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BancFirst's Barbara Jones to Retire, Celebration Planned in Weatherford



CELEBRATING
Barbara Jones

Please join us in celebrating
Barbara's retirement

Wednesday, April 2, 2025
10am - noon
BancFirst Lobby

After 41 years of dedicated service and leadership, Assistant VP Barbara Jones is retiring and the community is invited to join in celebrating her remarkable career. A retirement reception in her honor will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon in the BancFirst lobby.

"Barbara has always been such a positive force leading our team," expressed BankFirst Teller Amber Gracey. "She always brings a fun energy. We have been so lucky to have her."

Barbara has been a valued member of BancFirst, known for her warm personality, commitment to excellence, and strong relationships with customers and colleagues.

Over the years, she has played an integral role in serving the community, making a lasting impact on both the bank and its patrons.

"Barbara has shown me that through all the challenges you face in life," said BankFirst Teller Rylan Smith. "[She proves] you can always be kind to others and confident in yourself."



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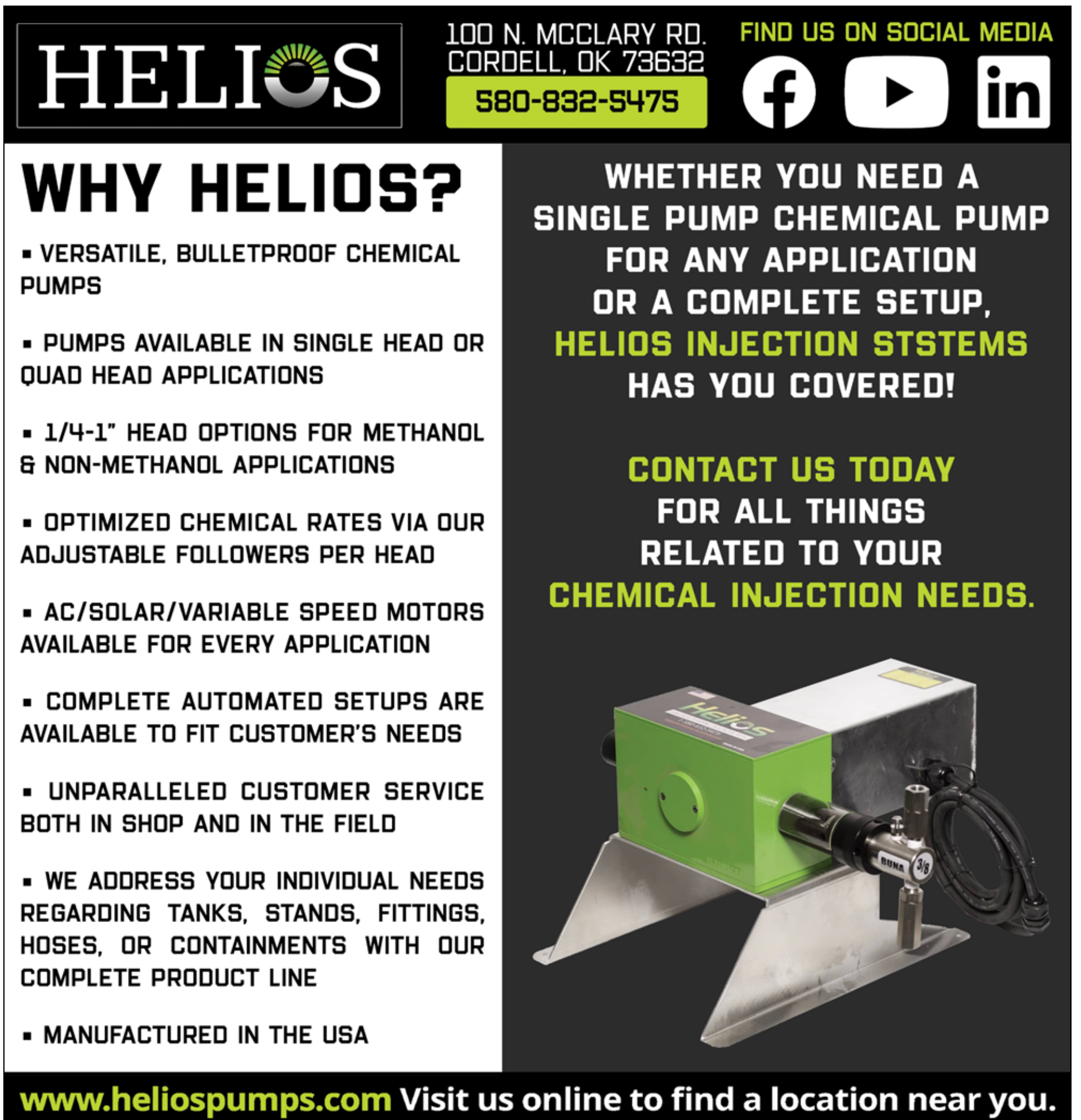
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Eakly resident Terry Flansburg has been named Connections' Volunteer of the month. Terry represents our Eakly service area and is a regular Tuesday volunteer, who is committed to the work of the LORD.



