

## **BOXHOLDER**



October 22 - 28, 2025 • 10040 Hwy 54 • Weatherford • (580) 772 - 5939 • E-mail: sales@westokweekly.com • www.westokweekly.com • Vol. 12 No. 43

#### **WOCS-Hinton Students Receive Flag Care Lesson From Post 230 Veterans**





Shelly Newton / Western Oklahoma Christian School

The fourth and newest location of Western Oklahoma Christian School, located in Hinton, had the honor of having two Veterans with the American Legion Hinton Post 230 visit to talk a bit about their time in the military and show our students how to care for the American Flag each day. The fourth and fifth grade class is responsible for raising the flag at the beginning of each day and bringing it down and folding it each afternoon.

#### Clinton Fire Department Attends WOCS Fire Safety/Prevention Program



(left) of Clinton put on protective gear.

Jena Skarda / Western Oklahoma Christian School CFD firefighter Bobby Winans (right) helps WOCS student Coit Collins



Jena Skarda / Western Oklahoma Christian School

Kyler Crawford (left) of Hydro and Grace Thomas (right) of Rocky enjoy playing with Tilly the CFD dalmatian



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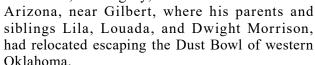
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#### Jim Morrison

James Howard Morrison d i e d peacefully at his home in Weatherford, Oklahoma on Thursday, October 9, 2025. He was 88.

Jim was born on June 4, 1937, to Alonzo Louis (A.L.) and Ora Pearl Morrison, in Higley,



In 1943, the family returned to Sunny Point, near Sayre, Oklahoma, where baby sister Phyllis was born. The Morrison's rented land and worked pulling cotton for nearby farmers. Even at 6 years old, Jim remembered with pride collecting 200lbs of cotton for \$2.50 a day.

He was introduced to God's love during Sunday School in a one-room church with no electricity or running water.

At the age of 12, Jim gave his life to Christ during a revival at Buffalo Baptist Church. Jim grew up playing baseball with his brother Dwight and other boys from nearby farms.

Jim loved reading, as well as listening to radio shows like The Lone Ranger, The Shadow, OU football, and the MLB Game of the Day, and somewhere along the way he became a die-hard Red Sox fan. He attended Sweetwater High School and upon graduation moved to Burns Flat to live with his parents who had recently purchased a farm in the area.

During that summer, he met Jimmie Pricket, a college student from Southwestern Oklahoma State, who invited him to be his roommate the coming fall. Pricket was a leader in the Baptist Student Union, and insisted Jim get involved as well.

Jim was very quickly drawn in and became consumed with the ministry and friendships he found at the BSU. This season of social, and spiritual growth set the trajectory for what would become his life's work.

Following graduation, Jim taught Jr. High science in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but soon sensed God might be leading his life in a different direction. After an Army Reserve Chapel service, and weeks of wrestling over the decision, he determined that God indeed was calling him into full-time ministry.

Jim followed that call to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, where he pursued a Master of Divinity degree.

More importantly, it was here where he met a young schoolteacher from Shreveport, Louisiana, named Mary Ruth Prater. The couple married on Dec. 19, 1964, and in August of 1965, moved to Weatherford, where Jim would serve as BSU director at SWOSU for nearly four decades.

Shortly after the loss of their first child, Cheryl Manon, who died at birth, God blessed the couple with an adopted daughter, Michelle, followed quickly by second daughter Melanie, and a son Randy.

For the next 37 years, Jim poured his life into the thousands of BSU students from across the country and around the world.

He mentored and discipled students, led them on mission trips to the inner city of Houston, to orphanages in Mexico, to Belize, the Philippines, and other destinations near and far.

He challenged students to follow Jesus with all their hearts, and to consider what God might want them to do with their lives, not just what they

After his "retirement", Jim continued to minster to truck drivers, to inmates at the county jail, families at the Agape clinic, as well as members of his own church and community. He spent the past decade writing a regular column, Higher Ground, for local newspapers, and had recently fulfilled his dream of compiling some of his favorites into a book.

Jim was a loving husband, father, and grandfather; and a loyal friend who tirelessly and humbly served the Lord with his whole heart, for his entire life. His challenge to us today would be the same as that of Paul: "Follow me, as I follow Christ."

Jim was preceded in death by daughter Cheryl Manon, parents A.L. and Ora Morrison, brother Dwight; and wife of 60 years Mary.

He is survived by three sisters: Lila Brooks, Louada Watts, and Phyllis Marie and her husband Mike; one sister-in-law Barbara Morrison; two daughters: Michelle Stinson and her husband Scott; and Melanie Schultz and her husband Phil; one son Randy Morrison and his wife Kim.

