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Big Weekend for Basketball in Weatherford (SWOSU / High School)



Provided by Kelly Schmidt Photography

The Weatherford Eagles boys basketball team claimed another Weatherford Classic Championship after defeating the Bridge Creek Bobcats this past Saturday 74-51.



Provided by Kelly Schmidt Photography

The Weatherford Lady Eagles narrowly fell to Bishop McGuinness Fighting Irish 54-48 in their final game of the Weatherford Classic despite a solid defensive performance from the team.



Provided by Southwestern Oklahoma State University
SWOSU held its annual Wright Media Corporate Night. Two lucky winners (pictured) were given a Wright Media branded lawn chair alongside a large gift bag containing clothes, blankets, and more.



Provided by SWOSU

Athletic Director Todd Helton presented Wright Media GM / Owner Heston Wright with a signed game ball.

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Carla Luttmer

Carla Diane (Long) Luttmer, age 68, was born in Woodward, Oklahoma on May 21, 1957, to Bill and Joy (Vassar) Long. She passed away on Wednesday, January 7th, 2026 in Canute, Oklahoma.

Carla graduated from Elk City High School in 1975. She married John Luttmer on January 30, 1976. They made their home in Canute, Oklahoma and raised their five children. Carla enjoyed fishing, crocheting, garage sales, and spending time at the Sentinel farm.

She was preceded in death by her father, Bill; sister, Lori Holuby; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Walter and Agnes Luttmer.

Carla is survived by her husband, John; her children, Stephanie and David Costello, Elk City, OK, Diane and Dustin Burrows, Canute, OK, Michelle and Scott Taylor, Corn, OK, Scott Luttmer, Guthrie, OK, and Kevin and Christy Luttmer, Canute, OK; her mother, Joy Long, Guthrie, OK; sister, Vondra Long, Guthrie, OK; brother, Billy Long, Oklahoma City, OK; 10 grandchildren, Jacob and Whitney Costello, Regan, Reece, and Reanna Walters, Tabitha and CJ Strain, Daxus, Dylan, Logan, and Britten Taylor; one great grandson on the way, Steven Strain IV as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Comforting Hands Hospice for the care given to Carla before her passing.



Juaneva Megli

Cleo Juaneva Megli was born on March 25, 1926 in Hydro, OK, to Edward P. and Edna Mae (McCall) Jones. She passed away on January 6, 2026 in Weatherford, Oklahoma, at the age of 99.

Juaneva lived in Hydro in her early childhood years. She later lived on a farm North of Weatherford and attended Cedar School until 8th grade.

Juaneva graduated from Weatherford High School in 1943. After graduating, she met Loyd William Megli at the Tiny Diner in Weatherford and they were married on February 5, 1949. In their early years of marriage, they made their home in Weatherford.

They later lived in Thomas, Putnam and Custer City and raised their family in these areas. She was a devoted member of the First Christian Church of Thomas.

Juaneva kept the nursery at the church for 50 years and took great pride in this. Her greatest accomplishment was raising her family.

Juaneva enjoyed quilting, crocheting, reading and word puzzles. She was always headed to watch a grandkids ball game. After the death of her husband, she enjoyed traveling with sisters.

Juaneva was preceded in death by her parents, Edward P. and Edna Mae (McCall) Jones; husband, Loyd William Megli; brothers, Marvin, Doyle, Delvin, J.D. and Dewayne; and sisters, Opal, Joyce and Jo Ann.

She is survived by daughter, Vickie Ferguson of Custer City; son, Loyd Ray Megli of Torrington, Wyoming; son, Richard Megli of Hammon, Oklahoma; daughter, Kathy Megli of Weatherford, Oklahoma; son, Rodney Megli of Elgin, Oklahoma; son, Charles Megli of Thomas, Oklahoma; brother, T.B. Jones of Torrington, Wyoming; sister, Rose Brehm of Skiatook, Oklahoma; sister, Sharon Cook of Yukon, Oklahoma;

Juaneva is also survived by 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandson; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.



Karissa Huddlestone

Karissa Lynn "Kari" (Davenport) Huddlestone was born September 16, 1984, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Otis Dale Davenport and Tarissa Lynn Brummett. She passed away Saturday, January 3, 2026, at her home in Weatherford, Oklahoma, at the age of 41.

Karissa graduated from Hinton High School. She lived with her mother for several years and later moved to Weatherford, where she worked at Downtown Diner and Pizza Hut. She also volunteered at the local nursing home, where she loved reading to the residents.

Karissa was employed as a custodian at SWOSU. She was a member of Rock of Restoration Church, where she was baptized along with her brother, Joshua. She loved reading and was truly a bookworm—often finishing a 500-page novel in just a day and a half. She also enjoyed watching musicals, and two of her favorite movies were Grease and Dirty Dancing.

Kari was content with the simple things in life and had a special gift for helping others feel at peace. She had a way of listening, comforting, and reminding people that everything was going to be okay. Karissa will be remembered for her kind heart, her gentle spirit, and the way she cared deeply for others.