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Lonnie King

Lonnie Gene King, age 70, of Eakly, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, March 9, 2025. He was born on June 14, 1954, in Anadarko, Oklahoma to Floyd and Lola Richardson King.



Lonnie attended Eakly Schools and graduated from Eakly High School in 1972. He spent much of his early life farming alongside his grandfather, George Richardson. He married Sharon Ringler August 5, 1977, in Bowie, TX.

Lonnie, Sharon, Kimberly, and Kris made their home on the farm just south of Eakly. That next year the family welcomed new babies Jared, and soon after, Josh. Lonnie dedicated himself to farming, peanuts, hay, and cattle while always thinking of ways to keep his family entertained.

He loved chasing his children and grandchildren while riding dirt bikes, 4-wheelers and golf cart. In addition to his work on the farm, Lonnie learned to play golf after promising his father, Floyd, a golfing trip to Arizona to play on a PGA course. His devotion to his family and community was evident through his active involvement. He served on the Eakly Co-op board, was a deacon at Oakdale Missionary Baptist Church, served many years on the board of trustees at the Cedar Hills Baptist Youth Camp and was an original board member of Spreading The Word Ministry.

Lonnie's faith was central to his life. On April 1, 1990, he surrendered his life to Jesus, and soon after, he began singing and leading music at Oakdale Missionary Baptist Church. He loved sharing his joy while talking with others about Jesus and through music. He had a deep love for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, enjoying time spent playing with them.

Lonnie is survived by his wife, Sharon, of the home; three children: Kimberly King of Weatherford, OK, Kris Base and her husband Steven of Apache, OK, and Josh King and his wife Bethany of Comanche, OK. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Zach Mogg and wife Kelsey of Yukon; Alli Goldston and her husband Brandon of Leedey; Tatum White and her husband Dillon of Sterling; Teagun Base and fiancée Brenna Nowell of Apache; Alex King of Comanche; Reason Moore of Weatherford; Connor King, Micah King and Hudson King all of Comanche. His great-grandchildren include Jaxton Mogg and Vaida Mogg of Yukon; Emersyn Goldston of Leedey; Sadie White of Sterling; Beckett Goldston of Leedey; and one more great-grandchild on the way. Lonnie is also survived by two siblings, LuAnne Tune and her husband John of Norman, and Gary King and his wife Lisa of Lookeba, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Lola King; one son, Jared King; two grandchildren, Elijah King and Josie King, and three siblings, Clifford, Robert Dwayne, and Don King.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Cedar Hills Baptist Youth Camp, PO Box 39, Binger, OK 73009.

Lonnie will be remembered for his commitment to his Savior Jesus Christ, his love for his family and his kind heart that touched all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Connie Dodson

Connie Lou Dodson was born on July 20, 1961 in Cordell, Oklahoma to Loyd W. and Helen Jane (Bartel) Miller and passed away Thursday, March 13, 2025 in Weatherford, Oklahoma at the age of 63.



After high school, Connie's love for horses lead her to work as a veterinarian tech for several years. She began this career at Uncle Ronny Kiehn's Westside Animal Clinic in Altus. She then moved back to Cordell and continued her work at the Clinton Highland Veterinary Clinic. Her career path changed and she began working at Uptown Market Place and was store manager for the past 18 years. After moving back to Cordell her daughter Brooke was born and she married Gary Wayne Dodson. Connie enjoyed spending quality time with her grandchildren, especially watching Axel's ballgames and entertaining Abel during those games. She enjoyed gardening and was very active in her church serving in many different programs. Connie had a servant's heart and was dedicated to helping those in need. She loved to have a big laugh with all her family and friends.

Connie is preceded in death by her husband, Gary Dodson; daughter, Brooke Caswell; and mother, Helen Jane Miller.

Connie is survived by her father, Loyd Miller; son-in-law, Josh Caswell; grandchildren, Axel Glenn and Abel Loyd Caswell; brother, Rick Miller and wife, Donna; nephews, Colby Miller and wife, Megan and son, Iker, Cory Miller and wife Rebecca and children, Scout and Bo; uncles and aunts, Ronny Kiehn and wife, Nancy, Oliver Bartel, Jim Bartel and wife, Diane and Alfred Miller and wife, Jean; step-son, Gerard Dodson and wife Christy; and numerous family members.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for memorials to be made in Connie's memory to the Bible Mennonite Brethren Church, 1020 North Market Street, Cordell, Oklahoma 73632.