Jim is also survived by eight grandchildren Jay Stinson and wife Jordan; Riley Pettijohn and husband Bradley; Hannah Conrad and husband Bailey; Caleb Schultz, Faith Schultz, Luke Morrison, Grace Morrison, Grant Morrison, and Micah Morrison; as well as three great grandchildren: Sadie, Hallie and Jacob Stinson.

In lieu of flowers please make Memorial Gifts to the SWOSU BCM: https://secure.ncfgiving.com/ GXDonateNow?id=a0UVx000005OqCHMA0

#### **Denny Ridenour**

Dennis Dean (Denny) Ridenour was born to Valda (Val) Michael Ridenour and Wayne Ridenour on February 15, 1954, in Algona, Iowa. He passed away October 11, 2025, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the age of 71.



The Ridenour family moved to Minnesota where Denny spent most of his childhood and teenage years near Dexter in a two-story house on a small farm with his parents and three siblings: Linda, Barbara, and Allen. The family worked after school throwing down silage, feeding cows, cleaning the barns, gathering eggs, and feeding hogs. Denny remembered many hours of tractor-driving and working in the big garden that Val always planted. When Denny was 15, his dad died. Life would never be the same. Wayne had been sick for about 6 years with Crohn's disease. Whereas Wayne always had a full-time job outside of the farm, Denny dropped out of school and picked up outside jobs to help the family survive.

In 1972 Denny married Colleen Muriel Krull in Springfield, Missouri, on June 17th. As a young married couple, Denny and Colleen moved around a lot in southeast Minnesota. Denny worked at a handful of jobs where he learned how to run a backhoe, work on foreign cars, and build grain silos. In 1978 Denny bought his first semi-truck, and he put it to use hauling trailers for companies in and out of Iowa and Missouri. Later he hauled swinging meat to New York City (Lower Manhattan, specifically): he learned to carry a gun in his truck after seeing a shoot-out at a convenience store and having his truck stolen.

In 1981 Denny went to Oklahoma to work in the oil field with his brothers-in-law. Colleen and the kids, Roshelle and Wayne, followed in 1984. Moving to Oklahoma was the best move Denny and Colleen ever made, and life began to get a little easier. Denny was then working for Hamm & Phillips and later became a contract pumper for oil companies, working 7 days a week. In the 1990s, Denny bought a couple of semis and hired Greg Edwards to truck over the road with him. They would go to Liberal, Kansas, and pick up boxed meat and haul it to Hickory, North Carolina, where they would pick up furniture, and all the way back they would stop and deliver the furniture at different stores. In 2003 one of Denny's acquaintances told him if he started a roustabout company, Chesapeake Energy would hire him, so that's what he did, and DRC Service Company was born. In the early years, Denny ran the business with his son Wayne and Greg. Later, his son-in-law Rodney joined DRC until it ended in 2018. Through DRC Denny was able to help many people.

Denny enjoyed riding his motorcycles, and later he discovered a hobby that came unexpectedly: reading. He had never read a book up until 2014, but by 2025 he had read the entire Longmire series by Craig Johnson and the entire Joe Pickett series by C.J. Box, among others, and would patiently wait for new books by his favorite authors to come out. Denny and Colleen always enjoyed hosting Christmas and Thanksgiving at their house with everyone there. They often shared supper with their kids and their families throughout the week as everyone lived close by.

Losing Colleen in 2021 was the hardest thing he had ever done. He quickly moved to the country north of Weatherford, Oklahoma, to find some solace. The second hardest thing he ever did was fight cancer, which eventually took his life.

Denny is survived by his daughter Roshelle and her husband Rodney Wherritt and their three daughters: Regan Lemieux and her husband Hayden and their two daughters, Hazelle and Hillery; Rosalind White and her husband Kelby and their two sons, Walker and Bode; and Rayne Wherritt. He is survived by his son Wayne Ridenour and his wife Rita and their three daughters: Ali, Taylor, and Shelby Ridenour, all of Thomas. He is also survived by his three siblings: Linda Ridenour, Barbara Lent with her husband Kevin all of Minnesota, and Allen Ridenour of Georgia. Denny was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to Corn Bible Academy, 22387 E 1070 Rd, Clinton, Oklahoma, 73601.

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#### Jim Loomis

James "Jim" Edman Loomis was born January 14, 1944, to James and Burnice (Van Winkle) Loomis in Woodward, Oklahoma and was called home to the Lord on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at his home in Weatherford at the age of 81 years.



Jim was raised in Woodward and graduated from Woodward High School in 1962, where he was an active member of the football team. While in Woodward he also worked alongside his father on the family farm.

In August of 1962, Jim moved to Weatherford to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), where he met the love of his life, Jeanne, on his very first night. The two were married on August 27, 1965 in Frederick, and made their home in Weatherford, where Jim later graduated from SWOSU in 1966.

