



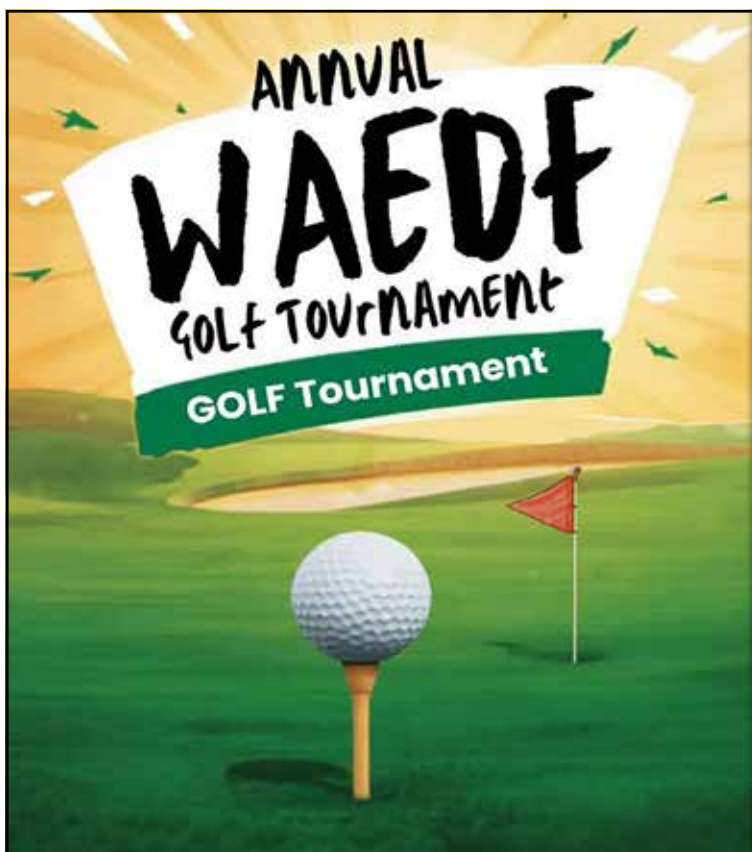
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## Signups Now Open for Third Annual Weatherford Golf Tournament



**Friday, July 17**  
Prairie West Golf Course  
Weatherford, OK

Registration: 7:30AM  
Tee-Off: 8:00AM

**Register a Team!**  
Entry Fee: \$400

**Register Now!**  
[yolanda.creswell@cityofweatherford.com](mailto:yolanda.creswell@cityofweatherford.com)

The two previous Golf Tournaments raised nearly \$10,000 that went towards WAEDF's initiatives. Their efforts have also led to some tournament participants joining the WAEDF as members.

"We have seen people that played become members of our economic development foundation and join our monthly meetings," said Creswell, "and I think it's a great time to really get people together and have a good day."

WAEDF is still looking for participants as well as sponsors for the Golf Tournament. As in previous years, this year's tournament is formatted as a 4-Person Scramble, with basic registration for the tournament costing \$400 per each team of four players. Check-in for the tournament will begin at 7:30 am on the day of the tournament, and the play will officially begin with a shotgun start at 8am.

Businesses or individuals interested in sponsoring the event also have several sponsorships options available. Hole sponsorships starting at \$150 allow sponsors to have their logo and branding on holes throughout the golf tournament. A drink sponsorship runs \$1,500 and gives a business the chance to field a 4 person team with the fee and helps WAEDF purchase drinks that will be available for purchase for all the other teams in the tournament. Team members on the drink sponsorship team will also receive two free drink tickets. The presenting sponsorship is \$3,000 and includes a 4 person team registration, a hole sponsorship, as well as the opportunity to have their logo or branding included on a banner that will be seen throughout the tournament.

For more information or to register as a participant or sponsor you, please contact Yolanda Creswell via email at [Yolanda.Creswell@cityofweatherford.com](mailto:Yolanda.Creswell@cityofweatherford.com).

The Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation is gearing up for their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament to be held at Prairie West Golf Course in Weatherford on Friday, July 17th. Proceeds from the tournament help fund WAEDF who's mission is supporting economic growth in Weatherford.

The WAEDF golf tournament has served as a way for WAEDF to generate funds in order to support campaigns to grow Weatherford. "Funds are usually raised by membership," said Yolanda Creswell,

Weatherford's Economic Development Director. "We've tried to increase our membership every year, but we needed some other ways to support the economic development foundation, and also find other ways to give back to the community."

Some of the initiatives WAEDF has used funds to support over the years include the "Yes Weatherford" campaigns, school bond campaigns, as well as the Weatherford Community Center, according to Creswell.



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**Louise Gunter**

Doris Louise Gunter, 91 of Clinton, OK, was born on April 18, 1934, in Strong City, OK, to Dan B. and Lida Mae (Tidwell) Sharum. Louise looked upon the face of her Lord and Savior on Sunday, April 5, 2026, at her residence in Clinton, OK, surrounded by her loving family.



Louise was raised by her aunt and uncle, Lou Veda and Hogan Leary from the age of four years until her marriage at sixteen years of age.

Louise married her soul-mate and the love of her life, Barney Olson Gunter on June 15, 1950 in Moore, OK. Their marriage was a true partnership filled with love and devotion. Together, they shared many beautiful years, building a life rich with memories, laughter, and family, raising three children, Linda, Rita and Larry. Barney preceded her in death on September 21, 2015.

Louise helped Barney farm land south of Foss, OK. They lived at Clinton Lake, OK, where many beautiful memories were made. In 1985, the family moved to Clinton, OK, where they made their home.

Louise worked at Dairy Best in Clinton, OK, from 1967 to 1977 and was also a cook at Clinton Hospital from 1977 to 1987, she will be remembered with fondness by the many people she assisted and served.