Survivors include her father, Otis Davenport of Spiro, Oklahoma; her mother, Tarissa and her husband Ben Thiessen of Hydro, Oklahoma; her brother, Joshua Dale Davenport and his wife Samantha of Mustang, Oklahoma; her nephew, Ollivander Davenport of Mustang, Oklahoma; her grandmother, Linda Parker of El Reno, Oklahoma; her aunts and uncles, Jim Davenport and his wife Carol of Oklahoma City, Linda Keasler of Oklahoma City, and Kimberly Johnson; cousins Lily Johnson, Pete Hoelscher, Lonnie Hoelscher, and many other cousins; along with numerous friends and extended family members who loved her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Harold Davenport and Wanda Davenport Draper and husband J.B. Draper; great grandparents, Sible and Paul Bradley, aunts and uncles Harold Lee Davenport and his wife Aurice, Joe Davenport, Ruby Davenport, and Donald Keasler, Janice Davenport.

Jordan Bullcoming

Precious heart warrior, Jordan Neil Bullcoming, came into his parent's lives on December 6, 2024.



He was born with a complex congenital heart condition called Heterotaxy Syndrome, a rare disorder in which the heart and other internal organs do not develop in their normal positions. Because of this, many of his organs were abnormally formed, and he required constant medical care throughout his life. He spent his entire childhood under the care of specialists at OU Children's Hospital.

During that time, he underwent three open-heart surgeries and two catheterization procedures—one to address issues with his lung muscle and another to place a G-tube to help with feeding. From the moment he was born, Baby Jordan fought bravely for his life.

On December 16, 2025, his mother, Arianna, received a call from Bethany Children's Hospital at 10:57 p.m. She was told that Jordan was in respiratory distress and had developed E. coli in his bloodstream, a serious infection. For a child with a heart condition, infections like this can be extremely dangerous.

On December 20, 2025, while receiving respiratory treatment, Jordan's heart rate suddenly dropped to 29 beats per minute. The medical team immediately began chest compressions and were able to restore his pulse after four minutes.

Then, on December 22, 2025, Jordan stopped breathing again. The medical team worked tirelessly, performing chest compressions for forty-four minutes, but they were unable to find a pulse. At 8:44 a.m., God decided to call their sweet angel home.

Jordan is survived by his parents, Arianna Carrasco and Chantz Bullcoming; maternal grandparents, Janice and Fernando Garcia, Eddie Carrasco; paternal grandparents, Barry Sr and Alesia Bullcoming; maternal aunts, Araceli Garcia and Mariah Sevenstar; paternal aunts, Bailey Bullcoming, Lindsey Bullcoming, Wiyoka Brown; paternal uncles, Chad Bullcoming, Barry Bullcoming Jr; maternal great-grandparents, Lillian and John Sr Sevenstar; paternal great-grandparents, Joyce and George Bullcoming; maternal great uncles, Wesley Sevenstar, Jim Sevenstar, John Sevenstar Jr, Brian Sevenstar.

Robert Malone

Robert Malone Sr was born November 26th, 1951, in Tipton, OK.

Robert loved teaching the word of Jesus Christ. He was a long-time member of the Southeast Church of Christ in Clinton, OK, as assistant minister before becoming minister of the Grant and Maple Church of Christ in Paul's Valley OK, then East Main Church of Christ in Ardmore OK.

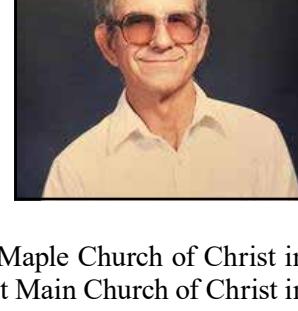
Robert was known for his amazing cooking skills where he showed them off at the famous Pop Hicks restaurant, The Big Sky restaurant, and The Branding Iron Restaurant where he cooked alongside his late brother Willie Malone.

However, if you wanted to find Robert when he wasn't working just locate his sister Faye and his brother-in-law Esco Abram. They would be found at 2 of these places. Fishing at Foss Lake or their famous rock hole or Friday night sitting on the hill at the Tornado Bowl.

Robert also enjoyed helping his wife with her childcare center, going to the grocery store "everyday" and talking to strangers!

Robert leaves behind his wife, Annie Malone, of 54 years; his four amazing children: Robert Malone Jr., Otis Lee Malone, Michelle Rene Malone, and Anthony Dewayne Malone; nine grandchildren: Mallory Malone, Darian Malone, Kobe Malone, Korey Malone, Daylen Malone, Devyn Malone, Dyce Malone, Jeremiah Williams, and Solomon Still. 2 great grandchildren Zyla Rea LeeAnn Malone and Kamden Gray Malone.

He was preceded in death by his father, Plez Malone; Mother, Dora Malone; three sisters: Mae Rogers, Betty Gosier, and Doris Dancer; two brothers: Plez Malone Jr., and William Malone, and two half brothers, John Malone and Morris Malone.



Mason Conrad

Mason Dean Conrad, aged 100, of Cordell, OK, passed away peacefully on January 3, 2026, in the Cordell Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Reeder, North Dakota, on February 19, 1925, Mason was the son of Bernard and Selma (Kittleson) Conrad.

He married Aneta Krinke on June 26, 1950, in Haley, North Dakota. Mason proudly served his country by enlisting in the United States Navy. He was an active member of the Masons, Shriners, Peace Lutheran Church and a lifetime American Legion member.

Mason had a distinguished career as an oil exploration surveyor with Exxon Mobil before it became known by that name. His passion for the outdoors was reflected in his love for fishing and hunting, whether in local waters or on adventures abroad.

He particularly enjoyed deep-sea fishing in Alaska and Canada. He had a special fondness for catching red snapper, as well as hunting deer, elk, and pheasant.

A natural athlete, Mason took great pleasure in playing golf well into his seventies and eighties, achieving the impressive feat of shooting his age on the course.

