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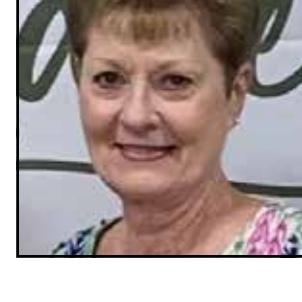
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We are committed to providing a wide range of funeral services to fit the individual needs of every family.
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Linda West

Linda Ruth (Underwood) West was born on November 23, 1950 in Watonga, OK to Orville Bailey "Sonny" and Pat Ruth (Meyer) Underwood. She passed away at her home in Geary, Oklahoma, on Monday, December 22, 2025, at the age of 75.



Linda graduated from Geary High School, and on November 24, 1972, she was united in marriage to William "Bill" West in Geary, Oklahoma. Bill preceded her in death on July 16, 2007.

Linda lived most of her life in the Geary area and made her home on the Wharton place, where she lived for many years on the same piece of land she loved so dearly. She began her working career at First National Bank in Geary, where she worked until the birth of her daughter, Lindsey. Linda then devoted herself to being a stay-at-home mother. After Lindsey started attending middle school, she began working at Seiger's Jewelry, the Geary Library, the Cherokee Trading Post, and finally All Nations Bank in Calumet, where she retired in 2022. During her banking career, Linda survived two bank robberies—an experience that became part of her remarkable life story.

Linda was raised on the family farm northeast of Geary, where she developed a lifelong love for the outdoors. Linda cherished the outdoors and took great pride in her flowers, and hummingbird feeders. Above all, she treasured her granddaughters and was fiercely loyal and proud of her family, especially her daughter and grandchildren. She encouraged her granddaughters to be strong and independent and was well-known for being very protective—particularly when it came to their boyfriends. She was a devoted member of Greenfield First Baptist Church. Linda shared an especially close bond with her sister, Diana; the two were inseparable traveling everywhere together.

Linda is survived by her daughter, Lindsey Crisp and her husband, Jason, of Hydro, Oklahoma; three granddaughters, Audra Joye Crisp of Oklahoma City, Madilyn Grayce Crisp of Weatherford, Oklahoma, and Jasey Faythe Crisp of Hydro, Oklahoma; her sister, Diana West of Greenfield; niece and nephew, Amy West and Lance West; great-nieces and great nephews, Tricia West and Jenni Adams and Josey and Brand West; great-great-niece and nephews Kagan Mooney, Avery Adams, and Watson and Walker Nightingale; along with many other cousins, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William "Bill" West; her parents, Sonny and Pat Underwood; and her in-laws, Benjamin and Bonnie West.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Hydro-Eakly Schools Music Department, 407 E. 7th Street, Hydro, Oklahoma 73048.

Wanda Lamborn

Wanda Lee (Banner) Lamborn was born on December 23, 1935, to Leman and Velda (Kidd) Banner in Weatherford, OK and passed away in Oklahoma City, OK on Friday, December 19, 2025, at the age of 89.



Wanda was raised on the family farm south of Weatherford by her father and grandmother after her mother's passing, when she was only 9 years old. She attended school in Weatherford and graduated from Weatherford High School.

After high school, she moved to California with her aunt. While in California, she met the love of her life, Nathan Lamborn. They were married on August 19, 1955.

The pair then moved their family to Clinton, OK in 1962. They also spent time living in Amarillo, TX in the mid 70's before eventually returning to Clinton in the late 1980's, where she spent the rest of her life.

Wanda loved sewing, especially handsewn quilts. She also loved to cook large meals for her family. During her working years, she was a cashier at Wal-Mart, a job she truly enjoyed. Wanda's faith is what carried her through life.

Wanda was preceded in death by her parents, the grandmother who raised her, her husband, Nathan Lamborn, her daughter, Evelyn "Terry" Palmer, a son, Mark Lamborn, her brother, Melvin Banner, and her sister, Lorene Lawter.

Wanda is survived by her four sons, Bruce Lamborn (Judy) of Clinton, Ricky Lamborn of Clinton, Steve Lamborn of Custer City, and Craig Lamborn (Theresa) of Amarillo, TX; 15 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

Lois Shreve

Lois Nadine Graft Shreve passed away December 15, 2025, at her home in Harlingen, Texas. She was born in Custer County, Oklahoma on 1/3/1927 to Warren and Dortha Graft—the oldest of three children. Dortha passed away in 1936 when Lois was 9 years old.