Nancy Gentry

Nancy Lynn Gentry 55 of Foss, OK, passed away on Monday, March 17, 2025, in Clinton. She was born on June 20, 1969, to Michael and Peggy Smith in Peoria, Illinois.



Nancy was known for being a thrill seeking, caring, fun, loving, generous soul. No matter the situation, or how bad she felt, she would always help anyone, knowing them or not. She would help anyone passing through, or in a hard time. She had such a giving and loving spirit.

Nancy loved the outdoors, water, and traveling. She was always swimming, fishing, camping, or driving any chance she got. If there was an adventure ahead, she was there! Although she was never on time for anything, she was always at all of the events. She would make sure to be there, even if she didn't know them. She never wanted anyone to feel alone or left out.

Nancy had a huge love for following the lights and sirens. There were many days she would be late for things, because she had to be behind the lights to make sure it wasn't someone she knew or someone she could help. She had such a huge heart for all people. Most of all she loved her family and friends. Her grandchildren were her world. She would lose her mind without getting to see them! She was a second mom to most, an aunt and sister to many, but a true friend to all.

Nancy is survived by her mother, Peggy Smith of Bartonville, Illinois; her father and second mom, Michael and Tracy Smith of Peoria, Illinois; her husband, Brian Gentry of Foss; four daughters: Britteny and husband Steven Casey of Foss; Ashley Smith of Sayre; Erica Cheney and boyfriend Richard of Foss; Hope Gentry of Foss; one son, Daniel Gentry and his fiancé Alexandra of Erick; one adopted daughter, December and her husband, Koby Eslinger of Elk City; two brothers, Tony and his wife, Jolene Smith of Snyder, Texas; Michael and his wife, Missy Smith of Highlandville, Missouri; two sisters, Nicole and her husband, Roger Lehr of Dewitt, Illinois; Natalie and her wife, Angie White of Bloomington, Illinois; 22 grandchildren, four adopted grandchildren, and a host of other family members, friends, her many adopted children, and grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, several aunts, uncles, and many friends.

Clemente Hidrogo

Clemente Olvera Hidrogo, Sr., 76, of Eakly, OK, passed away on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at Saint Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City. He was born on May 16, 1948, in Mexico to Amador Olvera Monreal and Augustina Hidrogo Medina.



Clemente moved to the United States in 1972 and became a resident in 1986. He worked as a ranch hand for Danny Sharry and Earl Kardokus. A hardworking man, he enjoyed planting vegetables, building things, and watching baseball, his favorite sport.

He was always willing to lend a hand to his family and was known for his encouraging words, often saying, "Keep moving forward" Puro Pa delante and "Should have doesn't exist El Ubiera No Existe." He was united in marriage to Maria Adame on November 16, 1966, in Durango, Mexico. Clemente will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him.

Clemente is survived by his children: Enriqueta Olvera De Astrain of Fort Payne, Alabama; Gloria Reyes of Eakly, OK, Katy Olvera of North Carolina; and Ezequiel Olvera II of Newalla, Oklahoma. 17 grandchildren: Rolando, Alonso, Jasmin, Paloma, Priscila, Brayan, Ulissel, Dalila, Kathy, Reyna, Angel, Jayzleen, Brisa, Keyla, Ezequiel, Jr., Hayden, and Valentina; and 10 great-grandchild: Jayden, Christian Rolando, Alonso, Alaia, Jaxon, Ian Theodore, Zoe, Olivia, Geovana, and Zaiden.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Maria Olvera, three sons—Clemente Olvera Jr., Amador Olvera, and Ezekiel Olvera 1st as well as his brothers and sisters.

Morris Lamb

Morris Lynn Lamb, 88, of Bluffton, South Carolina, formerly of Hammon, Oklahoma, was born on March 10, 1937 in Hammon, Oklahoma. He is the son of Joe B. and Mattie Mae (Johns) Lamb. He



went to look upon the glorious face of his Lord and Savior on Monday, March 17, 2025 Vineyard Bluffton Assisted Living and Memory Care, Bluffton, South Carolina surrounded by his loving family.

Morris upon graduating from high school joined the United States Air Force. He then enrolled at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree, Morris then continued his education and received his master's degree and PhD degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Morris taught for two years at the University of Oklahoma before he began teaching at Southern Illinois University for over forty years. For Morris teaching was not just a career path but a way of life. It wasn't inaccurate to say it was his passion. He loved having the chance to make a difference in the lives of his students.

In Morris's life there was nothing more important than family, he was all about family no matter what the relation was. His commitment to his family was unwavering.

