of Weatherford, and a number of uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces.

Preceding him in death are his parents, LaVern and Virginia Koehn; grandparents, Walter and Priscilla Seiler and Reuben and Della Koehn; and one niece, Tonya Koehn. He also follows many uncles, aunts, and great nephews and nieces.

"He will forever be loved and missed by us all"

Olene Williams

Olene Ann Williams, 100, of Elk City, OK, was born on December 3, 1924 in Canute, OK. She was the daughter of Edward John and Rosie Gertrude (Mechek) Schones. Olene went to hold the hands of her Lord and Savior on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at Hensley Nursing Home in Sayre, OK.



Olene was born and raised in Canute, Oklahoma and graduated from Canute High School with the class of 1942.

Olene married her best friend and soul mate, Elmer Tony Williams on November 27, 1945 at St. Francis Catholic Church in Canute, OK.

Together they spent fifty-eight wonderful years of marriage together before his passing on October 8, 2003.

Olene was a member of the St. Matthew Catholic Church in Elk City.

She worked as a member of St. Joseph and St. Matthew Catholic Church Alter Society. Olene loved volunteering her time at the St. Matthew Food Bank and Pantry.

Olene resided at 167 Blackburn in Elk City, OK, for fifty years before entering Hensley Nursing Home in Sayre, Oklahoma.

She treasured spending time with her children, grandchildren, family and friends. Olene enjoyed gardening, knitting, crocheting and taking long walks. She will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cherishing her memory is two sons; Fred Williams of Sherman, Texas, Lynn Williams of Willow, Oklahoma; one daughter, Annette Norris of Ponca City, Oklahoma; eight grandchildren: Ben Williams of San Diego, CA; Sara Williams of Houston, TX, Robert Williams of Las Vegas, NV, Mariah Williams of Weatherford, OK, Jonathon Williams of Weatherford, OK, Christopher Batchelor of Los Angeles, CA, Jeremy Walters of Ponca City, OK, and Anthony Williams of San Diego, California; ten great grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Olene is preceded in death by her husband, Elmer Tony Williams; one son, Robert "Bobby" Williams; and her parents, Edward John and Rosie Gertrude Schones.

Linle Levy

Linle Drue Lewis was born on January 11, 1945, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Lynn (Linley) Lewis and Frances Jones-Lewis. She passed away on January 23, 2025, in Weatherford at the age of 80 years and 12 days.



She married Jimmy Dale Blagowsky, on April 6, 1962, and they lived in Weatherford while he completed undergraduate studies at SWOSU and moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma, for a brief period while Jim completed his PhD at OSU. They returned to Weatherford where Linle attended SWOSU, graduating with a BS in Elementary Education in 1974 and a Master's Degree in Special Education in 1976. She did all of this while raising two sons, Brett and Barry.

Her professional career was spent in education teaching Special Education at Arapaho for 17 years. She finished her teaching career at Weatherford, teaching gifted students and art before retiring in 2001. She was recognized as Weatherford District "Teacher of the Year" for the 1999-2000 academic year.

As a member of the First United Methodist Church, she belonged to the Frances Goode Circle, and served as a member of the Education Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the In-Zone after-school program. She was a member of the Weatherford Cemetery Board and the Weatherford Public School Foundation Board. She also participated as a volunteer for the American Heart Association and served over 12 years as secretary of the Custer-Dewey-Washita Counties unit of the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association (OREA).

She enjoyed traveling, friends, and her deep love of the Colorado mountains near Creede, which she shared and instilled within many generations. She could make sand plum jelly, bait a hook, clean a trout, lead an Aerobics class, make a campfire, fix a hot tub, landscape the backyard, paint a picture, pull a weed, cook chicken and dumplings, and do all this in the same day. She wasted little time watching TV or on anything that did not benefit her family, friends, students, or community. She also heard the phrase, "you look like Jamie Lee Curtis", more than a few times.

After her first husband's death in 1997, she married Dr. Les Levy in 2000. They enjoyed retirement by traveling. This marriage brought her a new daughter from Les's first marriage, Dr. Aimee Levy. Linle's family grew to include six grandchildren and three great-children. She also gained a "bonus" daughter (Elizabeth Weichel) and her three children to whom she was also "Grandma Linle".