He began his career in education, teaching math and driver's education, and coaching football and girls' basketball for the next six years in Owasso, Taloga, and eventually Enid. It was in Enid that he and Jeanne welcomed their two children, Michael

In 1971, he moved the family back to where it all started, Weatherford. There, he worked full-time with Sawatzky Construction, building over 500 residential homes.

Years later, he started his own construction company and also worked as the Director of the SWOSU Physical Plant for nearly 15 years. During this time he also became instrumental in launching the soccer program at both Weatherford High School and SWOSU. He served as the first head coach of the Weatherford High School soccer team and later became the first head coach of the Men's soccer team at SWOSU from 1999 to 2001.

It was there at SWOSU, that he earned the Lone Star Conference Coach of the Year honors in his final season.

After this time period he re-launched his own construction business again, Jim Loomis Construction. In his role as contractor, he was instrumental in building key SWOSU facilities, including the Pioneer Event Center, the Everett Dobson Golf Training Facility, the Hook-Loomis Strength & Conditioning Center, the iconic Centennial Clock Tower, the Hodge Center along with dozens of other commercial projects.

Throughout a lifetime of work, he left his fingerprint on buildings all across Western Oklahoma, a lasting legacy of his craftmanship and dedication to his craft. Jim recently had the great honor of receiving the "Order of Merit" from SWOSU for his work not only at SWOSU but, the community as well.

Most importantly, Jim cherished every moment spent with his family and took great pleasure in attending all of his grandchildren's events. He also enjoyed a good round of golf when he could. He was a man of deep faith and a longtime and very active member of First Baptist Church, where he remained devoted until his passing.

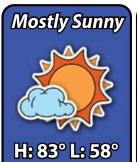
Jim is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jeanne Loomis; his son, Michael Loomis and wife, Cori (Hook); his three grandsons, Austin Loomis and wife, Meagan, Carter Loomis and Trevor Loomis; two great-grandchildren, Eleanor "Ellie" James Loomis and Liam Austin Loomis; and three sisters, Erma Murlin, Anita Blankenship and husband, Ron, and Alice Brooks.

He was preceded in death by his parents James and Burnice (Van Winkle) Loomis; a son, Steven Loomis; his brother, Jack Loomis; and two brothersin-law, Gerald Murlin and Dan Brooks.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation for Cancer Research.



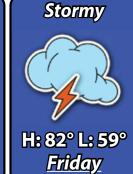




**Wednesday** 

H: 83° L: 63° **Thursday** 

**Stormy** 

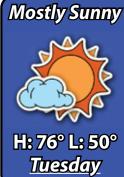


H: 78° L: 49° Saturday

AM Showers

**Mostly Cloudy** H: 75° L: 56° **Sunday** 





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#### New "Red Rock Coffee" Now Open Near Hinton



(From left) Briley, Christina and Kara are ready on the drive-through window to serve your favorite brew and fresh pastry at the newly opened Red Rock Canyon Coffee, located at the entrance to Red Rock Canyon Campground on Hwy 281 south of Hinton.



Bud Patterson, Christina Roberge, Jesse Roberge, owners of Red Rock Canyon Coffee, take a break in front of the mural wall. The Red Rock Canyon coffee shop can be reached at 405-542-6344.



Red Rock Canyon Coffee offers a relaxing shop where customers can enjoy all types of coffee along with pastries provided by Fort Cobb's Cottage Creations by Betty: fresh cinnamon rolls, mini cakes, cookies and other sweet treats.

"Fill your cup! Fill it up!" says Christina Roberge, co-owner of Hinton's new coffee shop, Red Rock Canyon Coffee, located in the up-top office of Red Rock Canyon Campground & Adventure Park, just south of Hinton on Hwy 281.

Serving steaming or iced coffee with multiple flavors and toppings, Roberge said lines have been long, "but service has been very fast for both the drive-through and walk-ins." She and her husband, Jesse, are business partners with Bud Patterson, all of whom purchased Red Rock Canyon Adventure Park in late 2023.

The group has invested heavily in park renovations, camping additions, and extensive clean-up in the past two years, and recently opened the coffee shop in the upper building.

"Our goal has always been to service the local community with a coffee and sweet shop here on the highway," Roberge said. "We have been very busy since our Grand Opening last week". In addition to coffee, the shop also offers baked goods from Fort Cobb's Cottage Creations by Betty: fresh cinnamon rolls, mini cakes, cookies and other sweet treats.

Roberge continued: "The setting is perfect for our convenient drive-by window - customers can pull in right off the street, and watch the sun rise over the eastern canyon wall as they drive through.

They can come inside, sit down, and enjoy some downtime with their drink and pastry in our relaxing customer area."

Red Rock Canyon Coffee is open seven days a week providing drive-through or walk-in service starting 6:30am Monday-Friday, 7:00am Saturday, 8:00am Sunday, closing about 6pm each day.