His children and their children were the highlight of his life, he made sure he was there to support them in all their endeavors, from school programs, coaching, and just being there for them. He enjoyed engaging with his family whether it was over a holiday meal, game of cards, or just sitting visiting with each other. His smile and his laugh will never be forgotten by those that have crossed paths with Morris.

Cherishing his memory is his son, David Michael Lamb and his wife, Emily Schaller Lamb of Bellingham, Washington; his daughter, Laura Lamb Hale and her fiancé, Michael Strum of Savannah Georgia; three grandchildren, John Ross Hale of Charlotte, North Carolina, David Baldwin Hale of Savanah, Georgia, Samuel Strum of Bluffton, South Carolina plus a host of nieces, nephews and other family members.

Morris is preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Mattie Lamb, three brothers, LaMar Lamb, David Lamb, and Stanley Lamb and his wife, Betty, two sisters, Edith Lamb Roan and her husband, Walter and JoAnn Walker and her husband, Glen, several nephews and other family members.

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

We invite you to leave a message of condolence, expression of sympathy or perhaps share a memory of Morris at martin-duggerfuneralhome.com.

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The 61st Annual German Feast Returns to CBA



For more than six decades, the German Feast has been a cherished tradition for Corn Bible Academy and the surrounding community. This beloved event, which serves as CBA's largest and most anticipated fundraiser, brings together hundreds of people each year to enjoy authentic German cuisine, a lively auction, and a warm atmosphere of fellowship.

Dating back to 1964, the German Feast is traditionally held on the first Saturday of April. This year's celebration is set for April 5, 2025, and promises another unforgettable gathering. The event features a noon meal packed with traditional German dishes, including verenika (a delightful cottage cheese dumpling) alongside sauerkraut, German sausage, zwieback (a classic German yeast roll), mousse (a thin pudding made with cherries or raisins), and the highly sought-after schmetka, a delicious cinnamon pastry available in the bake sale.

In addition to the meal, attendees can browse an extensive bake sale filled with homemade treats and participate in an exciting live auction. Generous donors contribute unique and valuable auction items, ranging from handmade quilts to exotic vacation packages. Proceeds from the auction directly support CBA's mission, helping to provide students with quality education and opportunities for growth.

"We hope that you will join us for this great event! If you've never tried the food, this is a great time to come out and try it while helping support education in Western Oklahoma. If you are unable to make it the day of, we encourage you to check out the online portion of the auction going on now at heardauction.hibid.com. Thank you in advance for your support," said Director of Development Keith Warkentin.

The day's festivities will begin at 10:00 a.m. when doors open, and the bake sale kicks off. The highly anticipated meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., followed by the live auction at 1:00 p.m. Unlike past years, there will be no evening meal, so guests are encouraged to arrive early and enjoy the full experience.

Tickets for the German Feast can be purchased in advance from a CBA student, online, or at the door on the day of the event. Community members are also encouraged to support the auction by donating special items.

CBA extends its heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors, volunteers, and attendees who make this event possible year after year. Their generosity and dedication ensure that the German Feast continues to be a blessing to both the academy and the community. For ticket purchases and more information, visit cornbible.org/german-feast.

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HIGHER GROUND

Remembering the Cross

Jim Morrison

As we approach the Easter season in which we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us not pass over the Cross which made the resurrection necessary.

When Jesus was praying agonizing tears in the Garden of Gethsemane, he was not thinking of the resurrection, he was thinking of the horrendous torture he would be enduring as well as being totally separated from the Father during that time.

Why was the cross necessary? Could not God have fashioned some other way to atone for the sins of man? Of course, God, being God could have chosen another way but from the foundation of the earth he has proclaimed that life is in the blood.

The slaying of animals in the Old Testament foretold the time when God would provide the ultimate sacrifice in the form of a sinless, perfect sacrifice of God himself. For this reason he came into the world. It is a mystery as to just when Jesus recognized his divinity and the purpose for which he came into the earth. But in Matthew 20:17-19 he tells his disciples the full story. "Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, 'We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. O the third day he will be raised to life!'"

The disciples didn't understand or grasp what he was saying. We don't really grasp the extent of the cross. We can see the movie, Passion of the Cross over and over and yet not feel the pain or the humiliation that Jesus bore on the cross. It was there that the love of God met the justice of God. For sinful man to come into a full relationship with the father and experience the bliss of eternity in heaven, sin had to be dealt with. So we see the awfulness, the hideous nature of sin, the degree that sin grieves the heart of God.

If we want to know how God feels about our idolatry, our lust, our pride, just look at the cross. God so loved you and me, and all his sinful creatures; that He was willing to send his own Son the one he dearly loved to suffer the ultimate sacrifice to atone for that sin. In our day we tend to play down sin or even fail to admit its existence. We call it a mistake or bad choice. Hollywood laughs at disobedience of God's design for man and woman. Repentance is seldom mentioned in church or if it is we think of those bad people out in the world who need to repent. It is interesting that Jesus had his harshest words for the religious people of his day. The great spiritual awakenings of the past have always included great expressions of repentance.