She was preceded in death by her first husband Dr. Jim Blagowsky, one grandson Kamden Levy Corn, and parents Lynn and Frances Lewis. Linle is survived by her husband, Dr. Les Levy of their home in Weatherford, sister Mary Serio and husband Jack of Valrico, FL and her niece Linsey Jorn and family, son Brett Blagowsky and wife Dr. Shawn of Plano, TX, and their children Brianna and Joshua, son Barry Blagowsky and wife Monique of Weatherford and their daughters Toni Ray and husband Ty, and Jimi Blagowsky and wife Mariel, and stepdaughter Dr. Aimee Levy of Edmond and her son Karsten. She enjoyed three great-children Tyton, Tyger, and Tyrone from Toni and Ty Ray. She also enjoyed Elizabeth Weichel and her husband Keith, and children Bentley, Hollis, and Witten.

Thomas Stampul

Thomas James Stampul was born July 3rd, 2000 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Irene Anthony (Stampul) and Thomas James McRae. He passed away on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 south of Cheyenne at the age of 24 years, 6 months and 2 days.



Thomas grew up in Oahu, Hawaii until the age of 4 when he moved with his father to Sayre, where he remained. He attended school at Sayre Public Schools graduating in 2018. During his senior year he found employment with the city of Sayre where he worked even after graduation. Thomas later found employment with Diamond Z Cattle Company where he could be found doing numerous duties dealing with cattle and horses. He was currently working for Anadarko Dozer and Trucking where he was primarily part of a roustabout crew. In any spare time that Thomas had he enjoyed fishing, cooking out, barbecuing, and having a beverage with his friends, but his passion in life was his family and spending time with them.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents and one aunt, Sandra McRae.

Thomas is survived by his father, Thomas McRae, Sayre, OK; his mother, Irene Stampul, Sayre, OK; life partner, Harley Netz, of the home; his 3 children, Isabelle Moore, Wyatt Stampul, and Madison Stampul, all of the home; siblings, Kristie Cyr and husband, Chris, Henderson, NV, and their family, Brenda McRae and husband, David Ballard Henderson, NV and their family, Joe Johns and his family, Owego, NY, and Melissa Pardoe and husband, Justin Lindsey and family, Laurel, MS and a host of other relatives and friends.

Jimmy Albert

James Ralph Albert, 67, of Elk City, passed away peacefully on January 14, 2025, surrounded by family. Jimmy was born on March 23, 1957, in Elk City, OK to Ralph J. Albert and Frieda Maloof Albert.



Jimmy attended Elk City High School, where he graduated in 1975. He served as Key Club president during his senior year and led the club to win first place for the Texas/Oklahoma district. Jimmy attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK, graduating with a bachelor's degree in management and a minor in marketing. Jimmy is a proud member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, Gamma Delta Chapter. He has cherished the lifelong relationships he developed during his time in Stillwater.

Jimmy returned to Elk City in 1979 to operate Albert Brothers Distributors, Inc., and Albert Brothers of Altus, Inc. He proudly served alongside his father and later his son. He sold Albert Brothers of Altus, Inc., an Anheuser-Busch distributor, in 2008. From there, he gained a passion for real estate, acquiring and developing a portfolio of real estate which is still operating today. Jimmy deeply loved and valued all his employees, appreciating their hard work and dedication throughout the years.

On May 5, 1984, Jimmy married Patricia F. Skaff, and they enjoyed a devoted and joyful partnership for nearly 41 years. Patty was the love of his life, and he treasured every moment they shared together raising two wonderful children, Andrew James Albert and Christina Ann Rapella. Jimmy was a deeply loving father who guided, supported, and celebrated his children through every milestone in their lives. Later he embraced his most cherished role as "Jidi" to his three beloved grandchildren. Watching them grow was his greatest pride and joy, and his legacy of kindness and devotion lives on through them.

Jimmy was engaged in his community and industry, serving on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma State Marketers Association, where he held the position of President for two years. He served on the Board of the Oklahoma Malt & Beverage Association, including a term as its President. He also served on the OSU Alumni Leadership Board and was a past president of the Beckham/Roger Mills/Dewey Counties OSU Alumni Chapter. Additionally, he was an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Elk City for many years and later took on the role of President of the Americana Investment Club.