Mason was also a gifted storyteller and a devoted world traveler. He discovered his lifelong love of travel while stationed in the south pacific during his service in the Navy. In the years that followed, he continued to explore the world, visiting places such as New Zealand, Australia, and countries throughout Europe. He had a deep affection for the Scandinavian countries of his family. Mason cherished the experiences of meeting new people and embracing different cultures throughout his travels.

Mason Dean Conrad will be remembered for his adventurous spirit, love for family, and the stories that enriched the lives of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

He is survived by two daughters, Nina Morris and Cully (Kenneth) of Cordell, OK, Wendy Kessel and Keith of Fort Worth, TX; sister, Judith Benson of Cincinnati, OH; grandchildren, Milan, David, Erin, Joshua, Sarah, Elsa, Mason and Brett; great grandchildren, Aneta, Clara, Shane, Jayce, Brody, James, Whitney and Brady and a host of nieces, nephews and family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Selma Conrad; wife, Aneta Conrad; son, James "Jim" Conrad; daughter, Beth Conrad; brother, Keith Conrad; sister, Mila Anderson.

Sheila White

Sheila Irene White, aged 58, of Elk City, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully in her home on January 6, 2026. Born on August 2, 1967, in Oklahoma City, Sheila was the beloved daughter of Jimmy and Lillie (Ross) Martin.

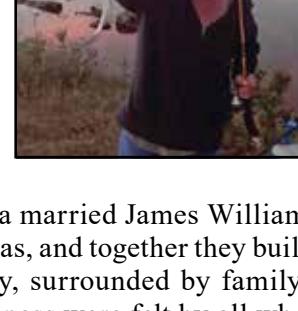
On July 13, 1984, Sheila married James William White Jr. in Sherman, Texas, and together they built a life rich in love and joy, surrounded by family. Sheila's warmth and kindness were felt by all who knew her.

A spirited and passionate individual, Sheila had a deep appreciation for the outdoors. She cherished moments spent fishing and found joy in watching hummingbirds. However, it was her grandbabies who held a special place in her heart, and her love for them was boundless.

Sheila's legacy of love and laughter will forever be remembered by her family and friends.

She is survived by her parents, Jimmy and Linda Martin; son, James R. White; daughters, Dana C. White and Chandel Aguirre; brother, Jimmy Martin; sisters, Lillie Susan Martin and Shelley Martin; grandchildren, Madison, Bailee, Josiah, William, and many loving nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Lillie (Ross) Martin; husband, James White Jr.



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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CBA's Homecoming Set for January 15th



Ally Chupp / CBA

Corn Bible Academy Homecoming candidates. Pictured (from left), back row: Will Kinds-father, Jaden Zeller, Zack Zyback; front row: Gretta Geisler, Mia Horn, Claire Lind, Kate Stewart. Not pictured: Vince DuBois.

Ally Chupp
CBA Administrative Assistant

Corn Bible Academy (CBA) will celebrate Homecoming on Thursday, January 15. Games against the Hillsdale Eagles are scheduled to begin at 3 p.m., followed by the homecoming ceremony.

This year's Homecoming candidates are Will Kindsfather of Weatherford; Jaden Zeller of Bessie; Zack Zybach of Sayre; Vince DuBois of Clinton;

Gretta Geisler of Cordell; Mia Horn of Elk City; Claire Lind of Weatherford; and Kate Stewart of Clinton.

Serving as attendants are Livvie Penner, a kindergartener at Western Oklahoma Christian School in Weatherford, and Graham Thomas, a kindergartener at Western Oklahoma Christian School in Clinton.



Krystal Blackwell / WM

Courtney Carruth and Garin Minter have been selected as the Weatherford Rotary Student of the Month. Pictured with them is Assistant Principal Kelly Wilson (left) and Rotary sponsor Heston Wright (right).

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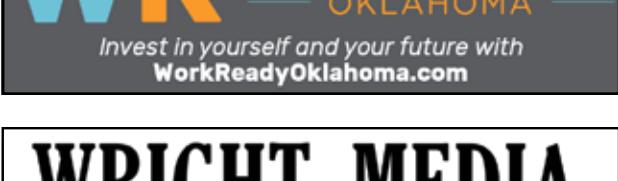
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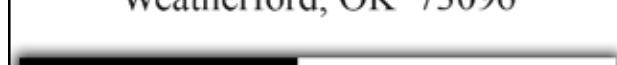
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THE BUZZ

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Hinton's Search for New Superintendent Begins



Jodi Combs
HPS Board Member

The search is underway for the next Hinton Public Schools superintendent. Hinton school board members recently opened the search, in partnership with the Oklahoma State School Boards Association, after Hinton Public Schools Superintendent Marcy Derryberry announced she will retire at the end of the school year. As the search begins, Hinton school board members turn to the public for input.

Hinton board members invite community members, parents, district staff and students to participate in a short online survey. Located on the district's website hintonschools.org the survey will be available until January 17.

According to Hinton Board President Jodi Combs, it is vital to the board to hear from the Hinton community directly about what they need in a superintendent.

"We seek your input as we begin the search for our next district leader," Combs said. "Selecting a superintendent who embodies the needs of our district is one of the most important jobs we have as school board members, and it is our top priority to hear directly from you, our stakeholders. With the information you provide, it will help our board select a district leader who will continue Hinton's mission of challenging students academically and promoting their personal development."