For customers willing to take a photo of their treats, post and tag Cottage Creations and Red Rock Coffee, using #RollWithRedRock...the coffee company will award a free baked surprise for the best "drool-worthy" photo.

The Roberges and Patterson said Red Rock Canyon Coffee has been a great addition to the offerings provided by the park. "The park had experienced years of neglect before we took over, and we've spent the last few years bringing it back to life," Patterson said. "It's great our community can now grab a coffee here before work or on the weekend, and our park customers can snag a brew before hiking our trails, or during their camping

Red Rock Canyon Coffee posts specials on the park's social media pages: Red Rock Canyon Campground & Adventure Park. The coffee shop can be reached at 405-542-6344, their address is 116 Red Rock Canyon Road, Hinton, OK.

#### **Psalms for Prayer & Meditation**

(Follow along with your Bible)



After more than a decade of writing the "Higher Ground" article for this paper and many others, Jim Morrison has passed away and his column will be retired. We encourage you to read his obituary on page 2. Thank you, minister, for your many decades of Jim Morrison contributions to the faith.

**Psalms 28:7** Holy Father, I claim your promise that you are my strength and shield. I will trust in you, knowing that your help is always just a prayer away. I will sing for joy because of your love.

Psalms 29:2 Lord, often I am thoughtless in failing to praise and give glory to you. I confess that as sin. Help me to recognize that to truly worship you I must be awestruck by your holiness.

Psalms 30:5, 30:11 Father, I praise you that your anger with me is only temporary while your favor lasts a lifetime. You allow me to suffer pain and hurt but you are always there to turn my wailing into dancing and clothe me with joy.

Psalms 31:14-16 Indeed, You are my God! Today and all my tomorrows are in your hands. I do commit those days to you. Protect and deliver me from the evil one. Honor me with your good favor, save me from myself, and surround me with your love.

Psalms 32:8-9 Lord, thank you for your promised instruction. Give me a heart of understanding. May I willingly come to you and allow you to instruct me and guide me. Free me from stubbornness of pride and hardness of heart.

Psalms 33:18, 33:22 Lord, what greater promise could we claim then that you constantly have us in your eye. My only hope is in your love that does not fail.

Psalms 34:11-13 Lord, I pray that I will have such an awesome respect of your glory that I would watch the words that come from my mouth. May I edify and not slander, may I speak the truth and not deceive. Lord, I do love you and desire that my days will be long and fruitful.

Psalms 35:1 Lord, I commit to you those who are against me. May I not have a contentious or resentful spirit. Help me to be willing to learn even from those with whom I disagree.

Psalms 36:5-6 O Lord, your love and faithfulness is beyond my understanding. May my walk measure up to my belief.

Psalms 37:3, 37:7 Lord, I have committed my life to trusting in you. Show me where the good is that I am to do. May my greatest delight be in serving you. I commit my way and my days to you. I trust you to make my righteousness shine like the sun and my cause just.

Psalms 37:23-25 Lord, I pray that you will find delight in me...that you will set my feet on solid ground. I thank you for the promise, that even though I stumble you are there to pick me up, hold me with your right hand, and meet my needs.

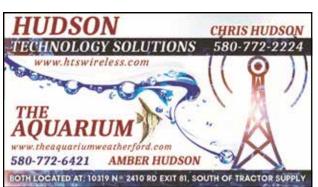
Psalms 39:4-5 Lord, help me to remember that my time here is short. Let me be fruitful to the end. May I find joy in living and never be bound by duty but compelled by love.

Psalms 40:1-4 O thank you Lord for grace that rescued me from a life lived for self. May many put their trust in you because of my witness. May my focus ever be on you and not to those who follow the wisdom of the world.

Psalms 40:8, 40:13 The purpose of my heart is to do your will. May I keep your word in my heart. Be quick to show me the error of my ways and set my feet alright.

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## Summit Utilities Oklahoma Awards \$25,000 to 24 Community Non-Profits Across the State



J. Boone Clemmons

Summit Utilities Oklahoma (Summit) is

proud to announce it is awarding \$25,000 in grant funds to support 24 non-profit organizations across Oklahoma. This initiative reflects Summit's continued commitment to building stronger, healthier, and more vibrant communities in the areas it serves.

The non-profits selected this year provide vital services ranging from basic human needs to STEAM education, community enrichment, and environmental stewardship.

"Our communities are at the heart of everything we do," said Todd Jacobs, Summit's Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. "Through Summit Cares, we are able to partner with nonprofits that are making a real difference, whether it's providing basic necessities, supporting STEAM programs, enhancing community enrichment, or protecting our environment."

The 2025 Summit Utilities Oklahoma grant recipients are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations located within Summit's service area.

As part of its Summit Cares Charitable Giving Program, Summit accepts applications each summer from eligible non-profit organizations in its service area.

A review panel made up of Summit team members evaluates the applications and selects recipients based on alignment with giving priorities, which include basic human needs, STEAM education, community enrichment, and environmental stewardship.