Jimmy was a devoted member of St. Matthew Catholic Church in Elk City, Oklahoma. He served his parish with dedication, participating in parish council, finance committee, and building committee. He was a member of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, served as an usher and served as Parish Council President working closely with many beloved parish priests over the years.

Jimmy's greatest joy in life was spending time with his family and friends. He cherished fly fishing along the Rio Grande in Creede, Colorado, and fishing at Foss Lake. An avid sportsman, he enjoyed playing golf, racquetball, and ping pong with his children. He also treasured the simple moments, often relaxing with scotch and a cigar in the company of those he loved. He especially enjoyed traveling with family & friends but especially vacationing on the beaches of Negril, Jamaica.

Cherishing his memory is his loving wife, Patricia Skaff Albert of Elk City, Oklahoma, son, Andrew James Albert and his wife Lindsey of Elk City, Oklahoma, daughter, Christina Ann Rapella and her husband Michael of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; three grandchildren, Sloane Elaine Rapella, Greyson James Rapella and Evelyn James Albert. Sister, Nancy Albert Kersey and her husband Jim of Edmond, Brother-In-Law, Dennis Fields of Oklahoma City, Sister-In-Law, Laurice Skaff Balian and her husband Fred of Altadena, California and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Jimmy is preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Frieda Albert, sister, Patricia Ann Fields and in-laws, John and Cynthia Skaff.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all the wonderful caregivers, doctors, and the team at Traditions Health Hospice for the loving and compassionate care provided to Jimmy.



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WESTOK WEEKLY

Partly Cloudy H: 57° L: 32° Wednesday	Cloudy H: 48° L: 31° Thursday	Rain / Snow H: 43° L: 29° Friday	Partly Cloudy H: 49° L: 32° Saturday	Partly Cloudy H: 51° L: 29° Sunday	Partly Cloudy H: 51° L: 34° Monday	Mostly Cloudy H: 46° L: 20° Tuesday
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Mulready Appointed Chair of Health Insurance and Managed Care Committee



Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready has been appointed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) President Jon Godfread as Chair of the Health Insurance and Managed Care (B) Committee in 2025. He was also named Vice-Chair of the American Indian and Alaska Native Liaison Committee.

"I am honored and excited to serve again as Chair of this important committee and continue addressing critical issues affecting Oklahoma and consumers nationwide," Mulready said. "I look forward to working with the new administration in Washington to tackle market challenges related to access and affordability of coverage for all Americans."

In addition to these leadership roles, Commissioner Mulready will serve as a standing member on the Life Insurance and Annuities (A) Committee, the Government Relations Leadership Council, and the National Insurance Producer

Registry (NIPR) Board of Directors.

Furthermore, the NAIC announced additional 2025 assignments for task forces and liaison groups for Oklahoma.

Several Oklahoma Insurance Department (OID) staff members will represent Commissioner Mulready in various roles. Other task forces and working groups are still being finalized.

"I'm thankful to have a great team that represents our state and regulatory responsibilities with professionalism and expertise and prioritizes consumer protection with their service," said Mulready.

The NAIC is the U.S. standard-setting and regulatory support organization created and governed by insurance regulators from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. Through the NAIC, state insurance regulators establish standards and best practices, conduct peer reviews, and coordinate regulatory oversight.

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HIGHER GROUND

A Cry for Repentance



Jim Morrison

Someone has said that the greatest thing we can do for our nation is to pray for its children. Of course that does not discount love, discipline, instruction, modeling, etc. But prayer should certainly undergird every action we take.

God, speaking to Moses cried out, "Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!" Deut. 5:29.

This cry of God for his children, the nation of Israel, reverberates through the ages. It is still true that if we fear God and keep his commandments it will go well with us and with our children.

Let me share some insights that may help you as you pray for your children. It must begin with a serious evaluation of what you feel God would like to see happen in the life of your boy or girl. Our goals and dreams may not be God's primary objectives. But the following suggestions would

be a great start toward helping your child to become a spiritual self-feeder when they leave home.