The Board will be accepting applications online at ossba.org/hinton. Applications will be accepted through January 30. OSSBA has helped facilitate superintendent searches across the state, working with other school board associations throughout the country to ensure a competitive candidate pool. The non-profit organization has partnered with Oklahoma school districts of all sizes to perform superintendent searches, including Beaver, Alva and Gore.

The longtime member of Hinton Public Schools, Superintendent Marcy Derryberry, is retiring. Derryberry has served in many different capacities for Hinton Public Schools for the past 32 years. Derryberry says she is retiring effective June 30. She says school security has been a major change and emphasis during her education career.

"We've worked really hard in Oklahoma to make sure that our schools are safe and that everyone feels safe and that we are keeping that at the forefront. I think that's one of the things because we never thought twice about, you know, leaving doors open, windows open back many years ago," expressed Derryberry. "Today, the safety aspect is huge. I'm glad of that because I want our kids to be safe. I want them to be able to learn without having any frustration or being in fear."

ELK CITY / TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Elk City Public Schools recently named the recipients of their site Teachers of the Year. Yedid Ayala was named Teacher of the Year for Early Childhood. Kimberly Tew was named as elementary teacher of the year. Shanna Bruner is the Intermediate Teacher of the Year. Other teacher of the year awards went to Kacee Schier for Elk City Middle School and Bridgette Shelton at the high school. The district teacher of the year award will be announced in April. Support Staff of the Year honors went to Penny Shockley in accounts payable, custodian Gloria Villareal, and Cafeteria Manager Amy Andrews.

WRH / HYDRO CLINIC

- During a recent hospital board meeting, Weatherford Regional Hospital Chief Executive Officer Darin Farrell spoke about the status of opening the Hydro Clinic. "We expect to open the hydro clinic in two or three weeks [after we] work through the last details over there," explained Farrell. "We'll do a soft opening and then when we get it all ready to go for the public, we'll do a grand opening type thing and ribbon cutting and that sort of thing." Farrell says there are still a few minor issues to work out prior to hosting a grand opening.

WEATHERFORD / AMR RENEWAL

- The Weatherford city commission recently approved the renewal of the emergency medical service agreement with American Medical Response (AMR) ambulance service in Weatherford. Operations Manager Rick Bigger explained that a 3% increase to the consumer price index (CPI) was a determining factor in this decision. The renewal of the contract expires at the end of 2026.

CLOUD CHIEF / FIRE DEPT

- Officials with the Cloud Chief Fire Department said they responded to 37 total calls for service in 2025. Among other things, the department responded to 16 grass fires, six structure fires and eight vehicle accidents.

WEATHERFORD / TEACHER OF THE YEAR

A long-time teacher with Weatherford Public Schools was named District Teacher of the Year yesterday. Middle School Teacher Dana Hickman received the honor. "Her exceptional dedication and service haven't gone without notice. She has devoted decades of her life to teaching and coaching students here at Weatherford Public Schools," expressed Superintendent Mark Harmon about the impact of Dana Hickman in the classroom. "For more than 20 years, she has helped coordinate the district's Veteran's Day Assembly, and each summer takes students on educational trips that deepen their understanding of our nation's history. She has made a difference in her students' lives, and the most important thing is they love her as a teacher. Her commitment has made a lasting impact on our community and school."

CLINTON / TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The Clinton city council approved an item that allows the city to apply for state transportation funding tied to a future sidewalk project. "This is the third go-around for us to try to get this competitive grant money. Last year, we've worked in conjunction with the Clint Public Schools and two-phase project," City Manager Robert Johnston explained. "This will be mainly along JC Lane, a new sidewalk at the new middle school and high school, connecting McLean Rogers Park, Antelope Spur going up to 19th Street to Southwest Elementary." Johnston says the city expects to know whether funding is awarded by the end of the school year. "This is just one of the five or six pieces of documentation we have to submit is we tell our story and try to persuade them why they need to fund us," added Johnston.

ELK CITY PD / COOK

- Elk City has a new Police Chief. John Cook has taken over as head of the department. Officials say Cook brings dedication, experience, and a strong commitment to serving elk city. Cook succeeds Eddie Holland who retired.

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

Happy Birthday Wishes for Jan. 14 - Grey Adkins, Billie Anderson, Chris Brotherton, Chuck Estes, Jim Loomis, Brittany McBroome, Michael Miller, Debra Norsworthy, Janie Penner, Gary Pigg, Nathan Villines; **Jan. 15** - Martha Barber, Kaye Black, Steven Buckner, Jason Daniel, Robert Deela, Ramona Duff, Rocky Hylton, Cherise Musselman, Shawn Smith, Cheryl Stephens; **Jan. 16** - Marybeth Cornell, Ester Demetreu, Linda Dimitris, Zoe Jackson, Joni Johnson, Garrison Mendoza, Landon Smith, Anna Tags, Yolanda Vasquez, Alice Whitetail, Barbara Williams, Titan Yoder; **Jan. 17** - Jennifer Avey, Haddie Mae Haynes, Jodi Lambert, Patsy Moseley, Bryan Reed, Fredona Rose, Donna Schwartz, Stephenie Watson. **Jan. 18th** - Chris Cote, Brianna Etheredge, Jeremiah Lopez, Dennis Robison, Sandy Rothmeyer, Hal Stambaugh, Kelly Tautfest, Rebecca Thomason, Chrissie Warrior; **Jan. 19th** - Brodye Davis, Mary England, Allen Entz, Raydon Epp, Ryan Foster, Amy Haris, Garrett Hoffman, Jo Klingman, Candace Lanier, Phil Schmidt, Darrell Sheperd, Gracie Snow, Faye Trent, Delenna Williams; **Jan. 20th** - Kurt Conway, Gena Cornell, Christy Green, Carolyn Keeton, Logan Moser, Stephanie Schaunaman, Scott Steinly, Marie Stelting, Michelle Wolf; **Jan. 21st** - Brent Bellamy, Richard Carpenter, Daniel Funkhouser, Nicole Garcia, Steve Gilbert, Cassey Green, Kim King, Pamela Knuaf, Tracee Mcpearson, Danielle Merchant, Kelsey Schumacher, Joyce Skipworth, Betty Watson;