Lois graduated from Independence High School in 1944, attended SWOSU for a year, and completed her education in 1950 at OSU, where she was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi sorority. She successfully earned her CPA license in 1970 and received her MBA from Tulsa University in 1972. Of the 24 students receiving master's degrees in this field, she was the only female.

In 1963 she married Jim Shreve.

She went to work for AMOCO Petroleum in 1950 and worked in Tulsa, Chicago and Denver locations as an auditor in financial and tax areas. While located in Tulsa, she also taught night classes in accounting at the University of Tulsa. On retirement, Lois relocated to Harlingen, Tx in 1986, where she lived the rest of her life. She served in various positions on the Palm Valley city council, the Harlingen County Club board of directors from 1990 through 1992, the First United Methodist Church and other local organizations in the area.

In 1995, Lois built a home overlooking the 8th fairway at the Harlingen County Club, where she enjoyed a wonderful view.

Lois enjoyed playing a game of golf, working puzzles, watching hummingbirds and tending plants. In lieu of flowers we ask that you think of her while enjoying your favorite pastimes.

She is survived by three nieces: Barbara Griffin & husband Gary of Clinton, Oklahoma, Beverly Hubert & husband David of Jacksonville, NC, and Karen Campbell & husband Dav of Locust Grove, Oklahoma.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Richard Graft and sister, Sue Little.



Paul McConnell

Paul Ray McConnell was born on June 15, 1947, to Roy McConnell and Naomi Ruth Smith in Upland, California. He entered the gates of Heaven on December 21, 2025, in his home at the age of 78 years.



Paul was raised in Raton, New Mexico, where he graduated with the class of 1965. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving honorably from 1966 - 1973. During his military career, he served in many locations, including Vietnam and Germany, completing three tours in Vietnam. While in the Army, Paul worked as a chef and developed a love for learning multiple languages, a skill he carried with him throughout his life.

After his honorable discharge, Paul made his home in Oklahoma. He married the love of his life, Sandra, on May 27, 1977, in Edmond, Oklahoma. They first made their home in Guthrie, spent a short time living in California, and returned to Oklahoma in 1980, settling in Clinton. Paul was employed by Wilbert Burial Vaults for many years.

From 2001 to 2023, Paul and Sandra resided in Roswell, New Mexico, before returning to Oklahoma, where they made their home in Canute. Paul enjoyed fishing, hunting, reading, cooking, and taking long walkabouts. He will be fondly remembered for his wild stories, his fun Native necklaces and days spent with his grandchildren - driving their grandma crazy. He would often tell the grandkids, "Kinder, geht schlafen..." at bedtime during their many sleepovers at Grandma and Grandpa's house.

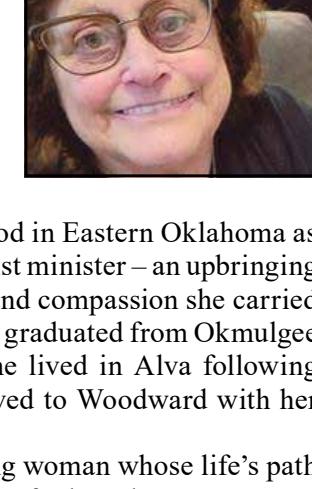
Paul was a proud member of American Legion Post 300.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; his son, James; his brother, David McConnell; and his sister, Kathy Smith.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sandra; his sons, Mike Taylor and wife Candy, and Scott Taylor and wife Michelle; his daughters, Angel Rangel and husband Oscar, and RuthMae Dunich; his brother, Wayne Smith; his sister, Mary Elliot; and 19 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.

Ruth Hicks

Ruth Elaine (Cooley) Hicks was born on April 20, 1955, to Charles Raymond Cooley and Doris Lou (Barnard) Cooley, and went to her heavenly home on December 11, 2025, in Weatherford, Oklahoma, at the age of 70 years.



Ruth spent her childhood in Eastern Oklahoma as the daughter of a Methodist minister—an upbringing that shaped the warmth and compassion she carried throughout her life. Ruth graduated from Okmulgee High School in 1974. She lived in Alva following graduation and later moved to Woodward with her twin sister, Romona.