As we prepare for the celebration of the resurrection, let us not forget the cross. See Jesus looking down at the soldiers, and indeed seeing us through the centuries and hear him say, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Then let us ask the Father to "Search me O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there be any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalms 13:23, 24 God bless.

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Clinton Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Azuero



Nadia Azuero, MD
 Clinton Medical Center
(Formerly Clinton Regional Hospital)

Dr. Nadia Azuero is a Family Medicine physician who focuses on delivering quality care with a functional medicine approach. She specializes in understanding the root causes of disease to improve treatment outcomes and works collaboratively with patients to optimize their health and enhance quality of life.

"My philosophy is to treat the whole person, not just symptoms," says Dr. Azuero. "By understanding each patient's unique circumstances, we can develop personalized treatment plans that lead to better long-term health outcomes."

With extensive experience serving in rural emergency hospitals across several states, Dr. Azuero has demonstrated her commitment to addressing critical medical needs in underserved communities. Her professional interests include cost-effective care, IV/Infusion Therapies, Stem Cell Therapy,

and Remote Patient Monitoring. These innovative approaches help her deliver exceptional care to the community she serves.

Dr. Azuero brings a unique perspective to her practice, having worked as a cardiovascular perfusionist for 10 years before attending medical school. She continued her perfusion practice nationwide until beginning her Family Medicine residency.

Beyond her medical practice, Dr. Azuero enjoys dogs, cycling, healthy cooking, resistance training, low-impact fitness, and photography. She is fluent in English and Spanish, can understand and speak French, and looks forward to sharing her experiences and knowledge with the Clinton, OK community when she begins seeing patients on April 1, 2025.

For appointments, please contact Clinton Medical Center at 100 N 30th St, Clinton, OK 73601, call (580) 547-5128, or visit www.crhaok.com

Join Beckham-Custer's Annual Relay for Life

We're celebrating you




Join us to celebrate the 40th annual Relay for Life of Custer-Beckham counties! Relay for Life is set to take place April 25th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the SWOSU Wellness Center.

This event is an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against every cancer as we come together for every life.

In 2024, the community raised \$20,038.60 in support of the American Cancer Society.

This year, we have even higher hopes! If you have a business, club, or another group interested in participating, please contact Vivian Shipley at shiplevv@swosu.student.edu.

In addition, if you or someone you know is a cancer survivor, we would love to honor you at our event. We are excited to see what our community can accomplish with this year's Relay for Life! Register for the event by scanning the QR code above.

CLINTON / EXIT 65 - Progress continues toward the future construction of a major road project in the city of Clinton. "We've just contracted and let bids for some utility movement through the state," said Mayor David Berrong. "Within the next two weeks, there'll be an actual bid letting through the state of Oklahoma for the entire project." The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has been working on this project to enhance safety, traffic flow, and access to local developments.

SWOSU / BERNHARDT AWARD - Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer, Professor of English and Chair of the Department of Language and Literature at Southwestern Oklahoma State University has been named the recipient of the 2025 Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award. The award was established in 1993 to recognize an outstanding member of the SWOSU faculty community who exhibits exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship, and service.

WEATHERFORD / CUSTER ST BRIDGE Weatherford Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell says the city is planning to utilize some leftover ARPA funds for the repairing/replacement of the Custer Street bridge. Bids for the project were submitted March 24th.

ELK CITY / SCHOOL CHECKLIST - Elk City School Superintendent Mike Sparks says the district is looking at implementing a Pre-K checklist for district parents. In western Oklahoma, there is a large chat group that allows superintendents to get ideas from other district superintendents to improve school experiences for students, teachers, and parents. "Thomas-Fay-Custer were the ones that had created this checklist," explained Sparks. "We were grateful to be able to partner with them, add to it a little bit, and put some things in it for [our students]."

FORT COBB / DAMAGE - The Assistant Director of Operations for the Western Region of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation says the recent high winds have created some issues. Barry Hardaway says some damage occurred at Fort Cobb State Park, including a tree that was recently uprooted at Foss Lake.