**LEWIS / WARRANT -** A man charged in connection with the death of a SWOSU student claimed the 18-year-old freshman died following an accident, according to a federal search warrant. 18-year-old Logan Musil had just started his first semester at SWOSU. A federal search warrant reveals that investigators began questioning Cameron Lewis after Logan Musil's gaming chair and keyboard were found inside the dorm of Lewis. Investigators say Lewis later admitted that he and Musil were engaged in a physical fight while high on mushrooms. Lewis claimed Musil fell on a rock and was knocked unconscious. Lewis says he panicked and dumped Musil's body in a wooded area near Sulphur after hearing Musil take his last breath. Documents show that investigators seized an SUV believed to have been used to transport Musil's body. Lewis also told investigators that after he dragged Musil into the woods, he tossed his cell phone in the lake.

CLINTON / NEW JR. HIGH - Clinton Public Schools Superintendent Nathan Meget provided an update on the construction of the new Jr. High during an interview with Wright Wradio. "We haven't hammered down a final floor plan yet; we've just got several different ideas. We're still in the very [early] beginning stages of this process," explained Meget. "When we get to the point where that square footage is nailed down and we feel comfortable with what we need it to be, then we can send that over to the construction management team, Joe Hall, and they can give us some final numbers." Meget says plans are to begin moving equipment and supplies into the new building in December, with classes expected to start the second semester of the next school year.

In addition to charitable giving, Summit also encourages employees to give back by offering up to 20 hours of paid volunteer time annually to support causes in their local communities. Visit <a href="https://www.summitutilities.com/community">www.summitutilities.com/community</a> to learn more about Summit's community giving program,

**Awarded Non-Profits** 

All About Understanding, Inc. Art Center of Tonkawa Catholic Charities Eastern Oklahoma Chickasha Soup Kitchen Chisholm Trail Heritage Center Association Christian Helping Hands of Comanche Christians Concerned Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center Compassion 360 Connections Food & Resource Center **Douglass Community Center Organization** FISTA Innovation Park Hungry Hearts Feeding Ministry Lawton Food Bank Love INC Lovesick Ministries Inc. Ma Ma's Christ Van Operation C.A.R.E. Ministries Quest of Oklahoma, Inc. Rivers Edge Arts Society Southwest OK Community Action Group

BURNS FLAT/HANGAR 234 - State Representative Nick Archer recently attended the ribbon cutting ceremony in Burns Flat for Premium Aerospace Hangar 234. "This is the first hangar to be constructed out there since the mid-50s and the largest infrastructure investment in five decades," Archer said of the project. The most exciting part is that the hanger itself is entirely privately funded, outside of some of the concrete repairs so that the planes can get in and out of the hangar." Archer added that the project is part of a larger \$125 million plan, aimed at expanding aviation and aerospace operations in the area.

Step Up Transitional Living

The Salvation Army of Altus

Twin Cities Christian Outreach

CADDO CO / ELECTION RESULTS - Hinton and Carnegie school districts in Caddo County each got school bond issues passed at the ballot box by more than 70% support. Voters in Hinton approved a \$5.975 million bond for three new middle school classrooms with safe rooms, and roofing projects at the multipurpose building and old cafeteria. Carnegie school district patrons approved a bond issue for a Wildcat Wellness Center that will serve as a fieldhouse for student athletes, as well as a sales tax for street and sidewalk improvements.

CLINTON / FLU CLINIC - A drive thru flu vaccine clinic will be held at the Clinton High School parking lot on October 23rd, 3-6pm. The clinic is for ages 6 months and up. Please bring your insurance card, if applicable. There is no out-of-pocket cost.

**WEATHERFORD / YMCA POOL** - The Great Plains YMCA pool will be closed for repairs beginning November 5th. Aquatic group exercises will also be cancelled. The pool will be closed until November 11th.



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! October 22nd - Felicia Alcelfo, Skyler Barnhill, Chad Clark, Ryan Coleman, Roger Duncan II, Norma Hinojosa, Wes Hixon, Racquel Javorsky, Kari Nichols McCoy, Kim Mullins, Ben Sanders, Esther Switzer, Michelle Walls, Carlee Young; October 23th - Morgan Clothier, Jett Entz, Alvin Epp, Janis Koch, Andy Koch, Harold Miller, Kierston Rodriquez, Brian Seeman, Larry Don Terrel, Ramona Tharp, Jerri Ynguanzo; October 24th - Michael Blagg, Dusty Brodrick, Bob Crum, Kenneth Garling Jr., Amy Palmer, Delaney Smith, Mariah Ynguanzo; October 25th - Jeannie Adam, Adeline Bieberich, Ann Brown, Maurice Gabriel, Kelsey Hampton, Danielle Harrington, Linda Hertzler-Crum, Jennifer Johnson, Rowan Roy McNair, Teresa Seagress, Catrina Womack; October 26th - Abagail Agan, Ollie Brooks, Orpa Epp, Shanda Izaguirr, Cathy Miller, Addison Moore, Jesse Quintero; October 27th - James Adams, Mandy Amaya, Brantley Atchley, Barry Auken, Jayme Crosby, Steve Flamming, Jayme Hixon, Tommy Martin, Susan Miller, Kevin Naranjo, Clayton Shaw, Linda Stewart, Linda Hoffman, Helen Vowell, Trevor Weatherly, Louise Williams; October 28th - Eula Farmer, Christa Martinez, Jason Michael, Lloyd Ratke, Layman Slagell, Shyla Wilhite.