Ruth was a hardworking woman whose life's path took her through a variety of roles. She spent several years working for Walmart, where she met the love of her life, G.W. Hicks, in 1987. The two were married in a courthouse ceremony on December 16, 1988. They welcomed their son, Greg, in 1990. Ruth loved motherhood and stayed home with Greg until 1995, when she returned to work at the local meat butcher shop and as a custodian for Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Ruth and G.W. operated a dog-boarding business named "Slobber and Sleep", where her affection for working with animals grew. She found joy in caring for her beloved dogs, nurturing plants and houseplants, collecting jewelry, and listening to rock and roll music.

Ruth will be remembered above all for her generous heart and the fierce love she had for her granddaughters. Many people who had come in contact with Ruth often described her as "the kindest person one could ever meet."

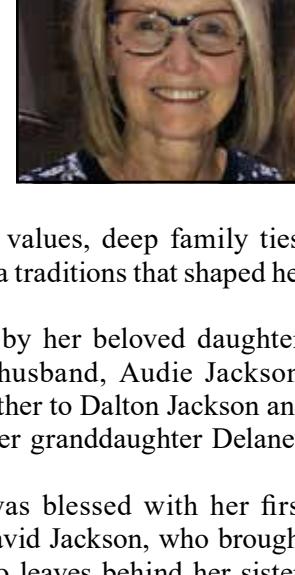
She is preceded in death by her parents and her twin sister, Ramona.

She is survived by her husband G.W. Hicks; son, Greg Hicks and wife, Nicole; granddaughters Ellie, Sophie and Rylie Hicks all of Katy, TX; her brothers, Ed Cooley and wife, Ginger, of New Port Richey, FL, and Mike Cooley and wife, Mary, of Conroe, TX; and sister, Rachel Tarantola and husband, Jim, of Tulsa.



Weekdays 6am-9am on 95.5 FM

Rosemarie Chitwood Hunsinger passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of service, compassion, and unwavering love for her family and community. Born to Johnnie and Elfrieda Tippit, Rosemarie grew



up surrounded by strong values, deep family ties, and the Western Oklahoma traditions that shaped her throughout her life.

Rosemarie is survived by her beloved daughter, Tracy Jackson, and her husband, Audie Jackson. She was a proud grandmother to Dalton Jackson and his wife Lauren, and to her granddaughter Delaney Jackson.

Recently, Rosemarie was blessed with her first great-grandchild, Case David Jackson, who brought her immense joy. She also leaves behind her sister, Shirley, and her husband Sam Idleman, along with their daughters Lezley and Jennifer Idleman.

A devoted public servant, Rosemarie dedicated 55 years of her life to the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, tirelessly advocating for the needs of blind and disabled individuals across the state.

Her work had an immeasurable impact, and her colleagues regarded her as a passionate, steadfast force in the ongoing fight for disability rights in Oklahoma.

Rosemarie was known for her vibrant personality and impeccable sense of style. She had a deep love for Western culture and fashion, always stepping out in the newest trends and looking absolutely stunning. A true social butterfly, she was equally comfortable visiting with top state officials as she was chatting with wheat farmers from Western Oklahoma—her warmth and ease made everyone feel valued.

More than anything, Rosemarie cherished time with her family. She loved traveling with her grandchildren and never missed Dalton and Delaney's sporting events, whether in high school or college. A devoted sports fan, she especially loved Oklahoma football and OU and OSU basketball. If the television was on, it was almost certainly tuned to a game.

In her youth, Rosemarie embraced the rodeo lifestyle with her family and treasured weekends spent fishing, camping, and water skiing at Lake Murray. Summers at Marietta Landing were a beloved family tradition until the passing of her parents, and those memories remained among her most cherished.

Rosemarie's life was defined by love, loyalty, service, and joy. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her, but her spirit, her compassion, and her legacy of service will continue to live on through the many lives she touched.