She was a loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend. Louise enjoyed doing puzzles, feeding her birds, and watching Gunsmoke. Louise enjoyed having her daily beer and treasured spending time with her family and friends. She was a true friend and her memory lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Louise is survived by her two daughters, Linda Hoffman of Canute, OK, Rita Brinkley of Canute, OK; one son, Larry Gunter and his wife, Yolanda of Berlin, OK; and eight grandchildren: Duston Hoffman and wife, Krissy of Canute, OK; Christina Hoffman of Canute, OK; Monica Brinkley and Lonnie Gunter of Canute, OK; Mandy Gunter of Coweta, OK; Chase Stevens of Yukon, OK, Wiley Boone Gunter and his wife, Laray of Stroud, OK; Jennifer Gunter of Stroud, OK, Erin Stevens of Burns Flat, OK; 15 great grandchildren; 11 great-great grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Louise was preceded in death by her husband, Barney Olson Gunter; her parents, Dan B. and Lida Mae Sharum; five brothers; three sisters; and one son-in-law, Monty Brinkley.

**Gary Conaway**

Gary Max Conaway was born April 17, 1945, in Alva, Oklahoma, to Ruby Lou (Darr) Guston and Robert Guston. He passed away on April 1, 2026, at the age of 80.



At the age of 12, Gary was legally adopted by his dad, J.K. "Red" Conaway, who helped shape the man he would become. Gary attended Waynoka Public Schools, where he excelled athletically, earning recognition as a standout football player. He graduated with the Class of 1963 and was honored by his classmates as "Best All-Around."

Following high school, Gary attended Northwestern State College in Alva. In 1966, he enlisted in the United States Air National Guard and proudly served his country, including active duty time stationed in South Korea during the Vietnam War. After returning stateside in 1969, Gary returned to his position working for the Santa Fe Railroad. He continued his military service commitment until 1972.

After receiving a medical retirement from the railroad, Gary pursued further education, attending Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and Northeastern State University.

Gary had a deep love for sports and especially cherished supporting his son, Jason, during club & school sports, & later on the rodeo circuit. He also found great joy in fishing, sharing stories, and connecting with others. Known for his warm and friendly personality, Gary never met a stranger and had a unique gift for making friends wherever he went.

Gary was dedicated to Alcoholics Anonymous and celebrated an incredible 47 years of sobriety. Throughout those years, he held both state and national leadership positions within the organization and helped countless individuals find their own path to sobriety, leaving a lasting legacy of hope and service.

Gary is survived by his sister, Debbie Hoffman and husband Kirk of Hinton, Oklahoma; his nephew, Kris Hoffman and wife Natasha, and their daughters Katerina and Sophia; his nieces, Kori Turner and husband Andee, and their children Brylane, Elli, Jagor, Dru, and Quin; and Kimi Dahlenburg and husband Dallas, and their children Denver, Demi, and Dakota; his aunt Betty Ann Darr Gray as well as numerous cousins, extended family members, and many dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, J.K. "Red" and Ruby Lou Conaway, his beloved son, Jason Conaway, grandparents Geoffrey and Ruth Darr & Otto and Cecil Conaway.

**Jason Smith**

Jason Keith Smith, 47, of Weatherford, OK, entered his Heavenly home on April 6, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.



Jason was born on October 30, 1978, in Weatherford, OK. Jason met the love of his life and his future wife, Stephanie Burton, in middle school. They married on March 10, 2001 and they enjoyed 25 beautiful years of marriage that included joy, hardships, and everything in-between. They welcomed two sons, Kyser and Gunnar, to complete their family. Above all, Jason was known for his dedication to his family. He was always involved in everything his boys were involved in. He enjoyed coaching his boys in pee-wee football, baseball, and wrestling. Once they started school sports, he never missed a game. Jason loved fishing, hunting, and mowing his yard. When he wasn't at a sporting event for his boys or numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; he could often be found with grilling tools in each hand and a meat thermometer. He loved teaching Kyser his grill master ways, "let it rest" he would say. Jason also enjoyed fishing early mornings before it got too hot, accompanied by his son, Gunnar. Jason was everyone's biggest fan. Even on his worst days, he was always tuning into Facebook live sporting events to watch his niece and nephews play one of the many sports they are involved in. Jokes were often made--at Jason's expense--for his love of mowing and his obsession with his grass. His love for his family extended to his siblings, nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, and his many cousins.

Jason worked at C.J.'s Southwest Tire from 2015-Present. Before he went to work at C.J.'s, he worked at CenterPoint Energy and the Great Plains Correctional Facility in Hinton, OK. At Great Plains Correctional Facility he was a correctional officer and a member of the S.O.R.T. Team.

Jason is survived by his loving wife, Stephanie Smith, and their sons, Kyser and Gunnar Smith. Other surviving family members include his mother, Vicki Smith, and stepfather, Darryn Gregg, of Weatherford, OK; his father, Keith Smith, of Weatherford, OK; his sister, Tara Payne, and her husband, Trey, of Weatherford, OK; his brother, Timothy Smith, and his wife, Heather, of Mustang, OK; nephews, Trendyn, Trakyr, Troopyr, Maddox, and Gavin; nieces, Talyn, Holland, and Kensey; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Kenneth and Betty Smith; and his aunt, Karen Smith Spain.

Jason leaves behind a legacy his family will carry forward. He showed all of us how to love big and how to be a loving husband, father, and friend. He will be missed tremendously by all who loved him.

**Betty Landers**

Betty Lou Landers, 94 of Elk City, OK, was born on October 21, 1931, in Clinton, OK to Homer Carl and Alpha Omega (Looper) Evans. Betty looked upon the face of her Lord and Savior on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at Baptist Integris Hospital, OK City, OK, surrounded by her loving family.