1. We know that God desires that every child brought into the world come into a personal and loving relationship with the Heavenly Father through placing his complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord. 2 Peter 3:9

- Lord, open this child's spirit to receive the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

- Lord, make his heart tender to receive and obey your truths. Give us as parents, wisdom to provide the atmosphere and opportunities that will allow your Spirit to work freely.

- Make us aware of anything in our lives that might hinder his understanding of your love and grace. We ask that you would remove those hindrances.

- May our faith and love be so transparent that he/she will long to experience that kind of life.

2. We know that God would have every child of his be transformed into the image of his Son, Jesus Christ. Roms. 8:29

- Lord, may my child have a heart to learn of your ways and a spirit willing to obey your truths. Psalms 25

- Give him/her a tender heart, sensitive to the needs of others. Phil 2:3,4

- I pray that you will protect him/her from the evil one who would rob him/her of their innocence and destroy their future. John 10:10a

- May they be quick to recognize the deceitfulness of sin and make decisions that would honor You. Heb. 12:1

- Lord, give me wisdom to guide them to recognize that you are in control and that nothing will separate them from your loving presence. Roms. 8:39

- Lord, I pray that they will recognize your call upon their lives and resist the materialistic and secular world that looks so tempting. Matt. 6:33

- Lord, I pray that they will realize that their body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Give them a desire to keep the body pure and set apart for maximum service. Roms. 12:1,2

- May they live a life of purpose, with a heart of a servant, and a sense of responsibility. Luke 9:23-25

This is by no means inclusive. You can add your heart concerns. Many who read this have already reared their children. Feel free to cut this out and give it to a young couple or couples Sunday School Class. This might nudge them into a more active and structured prayer life. God bless

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
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Recapping the 2025 West Central Tournament



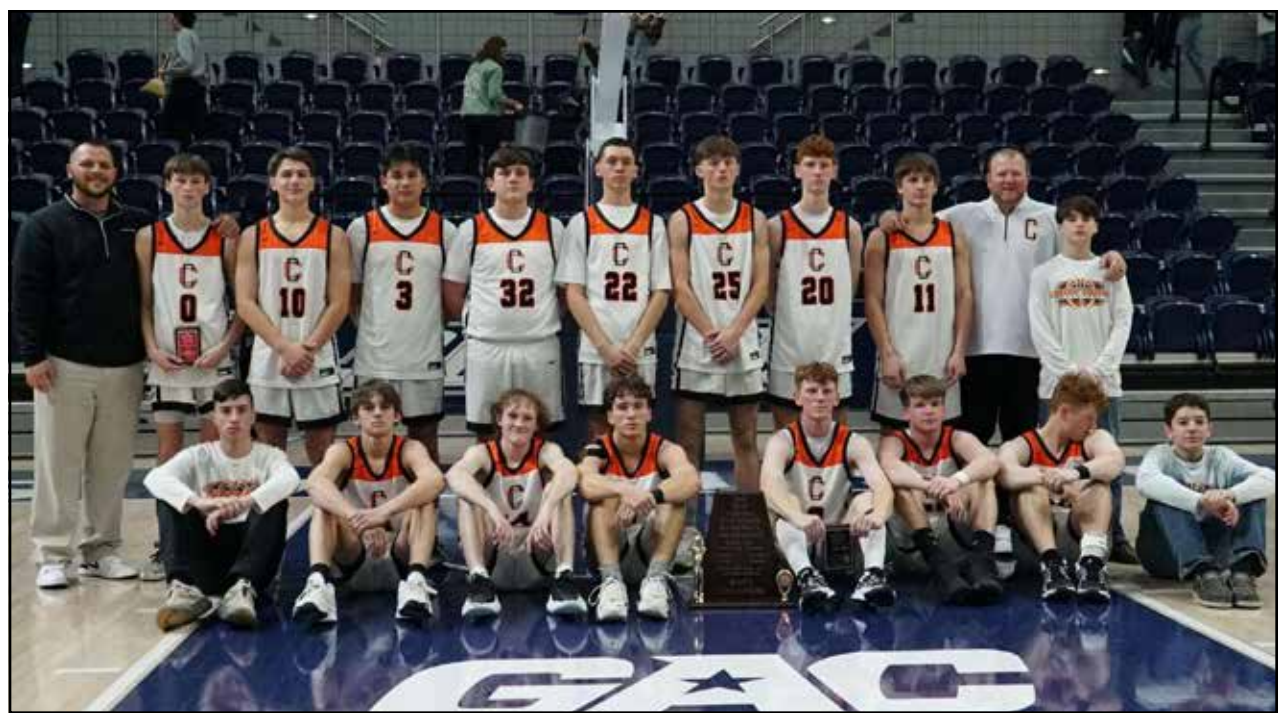
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For the third year in a row, the Canute Trojanettes (pictured above) and the Calumet Chieftains (pictured below) were crowned the Champions of the 2025 West Central Basketball Tournament. Tyler Thiessen and Angellyne De La Cruz were named their respective teams' MVPs.