Mostly Sunny

H: 62° L: 32°
Wednesday

Partly Cloudy

H: 62° L: 37°
Thursday

Mostly Sunny

H: 60° L: 29°
Friday

Mostly Sunny

H: 56° L: 38°
Saturday

Partly Cloudy

H: 64° L: 39°
Sunday

Partly Cloudy

H: 63° L: 34°
Monday

Partly Cloudy

H: 58° L: 35°
Tuesday

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Western Oklahoma Christian School (WOCS) Clinton Students Fill Shoe Boxes for Christmas



The third grade class at Western Oklahoma Christian School in Clinton collected 80 shoe boxes for the Samaritan's Purse project called Operation Christmas Child. The class assembled 50 of the boxes. Standing with the shoe boxes are (front row, L to R): Ellyanna Lagman of Clinton, Charlotte Miller of Hobart, Pazelee Dedmon of Clinton, Monroe Murray of Clinton, and Kolbyn Sappenfield of Cordell. Back row (L to R): Callen Warkentin of Corn, Willow Mayfield of Clinton, and teacher Danyal Walters.



Kyler Crawford of Fort Cobb, Matthew Horn of Cordell, and the WOCS teachers and students pray over the shoe boxes before they are delivered to the Operation Christmas Child distribution center. The boxes are delivered to needy children around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way.



WOCS students Ava Newton and Pazelee Dedmon, both of Clinton, add fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

A Look at Some of Western Oklahoma's 2025 Christmas Festivities



The Hinton Chamber of Commerce hosted a parade as part of their "Small Town Vintage Christmas. Pictured above are the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the parade (from left): Caddo Kiowa VoTech Driving School, Hinton First Methodist Church, and Kerry Tapper in his Hot Rod.



Provided by Weatherford Chamber of Commerce

BancFirst was crowned the Window Decorating Champions during Weatherford's "December to Remember" event for their Grinch-themed illustrations present on their Weatherford storefront windows.



CLINTON / MIDDLE SCHOOL - Clinton Middle School will most likely not be ready for move in when classes resume in January according to Superintendent Nathan Meget. "Most of the big stuff is done, but you start walking the hallways and you see the door frames, and you start seeing some of the cabinets and some of the problems in those things," said Meget. "There's a blue piece of tape on each one of those things. What they've started doing is punching the building out. We want to make sure they get that stuff done, so we don't have a hard-set date yet." Meget added they do have some tentative move in dates. "We got a couple other dates coming up. Martin Luther King Jr. Day we all have off, so that may be a day we can move in. That gives them two extra weeks," Meget explained. "I think we also have a day at the end of January, maybe the first Monday of February where we have a day off too where we can move in. I've been proud of the partnership with Joe Hall and all the contractors. We work really well together, and we want to make sure that stuff's done right." There is still a chance to get the punch list of items completed before January 6th.

CORDELL / HOUSING - New residential development is moving forward in Cordell. Mayor Phil Kliewer says plans for additional homes have been reviewed and approved by the city. "We're getting 14 new houses out on 14th Street in what is called Russell Heights. There are four or five out there now, maybe six," explained Kliewer. "We've seen the plans, we've had people review them, and they look at this point up-to-code. I would think they start moving on fairly quickly. We've given approval to get going." Mayor Phil Kliewer also commented this is another sign of continued growth in the city.

CLINTON / RHS SETTLEMENT - The city of Clinton will receive no money after settling their lawsuits against Rural Hospital Solutions and 3rd Avenue West. The Clinton Daily News filed an open records request and, according to the newspaper, Clinton gets nothing. Rural hospital solutions had an agreement to buy the hospital but changed the terms at the last minute. In addition, 3rd avenue west was hired to help manage the hospital. Both entities were sued by the city of Clinton, which the city was seeking damages from. The article also notes as part of the settlement, neither party can make any disparaging remarks about the other. Clinton still has an ongoing legal dispute with Alliance Health, the previous operators of the hospital.

WEATHERFORD / AMAZON WAREHOUSE - During a community coffee event that was recently held in Weatherford, Mayor Mike Brown revealed that it was some of the recent improvements made on Weatherford's infrastructure that brought Amazon to the city. "If we look back, we thought that they were coming a couple of years ago and it kind of fell through. Now they're back, and one of the things that really kind of drove that was the expansion of the road there at Airport Road, [with] over \$20 million spent on that," said Brown. "And sometimes you don't think about what the impact, anytime you do something, what it's going to have. So that was a big part, being able to get on and off I-40." Amazon will employ about 100 people for their last mile delivery station. Construction is expected to begin in early January.