Betty married her soul-mate and the love of her life, Noil L. Landers on the First Day of Spring 1954. Their marriage was a true partnership filled with love and devotion. Together, they shared many beautiful years, building a life rich with memories, laughter, and family. Noil preceded her in death on February 2, 1983.

Betty worked as a Telephone Operator and will be remembered with fondness by the many people she assisted. Betty and Bob made their home across more than twenty states following his occupation in seismograph oil exploration, embracing each new place and the adventures it brought.

She was a loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend. Betty enjoyed crocheting, canning many different types of delicious items, and playing all sorts of games, including bingo, where she was the reigning bingo champion at Homestead Living Center. Betty treasured spending time with her family and friends and was the self-proclaimed "most popular person" at Homestead Living Center, where she visited and talked to everyone. Betty was a true friend and her memory lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

She was a lifelong member of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Elk City, OK, where she enjoyed the fellowship of her church family.

Betty is survived by three sons, J.R. Burnett and wife, Vickie of Lubbock, Texas, Larry Dean Landers and wife, Regina of Hammon, OK, Richard Edward Landers of Elk City, OK; one daughter, Cheryl Jean Smith of Sayre, OK, ten grandchildren; forty-one great grandchildren; one sister, Donna Vonne Locke of Thousand Oaks, California; one brother, Curtis Evans of Arcadia, California; and many other relatives and friends.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Noil L. Landers; her parents, Homer Carl and Alpha Omega Evans; one son, Robert Noil Landers; one brother, Homer Evans, and one sister, Helen Bailey.

**Don Williams**

Donovan Hale Williams passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early morning hours of March 30, 2026, just two days after celebrating his 86th birthday.



Don was born on March 28, 1940, on his family's farm in Putnam, OK, to Donald Ewell ("Dude") Williams and Vivian Esther (Clark) Williams. As the oldest of four children, and only son, he was raised with the values of faith, hard work, and family that would guide him throughout his life. At the center of Don's life was his beloved wife, Vonnie (Waugh). They were married for 63 years and loved each other deeply. Their marriage was marked by devotion, partnership, and unwavering commitment. In later years, as Vonnie's Parkinson's disease progressed, Don devoted himself to her care until her passing in October 2025. His steadfast presence was a testament to his enduring love.

Don began his career with the Internal Revenue Service in July 1962, shortly after marrying Vonnie. His 34-year career took his family to eight cities, where he built lasting relationships with colleagues and friends. After retiring from the IRS, Don began a new role the very next day as manager of the Wells Branch Municipal Utility District, where he worked for another 16 years.

Don was a longtime faithful member of the Churches of Christ. He served as an elder at Withamsville Church of Christ (Cincinnati, Ohio), Western Hills Church of Christ (Austin, Texas), and Southern Hills Church of Christ (Buda, Texas). Wherever he lived and worshiped, Don built meaningful friendships and left a lasting impression on those around him.

Don found joy in simple pleasures—playing bridge, bowling, yard work, watching westerns, and reading Scripture. He gave generously of his time, volunteering with World Bible School and serving on the board of directors for Central Texas Children's Home. More than anything, he treasured time spent talking with his family. He was a wonderful listener, a steady encourager, and a source of wisdom and comfort.

Though he deeply missed Vonnie, Don remained engaged in life. He continued to live with purpose and faith—attending church every Sunday, participating in senior activities, and joining a monthly men's dinner group. His resilience reflected both his strength and his enduring spirit.

Don was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Vonnie Williams (Waugh), his son, Shane Williams, his sisters, Katrena Rightnowar and Lorena "Rena" Holland, and his parents, Donald "Dude" Ewell Williams and Vivian Esther (Clark) Williams.

He is survived by his children, Van Williams (Terri), Amy Kranz (Rob), daughter-in-law Julie Williams, and Stephen King (Nate). He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren: Kyle Williams, Ashley Callaway (Chase), Michael Williams, Adam Kranz (Erin), Nathan Kranz (Leah), Katie Williams, MacKenzie Williams, Aaliyah King, Amari King, and Alicia King, his great-grandchildren, James, William, and Adalyn Callaway, and his sister, Cheri Farrell (Craig).

Don's life was defined by faith, devotion, and love—especially the love he shared with Vonnie. That love, and the example he set, will continue to live on in all who knew him.

**Sharon Marshall**

On Sunday, March 29, 2026, all of Heaven celebrated the arrival of their Sister in Christ, Sharon (Womack) Marshall. Sharon was born to Billy R (Bill) and Dorothy (McCormack) Womack on February 19, 1951 in Elk City, OK.



Sharon graduated from Elk City High School with the Class of 1969. She married her soul-mate and the love of her life, Jerry Marshall, on May 14, 2004. They made their home north of Elk City, OK on a parcel of the Marshall family farm.

Sharon worked in daycare all of her adult life and will be remembered with fondness by the many children she lovingly and kindly cared for, and their grateful parents. She was a lifelong member of the Eastside Baptist Church, Elk City, OK, where she enjoyed the fellowship of her church family.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Jerry Marshall of the home in Elk City, OK; two children, Michael Ross of Elk City, OK, and Holly Ross of Mangum, OK; ten grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She is also survived by one sister, Janet Miller and her husband, Larry; and one brother, Jeff Womack and his wife, Jaye, all of Elk City, OK.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Billy R. (Bill) and Dorothy Womack; and one brother, Tim Womack. Upon death, she was reunited in joyous bliss with her son, John William, who lived only a few hours after his birth.

# SWOSU Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of “Al Harris Library Day” on Tuesday, April 21



SWOSU will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Al Harris Library Day with a special event on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Al Harris Library.

Members of the campus community and the public are invited to attend. The event will include light refreshments, and attendees can sign a commemorative card to share notes of appreciation for library staff. The celebration coincides with National Library Workers Day, which is observed during National Library Week.