CLINTON / GRANTS FOR AIRPORT - The Clinton City Council approved an agreement with Park Hill engineers for additional services related to the construction of new airport hangars. The project aims to enhance airport infrastructure and support future growth in the region. City Manager Robert Johnston says the \$56,000 agreement will be funded through various grants.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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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 March 26 - Scotty Adams, Terry Hook, Glenna Johns, Katie Lacy, Mike Patrick, Sarah Rinehart, Richard Rivera, Johnny Rosales, Sally Sappington, Bryan Speck, Ava Tourian, Andrea Unruh, Kay Weast; **March 27** - John Kokalis, Russell Ladd, DeLois Newton, William Pigg, Quinton Pye, Rhonda Ray, Jana Savage, Garrett Smith, Carol Stevenson, Scott Stinson; **March 28** - Linda Bennett, Toni Gentry, Carlos Gomez, Jill Henderson, Kendrick Johnson, Jaxon Jones, Bryan Robertson, Teresa Rodgers, Madison Shalla, Jeff Vaughn, Taylor Willis; **March 29** - Jaclyn Coxwell, Shannon Hamburger, John Leonard, Jason McGinnis, Art Parker, Marion Prichard, Summer Skinner, Kendell Stephens, Preslee Stephens, Hunter Williams; **March 30** - Milan Davis, Kathy Dobrinski, Jessi Eidem, Zayne Grogan, Justen Hunnicut, Darren Johnson, Derwin Mahan, Thomas Rains, Barbara Sewell, Sarah Sillins, Betty White; **March 31** - Kalie Bryant, Bruce Burdick, Denise Davis, Hudson Graybill, Becca Jones, Trevor Keeton, John Marley, Clayton Rogers, Almeta Schneider, Robert Seward, Johnnie Thomas, Jean Weightman; **April 1** - Kyle Bartel, Bobby Barton, Jason Barton, Kaitlyn Belanger, Dee Downs, Mason Folsom, Peter Fong, Bruce Lewis, Jason Martin, Sophia Martinez, Anthony Nail, Thomas Parker, Mike Purdum, Paisley Vickery, Tonya West, Raymond Wolf.

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WEG Promoting Annual Earth Day Recycling Event for April 2025



The Weatherford Environment Group (WEG) has announced its Earth Day Recycling events happening throughout the month of April. Please bring the items specified to the Weatherford Materials Processing Building, located at the 602 E. Clark St., two blocks south of Main St. on Illinois.

These Weatherford Recycling Events are sponsored by WEG composed of volunteers working to keep our city green, clean, and beautiful. The recycling event is organized by the efforts of our Weatherford citizens and it not a City of Weatherford function.

Earth Day is officially April 22 each year. We are participating as part of the Keep American Beautiful program. For more information about Earth Day, do a computer search for Earth Day 2025 and find out many ways you can support and know more about the planet on which you live.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS ITEMS ACCEPTED APRIL 1 - 30, 2025

TIRES – place tires on the flat-bed trailer at 602 E. Clark (all sizes will be accepted as long as it is a tire—motorcycle, lawn mower, ATV, car, pickup, Semi, Ag)

NOTE: We will not be accepting rims, track tires, or anything foam filled.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS ITEMS ACCEPTED APRIL 12, 2025 – 9AM to 3PM

Visit the Materials Processing & Education Center.

Drug Take Back - With the help of SWODA, we will be accepting pills, tablets, capsules, patches, and liquids. We will NOT accept any nuclear meds, aerosols, auto-injectors or syringes.

- Large Metal Items and Appliances
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- Fluorescent Light Bulbs (8', 4', spiral)
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- Lead Acid Batteries (found in cars and equipment)
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- Phone Books

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- Cardboard
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- Aluminum, Steel, and Tin Cans
- Office Paper
- Newspaper / Magazines

GLASS RECYCLING INSTRUCTIONS

Glass is accepted Monday-Friday and the first Saturday of each month from 8am-12pm/1-5pm at drop-off bin located at the old Weatherford Landfill.

LANDFILL DIRECTIONS:

Go south on Custer Street. Before you reach the H&H Salvage yard, you will find E 1035 Rd and see a green sign that indicates Glass Recycling. Turn onto this road and go through the security gate to the City landfill property area. Ahead, you will see a small white guardhouse that is usually staffed checking people who bring brush and yard trimmings to be disposed. Just before the white guardhouse, there is a cement pad with a large roll-off container with Glass Recycling sign. You need to toss the glass you are recycling into the bin. Please be careful as you dispose items, watch for broken glass, and don't attempt to reach into the bin.

Contact Faye Henson, (580) 772 - 5984 if you have questions about recycling or if you would like to schedule a program for your organization or company. Thank you for your efforts to make Weatherford clean, green, and beautiful!

Oklahoma History: NASA Engineer Donna Shirley & the Mars Rover



NOAA Photo Library

The Mars Rover with Donna Dirickson along with the rest of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) members in 1972.



National Trails Office (US National Park Service)

A headshot of Donna Shirley used for the Washington Award during Engineer's Week 2016.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Recently, the world watched as SpaceX Crew-10 successfully docked with the ISS to provide support and a way back for the astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams. Let's look back at a pioneer who paved the way, Donna Shirley.