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CADDO CO / YEAHPAU - The Caddo County Sheriff's Office says an inmate who walked away from the Caddo County Courthouse this week following a court proceeding has been taken back into custody. Investigators from several agencies were able to team up and take Levi Yeahpau into custody. Additional charges against Yeahpau of obstructing a police officer and assault on a police officer will be presented to the office of the district attorney. Authorities say Tana Circles and Traesha Hoppood were also arrested for harboring a fugitive.

SWOSU / BEST VALUE - Southwestern Oklahoma State University has been named the #1 best value college in Oklahoma for 2024-25 by research.com. The ranking reflects the outstanding value the university provides to students, combining quality education with affordable tuition to set graduates up for success.

SWOSU / JAZZ FESTIVAL - Officials at SWOSU say tickets are available for the 55th Annual Jazz Festival that will be held soon. The February 13th and 14th festival will feature the legendary Count Basie Orchestra. Meanwhile, big band festival registration is open until Friday, January 31 for middle, high school and university jazz bands to perform and get feedback from expert judges.

WEATHERFORD / DRUMMOND - Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond will be the guest speaker at the Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation next month, according to Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell. "We're excited to have him to talk about some stuff that he's doing in Attorney general's office, touch on some economic development, but also cover some leadership aspects of what his job entails," said Creswell. Drummond, who has already announced his intent to run for governor, will speak to the group on the morning of February 12th.

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!

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 Jan. 29th - Levi Feltman, Corey Fuller, Creelie Hamons, Chelsea Hughes, Farrah Humphreys, Que Jefferson, Krystal Kargis, Jacob Klassen, Donnie Lafever, Rachael Merchant, Rebecca Merchant, Liz O'Neill, Betty Prentice, Bob Smith, Duane Steiny, Kristen Stephenson, D'lese Travis, Clarice Whiteskunk; **Jan. 30th** - Hilda Bent, Mary Foster, Jessica Holt, Pat Reimer, Shona Stermer, Rachel Uraneck, Val Yoder, George Zatarain; **Jan. 31st** - Nocona Cook, Wayne Davis, Kimberly Hacker, Evelou Ledford, Tiffany Lightfoot, Glen Mavity, Sheila Meinhardt, Bruce Potter, Keagan Smith, Delores Thieseen, Ryan Vandersee, Edie Visnieski; **Feb. 1** - Brandon Bell, Dennis Caler, Malorie Cartwright, Madge Cartwright, Addi Duerksen, Sheryl Franco, Blaine Gee, AJ Hamlin, Emily Jones, Jarred Jones, Cheryl Lockstone, Elane Lockstone, Adrianna Lopez, Mary Miller, Lisa Pebley, Cameron Purinton, Gary Seifried, Betty Woody; **Feb. 2** - Maghin Abernathy, Kraig Bartel, Sarah Bergman, Keri Brookshier, Sharon McDow, Eddie Mendez Jr., Tom Miller, Chris Renison, Jordan Sallaska, Berdella Slagel, Marty Spencer, Tyler Ussery, Sharon Watson, Carolyn Youts; **Feb. 3** - Steve Bieberich, Michael Brooks, Blake Clonce, Misty Duke, Cash Entz, Lee Hight, Misty Holman, Carrie Howry, Clarissa Howry, Faron Jones, Alicia Shaw, Kenzie Skinner, Wanda Smith, Jimmy Washa; **Feb. 4** - Michael Altland, Blaine Boyd, Kallie Hollowel, Jordan Kasper, Gary Prophet, Nichole Rushing, Garrett Sloan, Jamie Sutton, Delores White.