Al Harris Library Day was first recognized on April 25, 2001, after a proclamation from former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating. The designation acknowledged the library’s role in providing public access to federal and state government information. SWOSU became part of the Federal Library Depository Program on July 24, 1958, and later expanded that role by becoming a state government depository on July 1, 1994. These milestones reflect the university’s long-standing commitment to making information accessible to students, researchers, and residents across western Oklahoma.

The current Al Harris Library building opened in 1968. Students formed a line across campus to move books from the previous library, now the Art Building, to the new location.

That effort reflects a long-held emphasis on access to information and shared responsibility for learning within the SWOSU community.

“The Al Harris Library has long been central to informed citizenship, academic success, and lifelong learning across Southwestern Oklahoma State University and beyond,” said Dr. Joel Kendall, SWOSU Interim President. “As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Al Harris Library Day, we honor the generations who have made the library not just a place, but a gateway to opportunity for our university and the people of Oklahoma.”

“Serving as a vital partner in their academic journey, the library empowers students to explore, question and succeed in an ever-expanding, information landscape,” said Jason Dupree, director of Al Harris Library. “The library has stood at the heart of our university, supporting student success and preserving knowledge that defines our academic community.”

The original 2001 proclamation will be on display throughout April at Al Harris Library as part of the anniversary recognition. The event reflects SWOSU’s continued commitment to access, education, and service through its library.

For more information about the Al Harris Library and its services, visit [library.swosu.edu/](http://library.swosu.edu/).

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95.5 The Coyote (KWEY) was recognized for three accomplishments made in 2025 at last week’s annual Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters (OAB) Awards Ceremony. Pictured, from left: Terri Trent, Heston Wright, Mike Smith, Krystal Blackwell, Harold Wright, Courtney Graybill, and Teresa Kilhoffer.

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# LOCAL AND AREA NEWS

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**Mike Smith**  
News Director

## 53rd Annual SWOSU Rodeo Results: Men Take 7th, Women Take 10th



Provided

Senior students on the SWOSU Rodeo team face the crowd as Tim Nelson recognizes each of them, listing their majors, future plans and favorite memories on the team.

### Women's Team Ranking      Men's Teams Ranking

SEOSU 460	Garden City 505
Ft Hays 385	Ft . Scott 505
NEO 185	NWOSU 435
OSU 135	SEOSU 41
Western 100	Murray 250
OPUS 90	Ft Hays 240
Connors 85	<b>SWOSU 215</b>
KSU 80	OSU 165
Murray 30	NEO 150
<b>SWOSU 15</b>	Connors 120
NEO 0	OPUS 90
Ft. Scott 0	Western 0
Garden City 0	KSU 0
Pratt 0	Pratt 0
Dodge City 0	Dodge City 0
Coffeyville 0	Coffeyville 0
Colby 0	Colby 0

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**BECKHAM CO / MUNIZ** - An Elk City woman is being charged in Beckham County District Court with embezzlement for allegedly taking thousands of dollars from the account of a woman she had been caring for who had recently been ill and hospitalized. The victim provided Christina Lupita Muniz with her debit card information for specific purchases. However, Muniz allegedly used the debit card to withdraw and spend more than \$3,700 of the victim's money.

**BUTLER / BAKER** - Butler Fire officials say Butler Fireman Matt Baker was severely injured in an oilfield accident in Custer County. Officials say Baker is still hospitalized and is expected to undergo additional procedures. An account has been set up at the Bank of Western Oklahoma. Additionally, donations can be mailed to the attention of Matt Baker at the Butler Fire Department. There is a drop box located at Butler City Hall and payments can be sent by Venmo. Find that link under the Butler Volunteer Fire Department's Facebook page. A benefit event is also being planned.

**CLINTON / DIRECTOR HIRING** - Clinton City Manager Robert Johnston recently gave an update on the hiring for a new Community and Economic Development Director. "So far, I received eight credible applications for this new community slash economic development position," Johnston explained. "I've talked to five of them, [and I] hope to finish talking to everybody this week, at least on the first round of discussions. Johnston says he is hopeful to have the position filled before the end of the month.

**WEATHERFORD / COMMISSION RACE** Two city commission seats will be up for election in Ward 1 and Ward 3 in the city of Weatherford later this year. Mayor Mike Brown announced that candidates can file for the seats in June, with the election itself being held in August. Currently, Ward 1 is represented by Kendon Wood and Ward 3 is represented by Warren Goldmann. Commissioners selected for the seats will begin their terms on January 1, 2027.

**ELK CITY / TIF** - the City Commission of Elk City has approved a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District on the east side of Elk City. "We have a quick lube shop that is about to go in out just south of Walmart, and that'll be included in this new TIF district," said City Manager Tom Ivester. "And then we've got four or five projects that we're working on, and then some larger projects that are in the works." Among details provided of potential businesses in the area, Ivester says the former TIF district that developed the Walmart project has expired, but the city chose to create a new expanded district in approximately the same area.

**WEATHERFORD / HERN** - U.S. First District Congressman Kevin Hern spoke at the most recent Weatherford Rotary meeting about his run for Senate. Hern says it's important to remember to treat people well on both sides of the aisle. "I am going there trying to figure out how to help Oklahomans have a better life, more importantly, Americans have a better life, independent of party," expressed Hern. "I have a lot of friends that are Democrats, and 90% of the time, I think they're wrong, but I respect them. You'll not find one time on anywhere that I've gone and called a Democrat an idiot." Hern is a former businessman who owned several McDonald's Restaurants around the eastern side of the state. He is seeking the seat previously held by Markwayne Mullen.

**WEATHERFORD / DRONES** - Stafford Airport Manager Mark Schoonmaker expressed his concern over drones that fly close to airport airspace, explaining that it's a danger to both the pilots and aircraft even if the drone doesn't make contact with the aircraft. "[Drones] can distract the pilot...in a way that causes some other danger. They're in a very critical phase of their flight, [either] landing [or] getting set up. They're probably not looking out the windshield as much." Schoonmaker urged anyone who plans to fly a drone close to the airport to notify the airport office at 580-774-1971.