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**Curio Cabinet, Bottom Storage** \$50. Please call 580-774-4000.

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October **13th** 

#### Grocery

Libby Vegetables (Asst. Varieties) 4 for \$5.00 Hunts Spaghetti Sauce, 24oz. (All Varieties) 2 for \$4.00 On-The-Border Tortilla Chips 2 for \$6.00 Cravn Honey Grahams 14.4oz. 2 for \$4.00 Bush Beans 15-16oz. (Asst. Varieties) 4 for \$5.00 Food Club Beef or Chicken Broth, 32oz. 2 for \$3.00 Food Club Tomato Juice, 46oz. \$2.49 Kelloggs Cereals (Asst. Varieties) \$4.39 Pillsbury Cake Mix (All Varieties) 2 for \$3.00 \$1.99 Food Club Flour, 5 lb. Bag Food Club Baking Chips, 10-12oz. (All Varieties) \$2.99 2 for \$3.00 Hunts Snack Pack Pudding, 4 count (All Varieties) Kraft Salad Dressings, 16oz. (All Varieties) \$3.59 Food Club Ketchup, 20oz. \$1.39 Frenchs Mustard, 8oz. \$1.69 Peter Pan Peanut Butter, 16.3oz. \$2.99 Libbys Fruit (Asst. Varieties) 2 for \$5.00

#### Dairy

Food Club Cream Cheese, 8oz. 2 for \$3.00 Food Club Butter, 16oz. 2 for \$6.00 2 for \$6.00 Red Diamond Tea, 128oz. (All Varieties) Daisy Cottage Cheese, 24oz. \$3.99 \$2.19 Food Club Sour Cream, 16oz. Food Club Half & Half, pint \$1.79 Daisy Sour Cream Dip, 16oz. \$2.99

## Produce

\$3.29 lb. Green Asparagus **Hot House Tomatoes** 1.59 lb. U.S. #1 Sweet Potatoes \$0.99 lb. Cranberries, 12oz. Bag 2 for \$5.00 Honeycrisp Apples \$1.59 lb. \$0.99/stalk Celery Strawberries, 16oz. \$2.99

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#### Meat

Boneless New York Strip Steak \$13.69 lb. **Pork Spare Ribs** \$2.99 lb. **Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops** \$2.99 lb. **Boneless Pork Shoulder Roast** \$2.89 lb. Wrights Sliced Bacon \$6.99 lb. \$6.75 Opas Smoked Sausage, 16oz. (All Varieties) Pilgrims Pride Chicken Thighs or Drumsticks \$1.89 lb.

#### Dry Grocery

Solo Paper Plates, 22 count 2 for \$5.00 Simply Done Slow Cooker Liners, 4 count 2 for \$4.00 Simply Done Red Plastic Cups, 30 count \$1.99

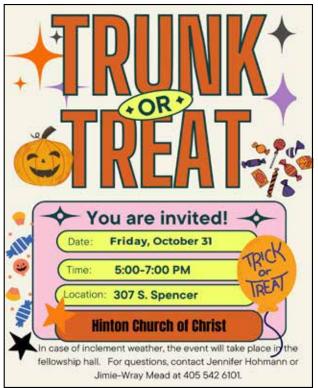
#### **Connections Names Latest Volunteer of the Month**



Connections Food & Resource Center / Facebook

Carol Sides has been named the Connections Food & Resource Center Volunteer of the Month for October. This award was sponsored by Laura Sweeney with Eagle Realty. Laura said she volunteers because she "enjoys supporting Connections, serving their clients, and meeting new people."

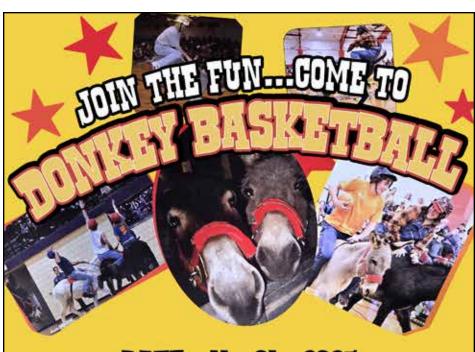








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## Lexi Johnson and Matthew Miles Selected as Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester

Lexi Johnson and Matthew Myles have been

selected as the latest Bulldogs of the Week. This weekly student athlete recognition is presented by Wright Media, the official partner for SWOSU athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Johnson (Weatherford, OK) recorded back-toback clean sheets in her first two collegiate starts for SWOSU Soccer.