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Oklahoma History: The Oldest Known Painted Object in North America



Craig Doda / HMdb.org

The Cooper Site Historical Marker in Woodward County. The marker features an illustration of the skull and its surviving neon orange paint mark.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

In 1992, the University of Oklahoma's Dr. Leland C. Bement walked up on a flooded plain of riverbed full of bones. Past preliminary groups had flagged them as horse bones or cow bones and didn't feel they were of as much significance. When Dr. Bement came upon the scene, he picked up a femur, identified it as bison, and mentioned to his colleague about what they could find, "We don't know, we'll have to wait and see, but chances are that any points that come out are going to be pretty old."

Finding half of a Folsom point at the Cooper Ranch shortly after pointed to the possibility of that the riverbed could be one of the oldest kill sites in the southern plains. "That's what really got everything going", Dr. Bement explained in a spotlight with the Sam Noble Museum published a couple of weeks ago.

The Cooper Bison Kill Site in northwestern Oklahoma stands as one of the most significant Folsom-era archaeological sites in North America. After its excavation, it has provided researchers with a rare glimpse into the hunting strategies and cultural practices of the Folsom people, a Paleo-Indian group that thrived on the Great Plains nearly 11,000 years ago. Known for their distinctive fluted spear points, the Folsom people were expert bison hunters who relied on coordinated efforts to drive large herds into kill zones.

The Cooper site, which has been studied extensively and led by Dr. Bement, reveals evidence of at least three separate bison hunts occurring at the same location, a testament to its repeated use by these early hunters.

Among the thousands of bison remains found at the site, one discovery stood out—the Cooper Bison Skull. Unlike the others, this skull bore a striking red zigzag pattern painted across its forehead.

Analysis confirmed that the pigment was ochre, a natural iron-rich mineral used by ancient peoples worldwide for ceremonial and artistic purposes. This marking, the oldest known painted object in North America, suggests that the Folsom people engaged in rituals connected to their hunts. Whether the painted skull was a tribute to the bison, a form of early spiritual expression, or part of a shamanistic practice remains uncertain, but it provides clear evidence that these early hunters saw meaning in their kills beyond mere survival.

Research at the Cooper site has been widely published in academic journals and archaeological studies. One significant work by Dr. Bement and Brian J. Carter, *Geoarchaeology of the Cooper site, Northwest Oklahoma: Evidence for Multiple Folsom Bison Kills*, examines the sediment layers and geological features that confirm the site's repeated use for hunting. The study provides insights into how these early hunters utilized the terrain to funnel bison into deadly ambushes.

Another publication by Dr. Bement, *Constructing the Cooper Model of Folsom Bison Kills on the Southern Plains*, explores the meticulous planning and coordination required for such large-scale hunts. These studies help paint a broader picture of how the Folsom people adapted to the harsh environment of the post-Ice Age plains.

Beyond the skull, archaeologists recovered an array of tools and artifacts that illustrate the complexity of these hunting events. Folsom spear points, expertly crafted from high-quality stone, were found among the remains, their distinctive fluting designed to create deep, lethal wounds in the bison. Butchering tools, including scrapers and cutting implements, suggest that the hunters processed the animals on-site, making use of meat, hides, and bones for food, clothing, and shelter. Fire-cracked rock, likely remnants of temporary hearths, indicates that portions of the meat may have been cooked or dried for later use.

The discovery of the Cooper site has reshaped the understanding of Folsom-era hunting techniques and social organization. Previously, it was believed that Folsom hunters primarily targeted lone animals or small groups, but the evidence from Cooper suggests they were capable of orchestrating large-scale kills that required advanced planning and teamwork. These findings align with discoveries from other Folsom sites, such as Blackwater Draw in New Mexico, where similar hunting strategies have been identified.

Today, the Cooper Bison Skull is housed at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, where it continues to captivate researchers and visitors alike. The site itself, though largely excavated, remains an important reference point for ongoing studies of early human activity on the Great Plains. Publications like those found in *Great Plains Research* and archaeological journals continue to analyze the data collected from Cooper, shedding light on the ways these ancient hunters thrived in an unforgiving landscape.