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**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 April 15** - Amy Albert, Courtney Albrightson, David Henderson, Doris Johnson, Bud Lamke, Terry Lofland, Kathryn Lowry, Taybor Moss, Lonnie Penner, Kim Potter, Jerry Ritchison, Lexy Roys, Wessyn James Short, Joyce Stewart, Brady Taff; **April 16** - Hadley Graybill, Deb Hanson, McHayla Howry, Randy Switzer, Ashley VanDeBurgh, Johnny Wall; **April 17** - Louis Flowers, Shannez Garcia, Carol Godwin, Garnita Hamilton, Atom Hampton, Braden Huff, Alicia Humble, Chad Kimble, Braeton Kimble, Linda Pitt, Lauren Smith; **April 18** - Dayton Altland, Kennedee Cox, Lane Goodman, Dana Green, Gus Hunojosa, Brian Jackson, Kenneth Richardson, Patty Scott, Haley Spradlin, Miranda Toney; **April 19** - Chenchi Alvarez, Dulce Borjas, Brady Boyd, Zipporah Conway, Anna Cobb, Blake Goodman, Ariel Hawthorn, Taylor Neidy; **April 20** - Lyndee Black, J'Lene Holley, Tracey Kelly, Bailey Murray, Ed Neufeld, Jordan Ralston, Barbara Steiner, Debbie Stewart, James Syzmore; **April 21** - McKensy Coit, Mary Dodgen, John Flaming, Donita Folsom, James Gee, Gary Hays, Pat LoVecchio, Amber Morlan, Michelle Ruhl, Pat Strum, Stephanie Tompkins.

# SENIOR LIVING

## HEALTH SERVICES

### Russell-Murray Hospice Offering Nursing Care for Western Oklahoma

A terminal diagnosis is one of the hardest things to face. It's commonly understood that each moment is precious, but when you're told explicitly that your finite amount of time is quickly approaching, the news can be overwhelming.

After receiving a diagnosis like that, families & patients may ask: What's the next step? What should I do? What's the point?

In the wake of shattering news, a little bit of help can go a long way.

Russell-Murray Hospice, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides in-home care to patients that have a terminal diagnosis of 6 months or less.

Following the diagnosis, families who reach out following a referral will be able to meet with a supervisor to discuss their needs.

After, the team goes through the medical records of the doctors and determines the best treatment paths and equipment they'll need.

Then, the Russell-Murray team will get the necessary equipment installed and setup in the patient's home, even before they're discharged from the hospital.

The goal is to ensure the families can focus on each other and the time they have. All other cares & worries can be handled (transportation, visits, etc.).

Russell-Murray offers in-depth and varied counselor and therapy services per the patient's need. If new developments come up and additional therapy, like respiratory or physical, is needed, the team comes together to discuss if it can be covered and implemented.

When providing care, the Russell-Murray caregivers can also train the patient's primary caregivers in specific care like wound dressing so they can ensure the comfort of their loved one.

Russell-Murray Hospice, Inc. has four locations - El Reno, Weatherford, Kingfisher, and Oklahoma City. They cover a 75-mile radius from El Reno, and any office can direct you to the service office for your location. They also offer extensive bereavement services for the family, including explanations and assistance in planning. Russell-Murray's goals are to "Take care of the patient and their family and to ensure they are able to experience these last stages together." When facing a terminal diagnosis, please remember that you don't have to face it alone. "We want to help. We want to be there. It's never too late."

### Red's Remedies Offers Natural Alternatives for Your Health

People want to feel good in their bodies and sometimes a different approach can make all the difference. "If you make people feel better, that changes the world just a little bit for the better," said April, the owner and Master Herbalist at Red's Remedies. For over a decade, April has made it her mission to help people feel better with natural remedies and herbalism, heeding advice that's been passed down for generations upon generations.

Living in Weatherford since 2019, April, or Red as her friends call her, started offering natural alternatives for wellbeing at festivals and gatherings around Western Oklahoma. She discovered there were several people who resonated with her approach. "I found that there was a local demand for my products...so I wanted Weatherford to have access to alternative medicine and would see that there is another possibility that can help them feel better daily," said April.

Located at 307 West Main Street, her store offers a wide range of natural remedies that she creates herself. Her products are wide ranging, from teas and herbal medicines, to skin care regimens, pain relief, and aromatherapy. April has accumulated a breadth of knowledge that she is glad to share with Western Oklahoma. "Everything in my shop is going to be good for you. So, you have to find what would possibly work for you or your conditions and I just feel that it would benefit everybody that has a need to feel better...I'm kind of like the tour guide."

April is also building a repertory, or a resource guide that will help clients better find the natural remedies that suit their needs. She's still gathering more knowledge, but she is ready and willing to share it with anyone and everyone that walks through her door. "I want to make a space where people feel heard that is founded on trust. And of course, I'm always available, you know, for questions," said April. Find out more about Red's Remedies by visiting their website at [www.RedRemedies.com](http://www.RedRemedies.com).

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# SENIOR LIVING

## HEALTH SERVICES



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# Walmart Has Partnered with RFBO to “Fight Hunger, Spark Change”



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**Audrey Johnson**  
 Marketing Specialist

Walmart and Sam's Club are joining forces with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma as part of the 2026 Fight Hunger. Spark Change. campaign, a nationwide effort to support hunger relief efforts throughout the Feeding America® network of local food banks. Running Monday, April 6 through Sunday, May 3, the 13th annual campaign invites customers, members, suppliers and Oklahoma communities to take action to ensure everyone has access to nutritious food, with all local donations directly benefiting the Regional Food Bank.