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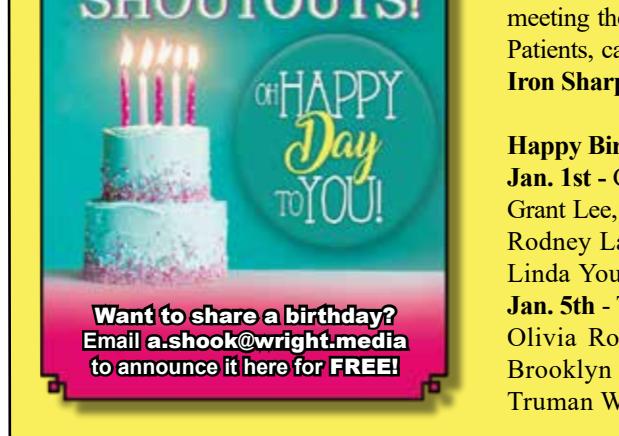
THE BUZZ

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Weatherford, OK 73096

Christian Free Store - Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK, Community Center** "Bible Study," Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public. **OK Parkinson's Alliance**, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford's Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. Questions? Contact OK Parkinson's Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@OKpa.org. **Iron Sharpens Iron** is a Christ-centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for Dec. 31st - Emma Brown, Bill Bursosky, Lexi Hamilton, Myron Lustfield, Jerald Stelting, Tracy Watkins; **Jan. 1st** - Cody Barrera, Mandi Bozarth, Lyla Bridgeman, Doris Brittain, Gage Butcher, Jolena Elisondo, Megan Hanna, Jeanna Hines, Grant Lee, Karen Melton, Harold Miller, Rose Millspaugh, Kenneth Teek, Barbara Walker; **Jan. 2nd** - Lynn Broadbent, Leon Evans, Rodney LaGrange, Steve Millspaugh, Jimmy Ridgeway, Dustin Rose, Jordan Stark, Kim Suter, Jeffery Thomas, Nell Walker, Linda Young; **Jan. 4th** - Mandy Case, Carol Ann Janning, Beatriz Martinez, David Nickels, Bo Anna Popich, Yolanda Soto; **Jan. 5th** - Tony Cannon, Misty Carmin, Jackie Galloway, Ivonna Hinton, Carroll Kiegha, Stacy King, Jennifer Pebley, Kendra Robison, Olivia Roper, Doug Sinclair, Luke Toho; **Jan. 6th** - Anita Anderson, Kaydence Andes, Joyce Austin, Ashley Breeden, Brooklyn Christian, Jordan Crane, Korbin Hart, Evelyn Moncriff, Kimberly Rhoads, Kimberly Smith, Tonya West, Truman Whiteshield;



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ANIMALS AND PETS

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Clyde Vernon Cessna's first successful aircraft experiment, the Cessna Silverwings, being test-flown in April 1911 by Roy Cessna, Clyde's brother.



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Will Rogers stands on the Lockheed Orion wing attached to Wiley Post's Lockheed Explorer floatplane. The photo was taken hours before their fatal crash on August 15, 1935.

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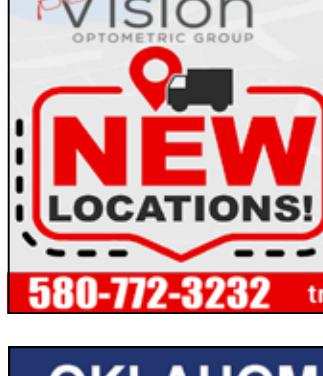
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Chase Wright

Staff Writer

On a spring day in 1910, Oklahoma City saw a scene like no other. Long before commercial airlines or military bases dotted the state, a lone biplane lifted off from the dirt near what is now Capitol Hill High School. A traveling stunt pilot, Charles F. Willard, guided a Curtiss "pusher" aircraft into the sky, climbing 300–400 feet at about thirty miles per hour. For most locals, it was their first sight of a powered airplane. The small crowd gasped and cheered as Willard banked the machine above the prairie, marking Oklahoma's first successful flight on March 18, 1910. A bronze plaque now stands at the site, commemorating this bold moment when Oklahoma's skies were literally and symbolically broken.