The story of the Cooper site is more than just a record of successful hunts; it is a glimpse into the minds of the Folsom people. Their tools, their techniques, and the painted skull all suggest a society that valued skill, organization, and perhaps something more—an understanding that life and death on the plains carried a significance beyond the immediate needs of the hunt. As research continues, the Cooper site remains one of the most compelling windows into the ancient past, and all located in western Oklahoma.

The Sam Noble Museum's recent talk with Dr. Bement, *Sam Noble Spotlight: Dr. Leland Bement, Research Archeologist*, is available for free on their YouTube channel: Sam Noble Museum. It's a wonderful and fascinating reliving with Dr. Bement over the entire experience, the emotions during the discovery, and the tale of challenges preserving such a momentous artifact.

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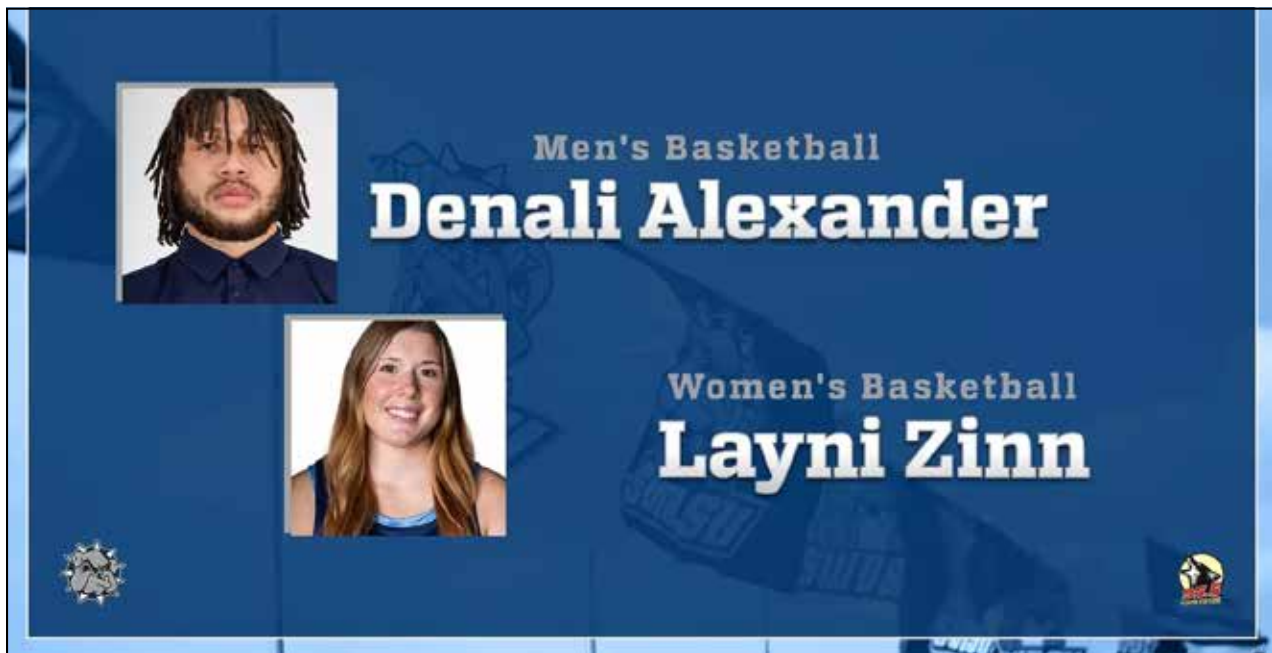
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Chloe Cantrell & MJ Warrior Earn Latest SWOSU Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Sincere Jackson and Eli Al-Debaran have been named the latest Bulldogs of the Week. The weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media – the home for SWOSU athletic livestream events and radio broadcasts.

Jackson (San Antonio, Texas) provided 33 effective minutes off the bench last week, scoring seven points in each game with a combined 10 rebounds. The freshman matched her season high in points twice and created a new season high in rebounds with six against Northwestern. Six of her 10 rebounds came on the offensive end.

Al-Debaran (Victorville, California) returned to the lineup and played in his first full weekend slate after missing the past five games. He scored in double figures in both games last week with seven total three-point makes.