Donna Shirley was born in 1941 in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, and grew up in the nearby town of Wynnewood. From an early age, she showed an independent streak. In high school, she was the only girl who refused to take the traditional home economics class – she enrolled in mechanical drawing instead. This choice was almost unheard of for a young woman in the late 1950s and signaled Shirley's willingness to break norms.

Around the same time, a science fiction novel fueled her imagination. At 12 years old, she read The Sands of Mars by Arthur C. Clarke and decided she wanted to one day go to Mars.

Shirley also fell in love with flight. She began taking flying lessons at 15 and soloed her first plane at 16, earning a pilot's license as a teenager. By the end of high school she was not only class valedictorian but also a licensed pilot with her eyes on the skies and beyond.

That fearless ambition carried into her college years. Shirley enrolled at the University of Oklahoma in the early 1960s to study aerospace engineering – despite a faculty advisor flatly telling her that "...girls can't be engineers". Rather than deter her, those words became motivation. She proved that advisor wrong by working hard and excelling in her studies. (She even managed to win the title of Miss Wynnewood in 1961 while in college). Shirley earned a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering in 1965 and went on to obtain a Master's in Aerospace Engineering a few years later.

Her path was not straightforward. At one point she briefly switched to a writing major and even worked as a technical writer – but her passion for engineering ultimately prevailed.

By 1966, degree in hand, Donna Shirley headed to California to join NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), ready to turn her youthful dream of space exploration into reality. Shirley was a pioneer from day one. She was the only woman among 2,000 engineers with an engineering degree. She dove into challenging projects and quickly proved her capabilities. Early in her career, Shirley was part of the team designing a heat shield to protect spacecraft entering Mars' atmosphere, a critical problem for landing on the red planet. She also served as a mission analyst (and later, program manager) for the Mariner 10 mission, which flew by Venus and Mercury in the 1970s.

(See OKLAHOMA HISTORY, Page 7)

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Jaycee McKee and Gage Gaunt Earn the Latest Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Jaycee McKee and Gage Gaunt have been named the

latest Bulldogs of the Week. This weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media – the home for SWOSU athletic livestream events and radio broadcasts.

Jaycee McKee (Yukon, Okla.) gave her best performance of the season against a stout Southern Arkansas team on Saturday. The senior pitched a complete game, allowing just two earned runs and one extra-base hit to the Muleriders. She struck out two and walked none in her longest outing so far this year.

Gage Gaunt (Clinton, Oklahoma) led the baseball lineup with eight hits in four games. He drove in five against the Oklahoma Baptist Bison in a run-rule victory and finished with seven total RBI and six runs scored on the week. He also homered twice and is now tied for the team lead with five long balls this year.

OKLAHOMA HISTORY

Continued from Page 6

Throughout the 1980s, Shirley continued to break new ground. She led a research team studying concepts for a Mars rover and contributed to developing robotics and automation for planetary exploration.

She also played a key role in planning future missions: for example, she headed a study in 1979 that laid groundwork for Cassini, the ambitious mission to Saturn. By the early 1990s, Shirley was a project engineer on Cassini and had worked on an early space station design as well. In every assignment, she pushed the boundaries of technology and often found herself leading male-dominated teams.

Shirley's career at JPL was not defined by one field or specialty; she had a hand in planetary missions, spacecraft engineering, and research initiatives. This wide-ranging experience set the stage for the biggest chapter of her career to come: Leading the Mars Exploration Program.

Shirley never lost sight of her childhood dream of Mars. In 1994, that dream and her decades of hard work converged when NASA appointed her to lead the Mars Exploration Program Office at JPL. In this role, Donna Shirley became the first woman to manage an entire NASA program, a milestone achievement. She now oversaw a bold, long-term effort to explore Mars with robotic spacecraft.

One of her first major projects in this position was managing the development of Mars Pathfinder and its small rover, Sojourner. Shirley had actually been tasked with the Mars rover project a couple of years earlier, in 1992, as the head of the Mars Exploration Team. Now as program manager, she guided Pathfinder and Sojourner from conception to launch and landing.

On July 4, 1997, Mars Pathfinder successfully landed on Mars, and the Sojourner rover rolled out onto Martian soil. This triumphant mission was the first time a rover drove on another planet – a historic moment in space exploration that fulfilled Shirley's childhood vision of reaching the red planet. "We're excited about what we're doing and we wanted to share that excitement," Shirley said during the Mars program, reflecting the passion she brought to engaging the public with the mission.

The diminutive six-wheeled rover captivated the world, and Shirley, as the program leader, became a visible spokesperson for the promise of Mars exploration. Under her management, NASA also launched Mars Global Surveyor, an orbiter that arrived at Mars in 1997 to map the planet.