She tallied eight saves in a 0-0 draw with Northwestern and added four more in a 1-0 win at Southern Nazarene.

Matthew Myles (Tampa, Florida) anchored a dominant SWOSU Football defense that held Southern Nazarene University (SNU) to just six points and under 300 yards of total offense in a 31-6 road victory.

He finished with seven tackles, two tackles for loss, and was in on a sack.

## Oklahoma History - The Success Story of Oil Magnate Sarah Rector



in Indian Territory / Oklahoma. It's located at 2000 E 12th Street in Kansas City, MO.

The historical house of Sarah Rector, where she lived for much of her adult life while not

Portrait of a young Sarah Rector, who was the "Richest Colored Girl in the World."

Born on March 3, 1902 near the all-Black town of Taft in Indian Territory, Sarah Rector grew up in poverty. Her parents, Joseph and Rose Rector, were Creek Freedmen—descendants of enslaved Africans owned by Muscogee (Creek) families. After the Civil War, the U.S. government recognized the Freedmen as tribal citizens and, under the 1887 Dawes Act and the 1898 Curtis Act, allotted them parcels of tribal land. Sarah and her siblings each received roughly 160 acres, part of a massive distribution that gave more than four thousand Black children nearly a million acres in eastern Oklahoma. The government intentionally set aside the most barren and rocky plots for Freedmen; Sarah's father reportedly described their parcel near Glenpool as "sandy and rocky" and impossible to farm. To make matters worse, the family had to pay about \$30 in annual taxes (close to \$1,000 today), a crushing burden for an impoverished farming family. In desperation, Joseph Rector leased his daughter's allotment to Standard Oil in 1911.

In February 1913, the Rectors' fortunes reversed when independent driller B.B. Jones sank a well on Sarah's land. The result was a gusher, producing more than 2,000 barrels of oil a day—possibly 2,500 barrels by some accounts. Sarah, then eleven, earned about \$300 every day (over \$7,600 in today's dollars) from this well. When her allotment later became part of the Cushing-Drumright field, her royalties swelled to more than \$11,000 a month. Reports suggested that by 1915 her share of production reached 20,000 barrels a month and her monthly income approached \$18,000. Newspapers across the country labeled her "the richest colored girl in America," and by her 18th birthday her net

worth exceeded \$1 million. Sarah's sudden wealth made her a target. Oklahoma law mandated that wealthy Black or Native minors be assigned white guardians; a probate judge appointed cattleman T.J. Porter as Sarah's guardian despite both parents being alive. While Porter's 2 percent commission seemed modest, Black newspapers alleged that he mismanaged her estate. The Chicago Defender and The Crisis magazine published stories claiming Sarah lived in a shack with no shoes and received little education while her guardian enjoyed the profits. The New York Age argued that white guardians controlled oil royalties for hundreds of Black children and funneled wealth into white banks. Other papers compared the treatment of Black wards to that accorded to yard dogs.

Activists responded. W.E.B. Du Bois and the NAACP investigated, pressuring local judges to ensure Sarah's safety and inspiring a broader push for a children's division to protect exploited minors. Under scrutiny, Judge Leahy visited the Rector home and authorized a five-bedroom house for the family; he also insisted that Sarah attend school in Taft. To assuage claims of neglect, Sarah was later enrolled at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Authorities went so far as to introduce a bill declaring the dark-skinned girl "honorary white," a cynical attempt to allow her to ride first-class train cars and enjoy privileges otherwise denied to Black people.

The danger was real. In nearby Taft, siblings Herbert and Stella Sells were murdered for their allotments—a tragedy Sarah likely knew about. Her guardians had to fend off marriage proposals and extortion schemes; newspapers reported that white men sought to marry the adolescent to gain control of her fortune.

One rumor even involved a group trying to abduct her from Tuskegee; students reportedly prevented the attempt. The combination of greed, racism, and lax guardianship laws created a perilous environment for Black and Indigenous children

during Oklahoma's oil boom. Despite turmoil, Sarah received an education rare for Black girls of her era. After attending schools in Taft and Tuskegee, she and her older sister studied at Fisk University in Nashville. She relocated with her family to Kansas City, Missouri, by 1919. At age twenty she married Kenneth Campbell, a Kansas City businessman; they had three sons. The marriage ended around 1935, and she later married owner William Crawford in 1936. Throughout the 1920s she continued to invest in oil properties, businesses, and real estate, even owning 2,000 acres. Her lavish tastes became legendary: she bought a stone mansion at 2000 East 12th Street (later known as the Rector Mansion), owned several luxury cars (a Cadillac, a Rolls-Royce, and a silverplated Lincoln), and hosted jazz luminaries like Duke Ellington and Count Basie. Family stories recall shops closing early so she could browse privately and her penchant for buying new cars after wrecking the old ones.