Estate Planning & Tax Prep 2026

Estate Planning with Graft & Walraven: Separating Fact from Fiction

Andy Carruth, Staci Masquelier-Sweeden, and Natalie Kinder, attorneys at Graft & Walraven, PLLC in Weatherford and Clinton, regularly address common misconceptions about estate planning and elder law. They agree that helping people understand the realities of estate planning and long-term care is one of the most rewarding parts of their work.

The Will and Probate Myth - "One of the most common myths we encounter is the belief that having a will avoids probate," Andy explains. "Wills are important, but they do not prevent the costly and time-consuming public probate process, which requires court involvement. Proper planning, such as using a revocable living trust, can help families avoid probate altogether."

Joint Ownership Misconceptions - Another frequent misunderstanding is that joint ownership is a good way to avoid probate. "Joint ownership can be appropriate for spouses and in certain other situations," Natalie notes. "However, we too often see the designation of a joint owner on a financial account unintentionally defeat a person's true wishes. Before designating a joint owner

for a financial account, you must be certain to understand the consequences and then be prepared to make changes to the designation if circumstance warrant."

Nursing Home Benefits Myths - There are many misunderstandings about nursing home care benefits. One of the most common is the belief that a person must become completely destitute to qualify for assistance. "That is often not the case," Staci explains. "The rules involve a complex mix of state and federal regulations. Our role is to help clients navigate those rules while preserving family resources and legacy assets like land and minerals." In many cases, families are surprised to learn what options may be available.

Estate Planning Is Not Just for the Wealthy

"Many people believe estate planning is only for those with significant wealth, but that simply is not true," Staci says. Estate planning benefits individuals and families at every stage of life by ensuring that assets and income are managed by trusted people according to clear wishes, both during life and after death.

Understanding Powers of Attorney - "There is also widespread confusion about powers of attorney," Natalie explains. "They are powerful tools, but only during a person's lifetime. Once someone passes away, a power of attorney has no legal effect." After an account or property owner dies, the decedent's estate documents dictate what happens to the decedent's money and property. If there is no estate plan in place, then state law determines what will happen.

Graft & Walraven is committed to helping clients understand how land, minerals, and other assets pass from one generation to the next. The best estate plans result from collaboration between informed clients and experienced attorneys who are dedicated to taking care of people. For more than 50 years, Graft & Walraven, PLLC has served and advocated for families across Western Oklahoma. "Our clients know we are here to stand beside them, not just for their lifetimes, but for generations to come." To schedule a consultation, call Graft & Walraven, PLLC at (580) 772 7721 or visit www.gwlawok.com.



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Bryan is passionate about helping clients succeed in today's economic environment by ensuring they understand their financial strategies—not just what they own, but why they own it. He believes that clarity and education empower clients to make confident decisions, even during uncertain times. A key part of his philosophy is maintaining personal relationships with clients and adjusting financial plans as goals, lifestyles, and needs change. As a fiduciary who has served on numerous professional and community boards, Bryan brings perspective, leadership, and a commitment to acting in his clients' best interests at all times.

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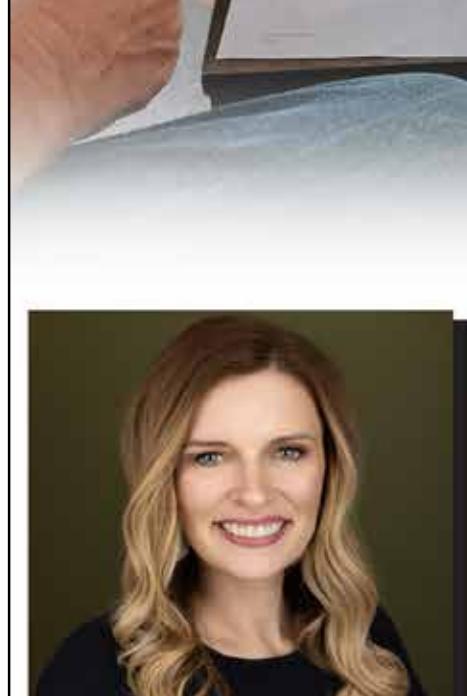
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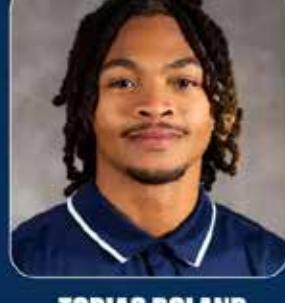
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Tobias Roland and Sincere Jackson Lead Off 2026 Bulldogs of the Week

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SWOSU Media Relations

Tobias Roland and Sincere Jackson have been named the first Bulldogs of the Week of 2026, presented by Wright Media—the official partner for SWOSU athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Roland (OKC) posted a strong week for SWOSU, highlighted by a season-high 21 points in Thursday's win over Henderson State. The senior began the night a perfect 5-for-5 from the field and 8-for-8 at the free-throw line before missing his final shot late in the second half. He followed with nine points on 50% shooting against Ouachita Baptist on Saturday. On the week, Roland added seven rebounds, four assists, and two steals.