“The Regional Food Bank is committed to building thriving communities to ensure everyone has access to the nutritious food they deserve,” said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank. “People are working hard to provide for themselves and their families, but so many need support to put food on their tables. Fight Hunger. Spark Change. is a chance each year for our community to come together alongside our neighbors facing hunger to take action, and we're grateful to Walmart for partnering with us to make a difference.”

The Regional Food Bank distributes enough food to provide more than 200,000 meals per day through its network to support nearly 750,000 Oklahomans facing hunger.

“As the need rises across the state, the Regional Food Bank will continue to show up for our community, but meeting the challenge will require us all,” Dykstra said.

For more than 20 years, Walmart, Sam's Club and the Walmart Foundation have partnered with the Feeding America network to support hunger relief efforts nationwide, with more than \$281 million in investments and more than 9 billion pounds of food donated by Walmart to the Feeding America network of local food banks and partner agencies.

Oklahoma is consistently one of the hungriest states in the nation. Support from Walmart, both

financially and through the donation of surplus inventory, helps the Regional Food Bank to provide thousands of meals each year to neighbors facing food insecurity.

Recently, Walmart and Feeding America awarded a \$750,000 grant to the Regional Food Bank. This grant helped to provide refrigerated box trucks, freezers and more equipment to further expand the capacity of the Regional Food Bank's partner network.

During the campaign, all donations stay in Oklahoma helping the Regional Food Bank provide meals and resources to individuals and families facing hunger.

“The Fight Hunger. Spark Change. campaign is built on the belief that small actions lead to significant impact. By partnering with Feeding America and their network of local food banks, Walmart and Sam's Club are helping to bridge the gap for the millions of people facing food insecurity. Every donation and participating purchase helps secure the food and resources families need to reach their full potential. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our customers and members, and for the local food banks and relief agencies working on the front lines to serve our neighbors every single day,” said Julie Gehrki, Senior Vice President, Philanthropy, Walmart Inc.

Now through May 3, there are three easy ways for Walmart customers and Sam's Club members to participate to support Harvest Hope: by purchasing participating products in store or online; donating and rounding up at checkout in-store or online; or giving directly online at Feeding America's campaign page.

Since its inception in 2014, the Fight Hunger. Spark Change. campaign has helped secure more than 2.3 billion meals for people facing hunger across the U.S. For more information, scan the QR code above or visit [FeedingAmerica.org/campaigns/fight-hunger-spark-change](https://FeedingAmerica.org/campaigns/fight-hunger-spark-change)

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## Oakley and Adams Earn Bulldogs of the Week

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**JARED ADAMS**  
 Graduate • Baseball

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**Jon Chidester**  
 SWOSU Media Relations

Josie Oakley (softball) and Jared Adams (baseball) have been named the Bulldogs of the Week, presented by Wright Media — the official partner for SWOSU athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Oakley (Shattuck, Okla.) hit .833 (5-for-6) across two GAC games last weekend. She capped her performance with a 3-for-4 outing in the series finale,

marking her first three-hit game of the season.

Adams (Jefferson, Ga.) delivered his longest outing of the season, tossing 7.0 scoreless innings against Ouachita as part of a combined 3-0 shutout that secured the series sweep. He struck out five, allowed four hits, and walked one. The win helped clinch SWOSU's first road sweep at Ouachita since the teams began competing annually in 2012.

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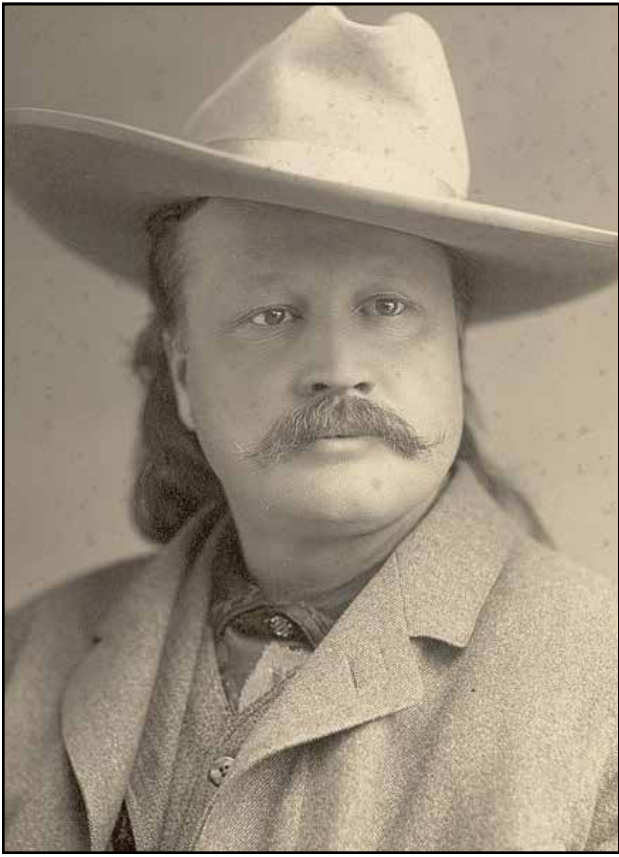
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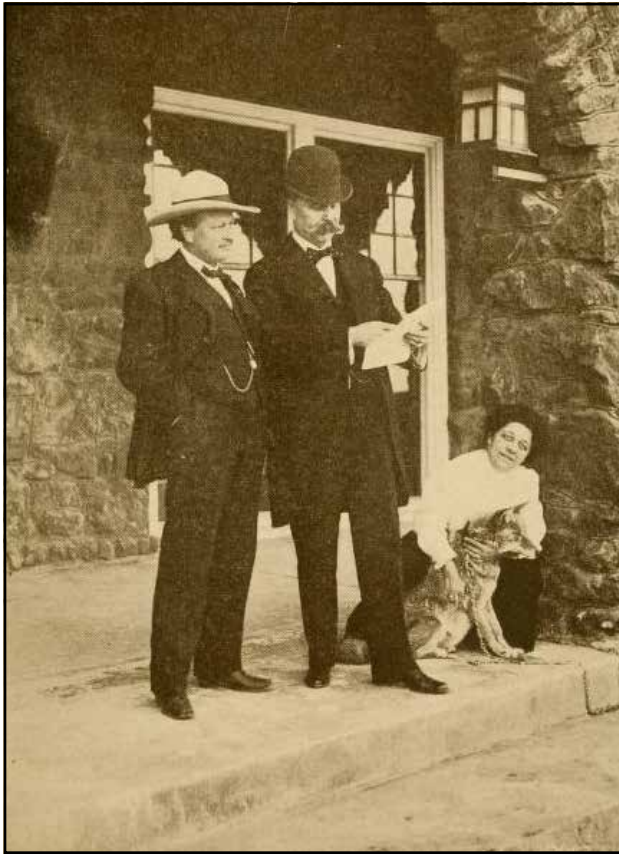
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# Oklahoma History: Gordon William Lillie and “Pawnee Bill’s Wild West”