Word of that springtime flight spread quickly, and soon other barnstormers and flying circuses came calling. Airplanes (strange buzzing contraptions at the time) became unexpected traveling shows. Scenes of Curtiss biplanes flying low over fairgrounds and cow pastures became common sights. Oklahomans in small towns watched open-mouthed as pilots did loops, wing-walks, and other stunts. Every new exhibition made people feel like they were touching the future. In the years after 1910, barnstormers, air shows and fundraisers became a familiar scene in even rural Oklahoma. These daring pilots spurred excitement about flight and inspired would-be aviators across the state.

The fascination inspired a young Wichita aircraft builder named Clyde Cessna, who was living in Oklahoma by 1911. Cessna had traveled to Oklahoma City to see an air show (the "Moisant International Aviators") and decided to build his own plane. By the end of 1911, he and his brother Roy had constructed the Silverwing, a small monoplane of spruce and linen, on the Great Salt Plains near Jet, Oklahoma. Cessna's first attempts were rough – the plane often crashed or flipped on takeoff – but by June 1911 his "Silverwing" briefly lifted into the air, and in December he finally managed a successful five-mile flight. He cheerfully earned the nickname "Birdman of Enid" and set off down the barnstorming trail himself. Eventually, Cessna would co-found an airplane company that would carry his name around the world – but his first flights in the Oklahoma winds proved that Oklahomans could not only watch flight, they could build it.

By World War I, aviation had become more than just showmanship. In 1915 the U.S. Army set up a pilot training squadron at Fort Sill near Lawton, equipped with Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" biplanes. Trainee pilots practiced navigation and reconnaissance, even landing on temporary grassy airstrips in open fields around Oklahoma City. When America entered the war, dozens of Oklahomans joined the fight. William "Kaiser Bill" Ponder of Mangum became a U.S. air ace in Europe, credited with shooting down over five enemy planes. (After the war he returned home, later opening a flying school in Tulsa.) The war proved that aviation had practical value, and many returning pilots brought their skills and passion back to Oklahoma.

In the 1919 aftermath, civic leaders and entrepreneurs seized on this momentum. Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce chief Stanley Draper established an aviation

committee and helped create one of Oklahoma's first municipal airports in 1919. Within a few years Tulsa residents did the same. The state's young cities were convinced that even this new "flying thing" could boost commerce.

By the early 1920s, Oklahoma's oil boom and broad vistas made it a natural for aerial mail and passenger routes. The state's first airmail route began in 1926, and in 1928 Tulsa built a municipal airport that soon became one of the nation's busiest, thanks to oilfield business. Local entrepreneurs like Erle Halliburton founded airlines to meet the demand. By the end of the decade, Tulsa and Oklahoma City were linked by regular flights, and planes were no longer just performers – they were lifelines of a modernizing economy.

Amid this boom, a new generation of Oklahomans took to the skies as pilots. Three women in particular became legends. Jerrie Cobb of Ponca City learned to fly at age 12 and by 21 was serving as an Air Force pilot; she went on to become America's first woman astronaut in 1959. Eula "Pearl" Carter Scott, a Chickasaw girl from Marlow, was just 14 when she flew solo under the tutelage of famed aviator Wiley Post, making her the youngest American female to pilot an airplane. Mary Haizlip earned her pilot's license a few years later, becoming the second woman in the U.S. to get a commercial flying license; she eventually became the first woman inducted into the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame.

The late 1920s and 1930s brought further milestones. Oklahoma was the home of aviator Wiley Post, who co-piloted the first aerial round-the-world flight in 1931 and later broke the solo record – exploits that pushed aviation technology (like pressurized suits) into new frontiers. Tragically, Post and his friend Will Rogers died together in a 1935 crash, a sober reminder of the era's risks.

Tulsa opened a new field in 1929, and Oklahoma City moved its main airport to Meridian Avenue in 1933 with a grand dedication. Small towns like Guthrie, Bartlesville, and others also carved out landing strips. By the eve of World War II, Oklahoma was threaded with runways, from bush strips to new municipal fields. Once war came again, Oklahoma became a hub of activity. In 1942 the U.S. Army plunked down Tinker Field near OKC, which would become today's Tinker Air Force Base, one of the largest in the country. Training fields sprang up in Norman, Ardmore, Altus, Enid and beyond to churn out pilots and mechanics. Every airbase and airport contributed to a state economy that would benefit from aviation for decades.