Jackson (San Antonio, TX) led the Lady Bulldogs offensively, averaging 15.5 points per game across two contests while shooting 43% from the field. She scored 20 points against Henderson State for her second-highest point total of the season. Against Ouachita Baptist, Jackson narrowly missed a double-double, finishing with 11 points and nine rebounds, and she totaled five assists on the week.

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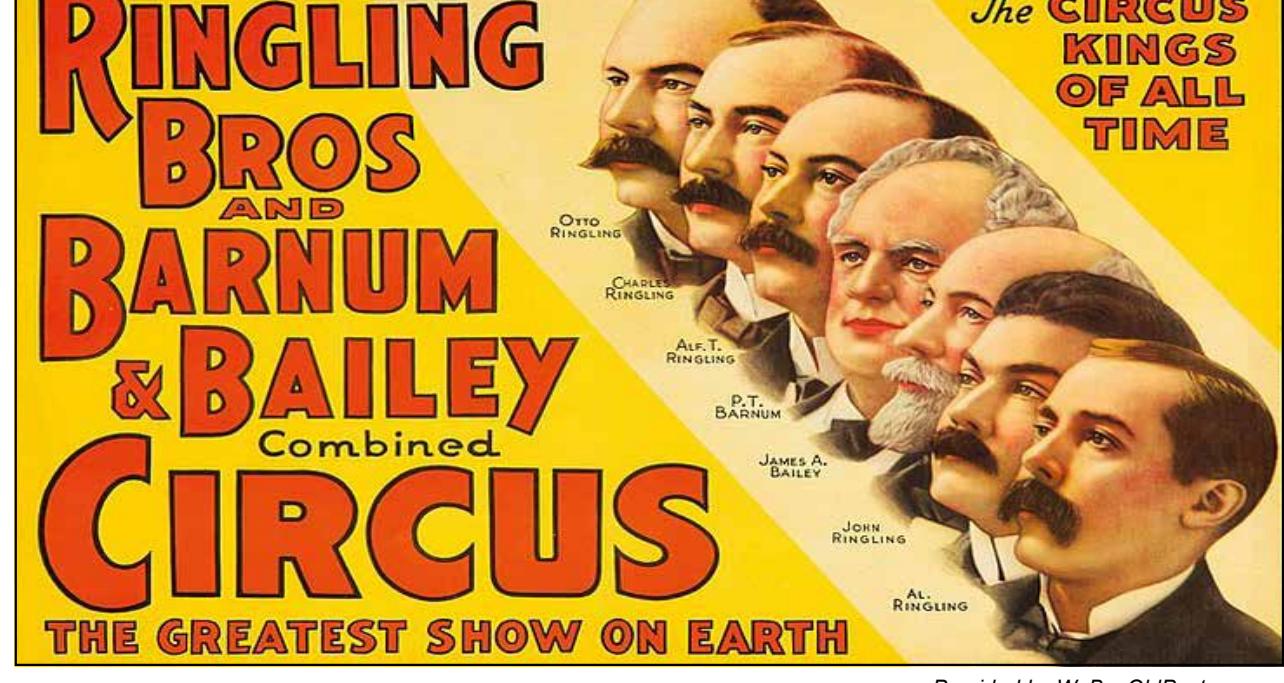
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Oklahoma History: From Circus to Railroads



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A promotional poster for The Ringling Bros., P.T. Barnum, and James A. Bailey's combined circus, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

In the early 1910s, John Ringling was known as a king of the circus. One of the famed Ringling Brothers who ran "The Greatest Show on Earth." But by 1913, this showman had a new obsession: railroads. Ringling partnered with Oklahoma oil millionaire Jake L. Hamon to finance a rail line across south-central Oklahoma. Their plan was practical, a short-line railroad from Ardmore toward Lawton to haul farm produce and cattle. On May 1, 1913, construction began westward from Ardmore on what locals dubbed the "Ringling Railroad". Steel rails snaked through the scrubby hills and farms, and small towns like Wilson sprang up along the route. (Ringling named the town Wilson after his circus company's manager, Charles Wilson – a hint of the big top heritage behind this enterprise.) By the end of 1913, the new railroad had reached rural Jefferson County.

As Ringling's crews graded roadbed and laid track, Oklahoma was in the midst of an oil frenzy. Nearby fields like Healdton were rumored to hold black gold beneath the red earth. John Ringling's partner, Jake Hamon, was well aware and had been scooping up leases in Carter County and stood to gain if oil was found. Ringling himself, ever the entrepreneur, smelled opportunity beyond hauling hay and cattle. The circus impresario had become a railroad president, but soon he would inadvertently become a town founder in the oil patch.

The turning point came in mid-August 1913, wildcatters hit a high-pressure reservoir in the Healdton field, about 20 miles northwest of Ardmore. The discovery well (Wirt Franklin's "Franklin No.1") proved the area was floating on petroleum. Almost overnight, the quiet pastures filled with wooden derricks and oil workers. Sensing a fortune on the horizon, Ringling and Hamon quickly changed their railroad's course. They decided to halt the main line before Lawton and instead build a spur northward to tap the Healdton area.