Mars has long beckoned scientists as the most Earth-like planet in our solar system. For Shirley, Mars was not only personally inspiring, but also scientifically compelling. "Understanding whether life existed elsewhere in the Universe beyond Earth is a fundamental question."

She once reflected that Mars was an excellent place to investigate this question. In leading Mars exploration, Donna Shirley was driving forward a quest that could answer some of humanity's biggest questions about life and our place in the cosmos.

After 32 years at JPL, Donna Shirley retired from NASA in August 1998, but her journey came full circle. She returned to the University of Oklahoma—the same school where an advisor once doubted her—and served as an assistant dean of engineering, mentoring the next generation of engineers.

Shirley also helped inspire young people through roles like directing a science fiction museum and speaking about her experiences.

Her legacy is one of breaking barriers and nurturing dreams. She showed that a determined girl from Oklahoma could go from the red dirt of the backroads to leading missions to the Red Planet Mars, and she became a role model for countless women in STEM fields.

Shirley's groundbreaking work earned her many accolades and honors, including induction into multiple halls of fame like the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame (1997); Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame (1998); NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal; National Space Society's Wernher Von Braun Memorial Award (2001); Washington Award (2000); Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame (2003); and a main-belt asteroid named in her honor.

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SWOSU Baseball Goes Winless in Friday/Saturday Series Against SAU



Jon Chidester
Asst. Athletic Director

SWOSU Baseball was winless in three games against Southern Arkansas, falling 8-7, 11-4, and 7-3 to the Muleriders.

The loss drops SWOSU to 16-11 on the year and 7-10 in GAC play. The Bulldogs host Southeastern Oklahoma State in a midweek non-conference game on Tuesday (March 25) before welcoming East Central to Weatherford for another league matchup over the weekend.

Game One - SAU 8, SWOSU 7

Early offense wasn't enough in the series opener. SWOSU jumped out to a 4-0 lead after two-at bats where six of their 12 hits in the game were collected. SAU scored crooked numbers in the second and fourth innings for their run production and plated the game-winning run in the eighth on a solo home run.

Trailing 7-4 in the fifth, the Bulldogs tied the game back up with the final three runs they'd score on the night.

Game Two - SAU 11, SWOSU 4

Big innings were the difference in the nightcap, as SAU put up a pair of four-run frames to sweep the day. The Muleriders added a single run in the second and two more in the sixth.

SWOSU jumped ahead 1-0 in the first-at bat after Gage Gaunt drove in Sean Monsour who doubled to lead the game off. SAU answered back with four runs in the bottom half and did not trail from that point on. The Bulldogs scored in four separate innings, but only one run in each inning.

Game Three - SAU 7, SWOSU 3

SAU plated five-runs in the fourth inning. It was the lone crooked number scored by either team, in any inning, on the day. SWOSU scored single runs in the fourth, seventh, and ninth innings and stranded 11 runners on base in the loss.

SWOSU never led in the game. The Dawgs briefly tied things up in the top of the fourth when Markus Coronado drew a based loaded walk, but a strikeout with the bases loaded ended the chance for more. SAU then answered with their big inning to pull away for good.

Kade Folmar hit a solo home run in the seventh inning. Bodi Wallar and Ty Eastwood both had two hits in the game. Sebastian Diaz (L, 1-1) pitched 3.2 innings before he was relieved by Tyler Fortin who threw 4.1 innings of long relief.

Muleriders Earn Series Sweep over Bulldogs



Jon Chidester
Asst. Athletic Director

SWOSU got a good start out of Jaycee McKee in the circle but was shutout for a second time in the series in a 3-0 loss to (RV) Southern Arkansas on Saturday afternoon.

It was McKee's first complete game of the season. She did not issue a walk or hit a batter in her outing and struck out two Muleriders. McKee was up against SAU's ace, Brinson Rogers, who did not allow a run to the Dawgs for a second straight game. Rogers struck out 12 but did allow five hits to the Bulldog lineup.

SWOSU had base runners throughout the game, but could not cash them in. They left eight runners on base in total, stranded two on in the second and the third innings.

SWOSU had a runner on in every inning from the third to the seventh. Five different hitters in the lineup had one hit in the game. Riley Lusk doubled off the wall in the sixth inning, narrowly missing a home run by just a few feet.

SAU had seven hits off McKee, but just one of those went for extra bases. That hit came in the sixth inning when a two RBI double extended the visitor lead and provided insurance.

With no scheduled midweek this week, the Bulldogs will rest up and prepare for a road conference series against East Central this weekend. The current schedule in Ada has game one on Friday, March 28 at 3:00 pm with the doubleheader to follow on Saturday beginning at noon.

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