From that single Curtiss-powered exhibition in 1910 to a modern aerospace industry, Oklahoma's aviation journey is a story of tinkering, daredevils, and determined visionaries. The early flights over sandy fairgrounds seem modest now, but they set the tone. "Aviation" went from a wild novelty to a proud Oklahoma industry within half a century, thanks to those first brave takeoffs. Looking back, it's clear that a century's worth of Oklahomans – pilots, mechanics, inventors and even schoolchildren building model planes – helped give the state wings. This winter, remember how far we've come since that chilly March morning, when a Curtiss airplane first conquered Oklahoma's skies.

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SWOSU Music Academy Now Open for Spring 2026 Term Registration



Group classes include Preschool Pups, taught by Elizabeth Edge; Rhythm Rovers, taught by Tiffany Ragan; Music Theater Workshop, taught by Dr. Lesley Friend; SWOSU Community Chorus, taught by Dr. Daniel Farris; and Festival Youth Orchestra, taught by Dr. Alex Lee. The schedule also includes a new Folk Dancing class taught by Holly Pippin, which expands the academy's options and introduces younger students to songs, dances, and cultures from all over the world.

These classes continue to give families structured opportunities to support early musical growth while connecting with instructors who bring a range of strengths and backgrounds.

Private and adaptive lessons will be taught by SWOSU Music students serving as junior faculty under the supervision of SWOSU Music faculty. Lessons are available to all ages and skill levels and come in several package options to help families match their goals, schedules, and budgets. High school juniors and seniors may also enroll in college prep lessons taught by SWOSU Music faculty. Space in these sessions is limited because they depend on faculty availability.

Registration information, including prices, schedules, and class locations, is available at bit.ly/swosuacademy. Questions can be directed to co-directors Chrissy Hagood and Kathleen Jung at chrisalyne.hagood@swosu.edu and kathleen.jung@swosu.edu or by calling 580-774-3182.

From early learners to college-bound musicians, SWOSU's Music Academy provides lessons and group classes for every stage.

Enrollment is now open for the SWOSU Music Academy's Spring 2026 term, a program that connects young musicians with quality instruction and performance opportunities.

The 10-week term begins February 2 and ends with a final performance on April 19 at 2 p.m. Registration is available through January 19, and scholarship applications are due January 9.

Regional Food Bank Doubling Impact of Donations Through Jan. 15



REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF OKLAHOMA®

Audrey Johnson
RFBO Marketing Specialist

Oklahoma consistently ranks as one of the hungriest states in the nation. This holiday season, donations to fight hunger in Oklahoma are doubled in impact thanks to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Holiday Match. Through Jan. 15, all donations will be matched, up to \$350,000, thanks to presenting sponsor APMEX and with support from the Cresap Family Foundation.

"For us, the holidays have always meant gathering around a table filled with good food and laughter. Sadly, many of our neighbors across Oklahoma are facing empty tables this season. You can help change that," said John Cresap, president at the Cresap Family Foundation. "Join us in supporting the Regional Food Bank and help fill the plates of fellow Oklahomans."

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

"The holiday season is typically a season of celebration and joy, but the holidays can also lead to stress, especially for Oklahomans living with

hunger," said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer at the Regional Food Bank. "The holiday match is a perfect time to make a tax-deductible donation to help provide much needed meals and nutrition to our neighbors."

These donations can act as a lifeline to Oklahomans like Kristopher, who receives food assistance from our partner, Loaves & Fishes Food & Resource Center in Enid.

Kristopher is on a disability after being hit by a semi-truck several years ago, and his wife has also been on disability for the last 10-15 years.

Despite these hurdles, Kristopher has his eyes set on the future and is now working towards a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is so grateful for the variety of food he's been able to get for his family through pantries like Loaves & Fishes, especially for their 18-year-old son.

"Thanks to you, big thanks! Because this is saving us! It's the difference between being really, really hungry and actually having something to make."

Help deliver hope to Oklahomans like Kristopher this holiday season by making a tax-deductible donation at rfbo.org/give, by texting "MealsOK"

to 53-555 or by calling 405-600-3161. Donations can be mailed to:

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Holiday Match
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About the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is leading the fight against hunger in 53 counties in central and western Oklahoma and envisions a state where no one goes hungry. Founded in 1980, the Regional Food Bank is the state's largest domestic hunger-relief 501(c)(3) nonprofit that distributes food through a network of community-based partner agencies and schools. The majority of people served by the Regional Food Bank are chronically hungry children, seniors living on fixed incomes and hardworking families struggling to make ends meet. The Regional Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's network of food banks. To join the fight to end hunger, visit rfbo.org.