The 1929 stock-market crash and ensuing Great Depression eroded Sarah's fortune. Oil prices collapsed, and she lost much of her wealth. Nonetheless, she remained financially comfortable thanks to diversified investments and continued to own properties in Kansas City and Oklahoma. She sold the Rector Mansion and moved to Brooklyn Avenue; relatives recall her maintaining a farm where the extended family gardened together. Her nieces remember her as generous yet private—she showered them with gifts but seldom spoke about her wealth. Fears of violence lingered; family members warned the younger generation to avoid discussing the Oklahoma oil past, citing the Sells murders and potential danger for those with inherited allotments.

When Sarah reached legal majority in 1922, challenges persisted. Her uncle and others attempted to regain control of her estate by exploiting a Missouri law raising the age of majority for women. Courts rejected these efforts, affirming her competence and legal autonomy. By then she had lawyers on retainer and managed her finances herself. Over time she withdrew from public view, focusing on family and business rather than philanthropy.

Sarah Rector died from a stroke on July 22 1967 in Kansas City at age 65. She was buried in Taft, near her birthplace. Most of her wealth had been spent or lost, yet she remained solvent; her children inherited her remaining property.

Her life continues to inspire new generations. Author Tonya Bolden's book Searching for Sarah Rector: The Richest Black Girl in America brought renewed attention to her story, and the upcoming film Sarah's Oil is set to dramatize her rise from poverty to national fame. The movie was shot primarily in Okmulgee. The film will premiere in U.S. theaters on November 7, 2025, distributed by Amazon MGM Studios. (Streaming release details have not yet been announced.)

Today, the Rector Mansion still stands in Kansas City. Local organizations hope to restore it and convert it into a cultural center or museum preserving Sarah's legacy. Her extraordinary life from impoverished Freedmen child to oil heiress and back to modest prosperity—remains a testament to resilience amid racial oppression.





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## Presented by: C.J.S. SOUTHWEST TIRE

## SWOSU Bulldogs Power Past SNU After Last Week's Face Off, 31-6



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Jon Chidester

Southern Nazarene

SWOSU Football imposed its will on the

ground Thursday night, running for over 300 yards and holding Southern Nazarene to a single score in a dominant 31-6 road win.

The Bulldogs (3-4) rushed 56 times — tying their season high — for 322 yards and two touchdowns, marking their second 300-yard rushing effort of the year. The total trails only their 388-yard performance against Oklahoma Baptist earlier this season.

The ground game again paved the way for efficiency through the air. SWOSU needed just 10 pass attempts to add two more touchdowns — both hauled in by Elijah Reed, who caught his second and third scores of the season.

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Reed provided both first-half touchdowns, helping SWOSU to a 17-0 halftime lead that also featured an Ethan McBee field goal.

While Reed finished the drives, it was the run game that moved the offense.

Red Martel set the tone early with 95 yards in the opening quarter and crossed the century mark before halftime. He ended the night with 147 yards on 18 carries — his second 140-plus-yard game of the year — as the Bulldogs racked up 189 rushing yards before the break.

After halftime, quarterback Braxton Etheridge joined the scoring action with a pair of short rushing touchdowns — the first (and second) of his season. He found the end zone from five yards out in the third quarter, then added another late in the fourth to seal the 31-6 win.

Southern Nazarene's lone touchdown came midway through the fourth quarter but was followed by a failed two-point attempt.

SWOSU's defense turned in another complete performance, forcing six punts and limiting the Storm to 3.5 yards per carry without relying on turnovers. SNU's two best drives, both in the first half, ended with missed field goals from 55 and 37 yards.

The Bulldogs outgained the Storm 381-290 — the second-fewest yards allowed by SWOSU this season, coming just a week after their season-best defensive effort against Southern Arkansas.

MJ Rivers finished 4-of-9 passing for 52 yards and two touchdowns, shaking off an interception on the opening drive. Reed was his top target, catching all four completions for 52 yards and both scores.

Defensively, Justus Conway led with eight tackles, including two for loss. Hudson Haas and Malcolm Murphy each tallied five tackles and a sack.

SWOSU will be returning home next Saturday for Homecoming. They'll be facing off against East Central. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Flex-Chem Field.





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Tune in to the Chuck Edward's Sportscast on The Coyote 95.5 at 7:50am and 5:30pm and NewsTalk 99.3 at 7:40am and 5:30pm for more information. Tune in to the Zoo Sportscast on the Zoo 101.7 at 8:40am & 5:40pm.

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