In January 1914, with track crews just over the Jefferson County line, the partners stopped laying rails west and turned north. That month, the Ringling Railroad effectively dead-ended in an empty field about a mile north of the tiny community of Cornish. But it wouldn't be empty for long.

Ringling himself traveled to the rail terminus and purchased 120 acres of surrounding land in April 1914, anticipating a boomtown. By June, a post office was established at the new site. The place needed a name and what better name than Ringling? Thus, a brand-new town was born on the prairie, bearing the circus man's name and awaiting an onrush of fortune-seekers.

By summer, oil workers, lease hounds, merchants, and roughnecks flooded in. Tents and wooden shacks sprouted beside the tracks. Within the year, new businesses were operating out of canvas and clapboard buildings. One nearby community paper gushed that Ringling was "the wonder city" of the area by late 1914. The neighboring town of Wilson likewise swelled with people and investment, benefiting from the railroad and the oilfield traffic. By 1915, Ringling was formally incorporated, and both it and Wilson were bustling oil towns rather than sleepy farm villages. One historical account noted, "the boomtown of Ringling was born" in those months after the rail line arrived.

Newly rich oilmen and landowners rode the passenger cars to Ardmore or Oklahoma City. By 1920 Ringling had over a thousand residents. Its twin town Wilson grew even larger, topping two thousand people by the 1920 census. The petroleum industry underpinned both towns. Rigs dotted the horizon to the north and east, and oil money was used to build hotels, banks, and schools. Ringling even spawned a weekly newspaper (the Ringling Eagle) to chronicle the lively events of the day. All of this arose from the decision made in January 1914 to redirect a railroad in pursuit of oil.

By 1926, John Ringling sold the Oklahoma, New Mexico and Pacific Railway to the Santa Fe system, and the line continued operating as a spur for decades, nicknamed the "Ringling Tap" on Santa Fe's maps. Jake Hamon, the behind-the-scenes wheeler-dealer, enjoyed a few years as an oil baron but met a notorious end – he was shot in 1920 amid a scandal, cutting short his fortune. As for Ringling, he returned full-time to his circus and real estate enterprises in the 1920s. He likely never imagined that an Oklahoma town would carry his name into the 21st century, long after his circus days were over. Yet Ringling, Oklahoma persists, a reminder of the circus tycoon who became a town founder.



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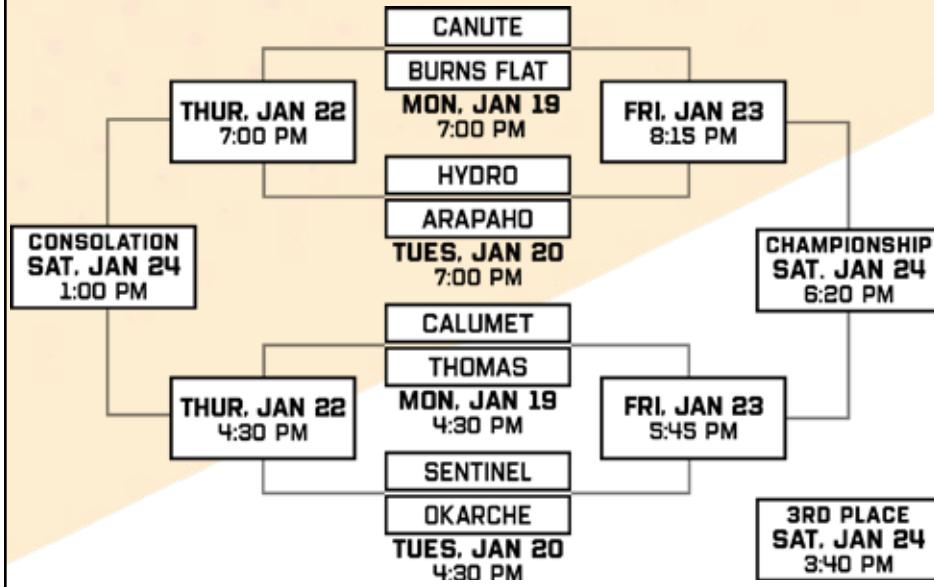
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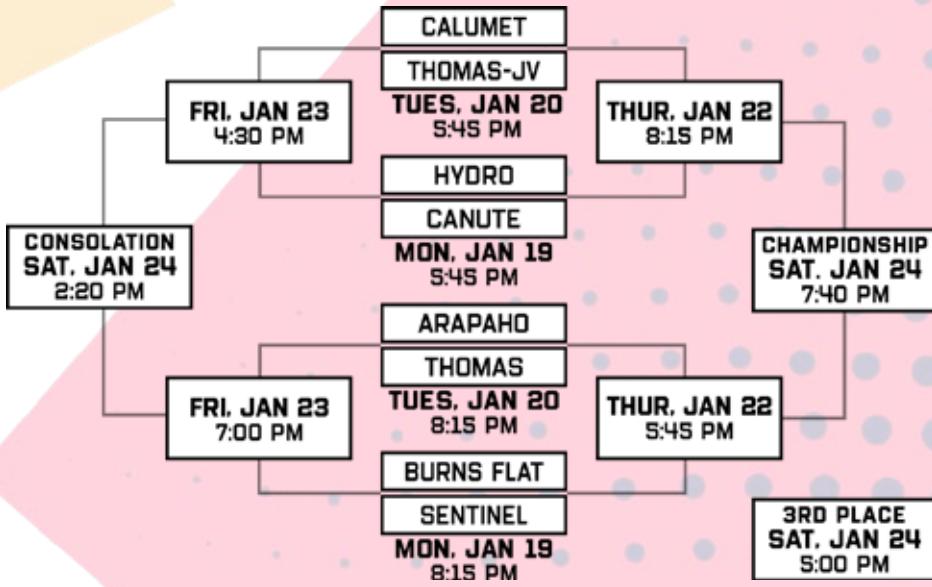
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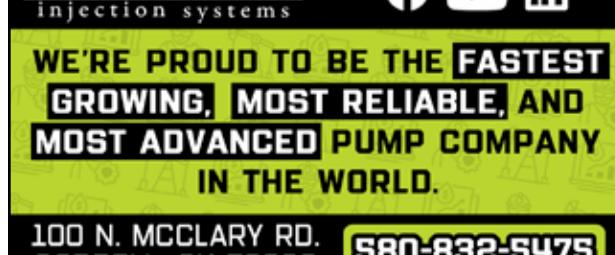
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Lady Bulldogs Fall in 67-60 Loss to Ouachita