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Okarche Lady Warriors**
Sentinel Lady Bulldogs
Thomas-Fay-Custer (TFC) Lady Terriers

* Reigning Champion
** First Time WCBT Team

Boys' Roster - WCBT 2025

Arapaho-Butler Indians
Burns Flat-Dill City (BFDC) Eagles
Calumet Chieftains*
Canute Trojans
Hydro-Eakly Bobcats
Sentinel Bulldogs
Thomas-Fay-Custer (TFC) Terriers
Thomas-Fay-Custer (TFC) Terriers (JV)**

* Reigning Champion
** First Time WCBT Team

2026 WEST CENTRAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

GIRLS BRACKET



BOYS BRACKET



Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

The 53rd annual West Central Basketball Tournament (WCBT) will be hosted from Monday, January 19 - Friday, January 24 at the SWOSU Pioneer Event Center in Weatherford.

The Corn Bible Academy Crusaders and Lady Crusaders will not be participating in this year's tournament. In their stead will be the Thomas Terriers' Junior Varsity (JV) division and the Okarche Lady Warriors, respectively. The Canute Trojanettes and the Calumet Chieftains are the three-year reigning champions of their brackets.

Everyone is invited to come out and support the teams as they compete for the championship. These 16 teams include high school students from all over West Central Oklahoma, with eight teams on the

boys' bracket and eight on the girls' bracket. A digital bracket for the tournament can be found by scanning the QR codes above.

"We are proud to continue the tradition of hosting the West Central Tournament for our surrounding communities," said SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton. "We look forward to another exciting week of high school basketball inside the Pioneer Cellular Event Center."

There will be four games each day, Monday-Friday, and six games on Saturday. The tournament will begin on Monday, January 19th, at 4:30 p.m. with a game between the Sentinel Lady Bulldogs and the Okarche Lady Warriors. If you can't attend the games in-person, a livestream for all games will be available to watch online at wright.media/eight.

SWOSU Athletic Director Signs to Extend Andrew Rice's Sports Contract



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HEAD COACH ANDREW RICE

Jon Chidester
Media Relations

SWOSU Athletic Director

Todd Helton announced that head football coach Andrew Rice has agreed to a new three-year contract extension. "This extension reflects SWOSU's commitment to the future of Bulldog Football," Helton expressed. "Coach Rice has demonstrated the ability to develop student-athletes the right way while producing results on the field. Securing his leadership provides stability for our program and reinforces the direction we want to continue moving."

Rice recently completed his second season at the helm of the Bulldogs, guiding SWOSU to a 6-5 record in 2025 – the program's first winning season in nearly a decade. Prior to his arrival, the Bulldogs had endured two winless seasons in a three-year span.

"I'm grateful to the entire SWOSU community for their continued trust and belief in our program," said Rice. "This extension represents SWOSU's commitment to the future of Bulldog Football and provides stability for our staff as we continue to invest in the development of our student-athletes, both on and off the field."

Rice took over the program in December of 2023

and delivered immediate results in his first season. In 2024, SWOSU finished 3-8, highlighted by a 50-0 victory over rival Northwestern Oklahoma State – the Bulldogs' first shutout since 2002. That season also produced four All-Great American Conference selections, the program's most since 2016, along with SWOSU's first All-Region honoree since that same year. The momentum accelerated in 2025. SWOSU earned unofficial State Champion honors, finishing 5-0 against in-state opponents after closing the season with a second straight lopsided win over Northwestern. The Bulldogs placed a program-record 12 players on All-GAC teams, set a new Division II school record with 2,347 rushing yards over 11 games, and ranked fifth in Division II by allowing just 157.5 passing yards per game defensively.

Off the field, Rice has emphasized academic and community excellence. The Bulldogs posted a 3.0 cumulative GPA across the four semesters under his leadership, while the program also logged more than 1,200 hours of community service during the spring of 2024 – an offseason benchmark Rice has said is the standard moving forward.

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