Weatherford Mayor Brown puckered up and kissed “Lucky” the pig during the “Kiss the Pig” fundraiser, a Leadership Weatherford event held during the Weatherford Area Livestock Show. Donations decided the lucky kisser, raising funds for a great cause.

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SWOSU Men Drop Tightly Contested Matchup at Oklahoma Baptist



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

The SWOSU men's basketball team had two chances in the final seconds to try to send the game into overtime, but two missed three-pointers on back-to-back possessions gave Oklahoma Baptist their second win over the Dawgs this season, 83-77.

The first half was a high-powered offensive display by both teams. SWOSU scored 40 points, their highest in an opening half this season, to lead 40-34. Denali Alexander led the charge with 15 points on 5-7 shooting from the field.

The game was closely contested throughout, with neither team leading by more than seven points. The Dawgs benefited from hot shooting, going 14-26 (53.8%) from the field and 6-12 (50%) from three-point range.

SWOSU held OBU to 3-17 (17.6%) from three-point land, with all three makes coming from their leading scorer, Terry Coner Jr.

Inside the final 20 minutes, the game started to play out similarly to the previous matchup between these teams.

Just like in the previous game, OBU extended a long run to control the game early in the final frame. In the first 10 minutes of the half, SWOSU was outscored 20-9, flipping the script of the game in favor of the home team.

The Dawgs found themselves down 75-68 with 2:24 remaining but slowly crept back into contention with clutch buckets and free throws. With under 30 seconds left, SWOSU had two opportunities to hit a three-pointer and tie the game after OBU missed their free throws, but both attempts fell short, setting the final score at 83-77.

SWOSU ended the game shooting 25-55 (45.5%) from the field and 11-27 (40.7%) from beyond the three-point line, with the 11 three-pointers being a conference high. OBU shot 28-54 (51.9%) from the field and 6-25 (24%) from three-point range. OBU went 21-32 from the free throw line, compared to SWOSU's 16-23. This marks the second consecutive game where a SWOSU opponent has shot 30+ free throws.

Alexander scored a career-high 23 points on 7-10 (70%) shooting to lead all scorers. Tobias Roland added 14 points and seven rebounds, while MJ Warrior and Eli Al-Debaran each scored 12 points, with Al-Debaran making four three-pointers.

SWOSU (8-9, 5-7 GAC) will now look to capitalize on an Arkansas road trip next week, starting with trying to complete the season sweep over Arkansas Tech on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Blistering Bison Handle SWOSU Lady Bulldogs for a 1-1 Season Split



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

The SWOSU women's basketball team traveled to Shawnee to face Oklahoma Baptist for the second time this year. Blistering hot shooting by the Bison dealt SWOSU an 83-52 loss on Saturday night.

The result evens the regular season series between

teams after the Lady Dawgs beat OBU 62-60 in Weatherford back on December 19, 2024.

In the opening frame, SWOSU found offense from both Hailey Grant and Mason Jones. Each scored a tough and-1 bucket, while Jones successfully landed a deep ball attempt.

Together, they accounted for all 12 points the Lady Dawgs scored in the first quarter. However, after a buzzer-beating banked-in three-pointer by the home team, the score stood at 18-12 in favor of OBU.

The second quarter was tough for SWOSU. OBU started 6-6 from the field and 5-5 from beyond the three-point line, building a 20-point lead. The Bison scored 25 points in the frame, marking only the third time SWOSU has allowed 25 or more points in a single quarter. At halftime, the Lady Dawgs trailed 43-25.

OBU continued to extend its lead in the second half, scoring on its first five possessions and going on a 13-0 run in the first four minutes. By the end of the third quarter, OBU had scored 25 points in back-to-back quarters, and the lead stood at 68-35.

The final numbers showed SWOSU shooting 18-61 (29.5%) from the field and 5-25 (20%) from beyond the three-point line. OBU shot 31-61 (50.8%) and made 14-29 (48.3%) three-pointers, a season high in three-point makes.

The Lady Dawgs (9-9, 5-7 GAC) will embark on an Arkansas road trip next week, starting with Arkansas Tech on January 30 at 5:30 p.m.



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