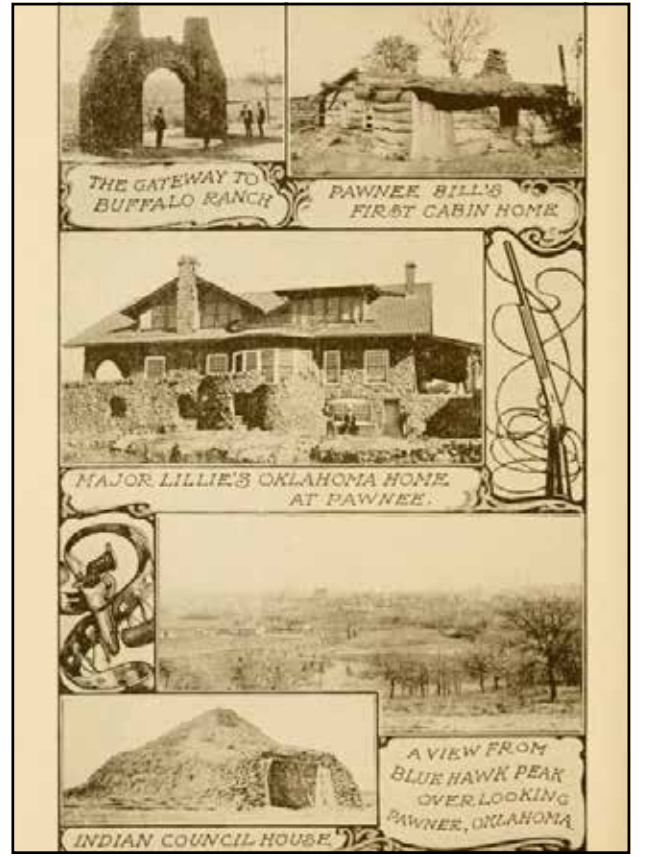
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Studio portrait of Gordon W. Lillie, colloquially known as “Pawnee Bill” (circa 1890). This photo was taken two years after “Pawnee Bill’s Historic Wild West” first launched.



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G.W. Lillie (pictured, right) consulting with his General Manager Louis E. Cook (left) at Blue Hawk Peak. Mrs. Lillie and her pet coyote can be seen to the right.



Provided

Scanned pages of the catalogue Thrilling Loves of Buffalo Bill, Colonel WM. F. Cody. Last of the Great Scouts and Pawnee Bill Major Gordon W. Lillie, White Chief of the Pawnees.

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

For over a century, families have flocked to Pawnee, Oklahoma, each spring for a unique Easter celebration. Gordon William Lillie, better known as “Pawnee Bill,” was a Wild West showman with a big personality. Born in Illinois and raised out on the plains, Lillie led popular Wild West shows through the 1880s and well into the 1900s.

When he was 19, he began working in Indian Territory and got an opportunity to be a Pawnee interpreter in Buffalo Bill’s famous Wild West Show. That’s where he gained notoriety of his own. While working in the west, he courted and married May Manning, a young woman from Philadelphia who, like Lillie, fell in love with the aura of the untamed lands. The pair launched their own show titled “Pawnee Bill’s Historic Wild West” shortly after marriage with May starring as the “Champion Girl Horseback Shot of the West.”

Unfortunately, success did not come easily, and they spent their first season in utter financial ruin. Luckily, they pivoted and re-organized their show with a few changes. First, they cut it down into a smaller operation. Second, they knew they couldn’t be the only headliners so they hired other spectacular talents like Jose Barrera performing as “Mexican Joe,” a fifteen-year-old from Mexico who

they billed as the greatest trick roper in the world, and Mamie Francis Hafley, who made famous a daring horse-diving act where she’d leap from a 50-foot tower into a pool of water. Both Barrera and Mamie have legendary careers of their own that we’ll visit in the coming weeks.

The changes worked and their show was popular and—more important for long-term shows—financially successful. After several years, Pawnee Bill used the additional funds to invest back into his show and hired Japanese performers, Arab jugglers, and other skilled Pawnee. Their ensemble’s success led to Buffalo Bill reaching out to combine their shows into the “Two Bills” show.

While not on the road, they needed a place to call home. He eventually settled in northeastern Oklahoma, building a sprawling ranch near the town of Pawnee, complete with adobe buildings and a riding arena, along with a herd of buffalo. Blue Hawk Peak Ranch (now known as “Pawnee Bill Ranch”) was founded near Pawnee, OK. Today, it’s owned and operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society, holding 500 of the original 2000 acres and a modern museum.

Pawnee Bill was adamant about giving back to the community and invested in real estate, banking and even dabbled in filmmaking at his ranch.