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Women's Basketball fell 67-60 to Ouachita Baptist on Saturday to close out a three-game homestand. The Lady Bulldogs trailed for more than 38 minutes of game time, playing from behind nearly the entire way through.

SWOSU struggled to find rhythm offensively out of the gate, shooting just 2-of-16 in the opening quarter and scoring six points for the second straight game in the first 10 minutes. Both teams were sloppy early, combining for 13 turnovers in the opening period, while Ouachita shot 33% overall and went 1-of-8 from three-point range. SWOSU trailed 13-6 after one.

Offense picked up for both sides in the second quarter as each team shot 50% or better in the period. Elle Papahronis sparked the Lady Bulldogs, scoring 11 of her 13 first-half points in the quarter to help SWOSU chip away at the deficit. Despite holding a 24-14 edge in total rebounds at halftime, including a 10-3 advantage on the offensive glass, SWOSU trailed 31-27 at the break.

SWOSU cleaned up its mistakes after halftime and made its push in the third quarter, committing just two turnovers after totaling 13 in the first half. The Lady Bulldogs closed the period on a 9-2 run to pull within one, trailing 47-46 entering the fourth.

Payten Conde gave SWOSU a brief lead early in the final quarter, but Ouachita answered with

a decisive 11-0 run that stretched through the final media timeout to push the Tigers back in front by double digits. Trailing 63-53 with 2:19 to play, SWOSU mounted one more push and cut the deficit to five in the final minute using full-court pressure, but could not overcome the margin down the stretch. Ouachita entered the fourth quarter just 2-of-16 from beyond the arc but knocked down four triples in the final period to provide the separation it needed. SWOSU shot 24% in the fourth quarter, limiting the comeback effort.

Ouachita finished the afternoon shooting 42% from the field, 6-of-24 from three-point range, and 9-of-10 at the free-throw line. SWOSU shot 30% overall, went 4-of-21 from deep, and finished 14-of-18 at the stripe.

Four Lady Bulldog starters scored in double figures, led by Papahronis with 15 points. Conde recorded the first double-double of her career with 14 points and a career-high 10 rebounds. Sincere Jackson narrowly missed a double-double with 11 points and nine rebounds, adding four assists.

The Lady Dawgs outrebounded Ouachita 47-36 and committed two less turnovers, 19-17.

SWOSU (5-8, 3-5 GAC) will play its next four games away from Weatherford over the next two weeks, beginning with road trips to Southern Arkansas and Arkansas-Monticello next Thursday and Saturday.

SWOSU Comes Up Short in a Tight Battle

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Men's Basketball pushed league-leading (rv) Ouachita Baptist into the final minute Saturday afternoon but came up short in a 61-56 loss to the Tigers in Weatherford.

The game was tied with 1:06 remaining and SWOSU in possession, but Ouachita finished strong down the stretch to remain unbeaten in Great American Conference play. The loss also closed out a three-game homestand for the Bulldogs.

The first half unfolded in a methodical, defensive-minded pace. SWOSU built its largest lead at 22-16 with 4:17 remaining before Ouachita responded with an 11-0 run to swing momentum. The Tigers were held to just 7-of-21 shooting early by the Bulldog defense but closed the half making five of their final six shots to take a 29-26 lead into the break. SWOSU shot 37% from the field in the opening half.

Ouachita used another run midway through the second half to create separation. With SWOSU leading 39-38, the Tigers rattled off a spurt to extend the margin to 48-39 and pushed their advantage to 51-41 with 7:50 remaining.

The Bulldogs answered with an 8-0 run to climb back into the game and eventually regained the lead on a Kray Rogers three-pointer with 2:44 to play.

The teams traded possessions down the stretch and were tied 56-56 following a timeout with 1:06 remaining. SWOSU was unable to capitalize on its offensive possession, and Ouachita followed with an and-one layup to regain control. The lead did not change hands again as the Tigers closed out the final seconds at the free-throw line.

SWOSU shot 40% from the field, but struggled from beyond the arc, finishing 4-of-19 from three-point range. The Bulldogs were efficient at the foul line, going 14-of-16. Ouachita shot 43% overall, went 3-of-14 (21%) from deep, and finished 12-of-18 at the stripe. Turnovers proved costly for SWOSU, as the Bulldogs committed 18 giveaways — matching a season high — and the Tigers converted them into 21 points.

Kayden Carter led a balanced offensive effort for SWOSU with 11 points, three assists, and two steals. Tobias Roland, Ty Frierson, and Tucker Shepherd each added nine points.