Eventually, they began hosting rodeos in the area and introduced newcomers to Indian and Mexican crafts.

Around the early 1900s, Pawnee Bill decided to make Easter special for local children. Early accounts describe a festive Easter morning at the ranch with kids hunting for colorful eggs scattered across the land, with Pawnee Bill himself presiding over the event. The hunt grew rapidly in scale and by mid-century, word of Pawnee Bill’s Easter celebration had spread across northeast Oklahoma. Newspapers and postcards would show crowds gathering on the ranch grounds.

Today, the tradition is very much alive. The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum still holds an annual Easter Egg Hunt each spring, drawing families from around the region.

The end began in 1936 when, on the way back from their 50th wedding anniversary in New Mexico, the couple lost control of their vehicle and May passed away from her injuries. Pawnee Bill never recovered and in 1942 passed in his sleep at 81 in his home.

In memory, the Pawnee Bill Memorial Rodeo takes place annually as a version of their original Wild West Show. It remains free to attend, holding up his focus on generosity and opportunity.

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## SWOSU Baseball Blank Ouachita, Sweep Series



Jon Chidester  
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Baseball recorded its first shutout since the 2024 season, defeating Ouachita Baptist 3-0 in Saturday's series finale to complete the sweep. The victory marks SWOSU's fifth straight win and seventh in its last eight games. The undefeated weekend pushes the Bulldogs back into the heart of the post-season race with two conference series remaining, both against teams currently ahead of them in the standings.

### Game One - SWOSU 6, OBU 4

The Bulldogs overcame an early deficit, using a four-run fourth inning and timely late scoring to claim the opener. SWOSU trailed 4-0 before rallying with four runs in the fourth to tie the game. Trailing 4-2 in the inning, a two-out Ouachita error allowed two runs to score and even the contest.

Landon Meyer delivered the go-ahead RBI in the fifth, doubling in John Spoto. The Bulldogs added an insurance run in the ninth when Kotaro Wakui doubled home Spoto, who had reached via walk.

Starting pitcher Josh Doelitsch (W) worked into the eighth inning, navigating heavy traffic after allowing 14 hits. He stranded 10 Tiger baserunners and limited the damage after Ouachita's early surge, striking out five and walking three. Kaegan Baker (S) closed out the game with two scoreless innings, stranding five runners to earn his third save of the season.

SWOSU was out-hit 18-10 but made key defensive plays, stranding runners in six of nine innings.

### Game Two - SWOSU 8, OBU 3

SWOSU completed the sweep behind a complete-game effort from Garrett Folmar and a steady offensive attack. After Ouachita scored in the first inning, the Bulldogs responded with RBI hits from

Jose Mendoza (single) and Chris Clark (triple) in the second to take a 2-1 lead. SWOSU continued to build its advantage with three runs in the third and three more in the fourth, extending the lead to 8-1.

Ouachita mounted a late push in the seventh, but Folmar recorded the final outs to secure his first complete game of the season. He finished with six strikeouts and two walks in a 117-pitch performance.

Seven of SWOSU's nine hits came during its three scoring innings. The Tigers collected three hits in the seventh to inflate their final total (5) against Folmar. Mendoza and Keaton Fisher each recorded two hits to lead the offense.

### Game Three - SWOSU 3, OBU 0

SWOSU struck for two runs in the fourth inning, using a walk followed by three consecutive singles to take control. An unearned run in the sixth provided insurance. That proved to be more than enough for the Bulldog pitching staff. Jared Adams (W) delivered his longest outing of the season, tossing seven scoreless innings while striking out five and walking one.

Kaegan Baker and Conner Watson (S) combined to close out the final two innings, keeping Ouachita off the board to secure the shutout. The trio of pitchers did not allow more than one Tiger baserunner in any inning.

The Tigers managed five hits, all singles, while SWOSU out-hit Ouachita 8-5. Nolan McCrossin and Keaton Fisher each went 2-for-4 with a run scored, while Fisher drove in the game's first run. Jose Mendoza added an RBI single in the fourth to extend the lead.

With the win, SWOSU improves to 22-20 overall and 12-15 in GAC play, currently sitting ninth in the standings. The sweep marked SWOSU's first series sweep against Ouachita in Arkadelphia since the teams began competing.

## SWOSU Softball Falls in OBU Series Finale



Jon Chidester  
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Softball saw a potential game-tying run erased in the seventh inning due to an interference call and ultimately fell 6-5 to Ouachita Baptist in Friday's series finale. The result gives the Tigers a 2-1 series victory.

Trailing 6-5 in the bottom of the seventh, SWOSU appeared to tie the game before the interference ruling wiped away the run. The Bulldogs regrouped and loaded the bases with one out after a single from Josie Oakley, but a fly out and strikeout ended the threat. Ouachita took the lead in the top half of the inning, using a leadoff double that later came around to score the go-ahead run. The Tigers closed the game on a 5-0 run, scoring twice in the fourth, twice in the sixth on a game-tying two-run home run, and once more in the seventh.

SWOSU controlled much of the early action, responding to Ouachita's opening run with a five-run second inning.

A bases-loaded walk tied the game before Maddie Rahon launched a two-out grand slam to give the Bulldogs a 5-1 advantage.

Ouachita chipped away from there, eventually completing the comeback.

The Tigers narrowly out-hit SWOSU 10-9. Rahon led the Bulldogs with a perfect 3-for-3 performance, adding a double and her third home run of the season. Oakley also went 3-for-4.

Four pitchers saw action for SWOSU. Blaire Gentry started and went four innings, leaving in line for the win before receiving a no decision. Riley Lusk tossed a scoreless fifth inning in her first appearance of the season.

Lily Barfield (L) worked into the seventh before allowing the leadoff double, and Jaycee McKee recorded the final three outs.

SWOSU will turn its attention to a road conference series at Henderson State next weekend. Three weekends remain in the regular season.

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