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Stafford Air & Space Museum to Host Route 66 Big Band Hangar Dance



The Stafford Air and Space Museum in partnership with the Oklahoma Route 66 Association are winding back the clocks to the 1940's to celebrate the Route 66 centennial with their Route 66 Big Band Hangar Dance scheduled to take place this upcoming Saturday, April 25th.

Beginning at 5pm come enjoy a night at the museum featuring big band music performed by OKC's Talk of the Town Orchestra as well as swing dancing lessons provided by the Oklahoma Swing Syndicate. Along with the music and dancing, guests of the event will have the opportunity to enjoy the museum's regular exhibits as well as several vintage World War 2 era aircraft that will be flown in specifically for the event curated from the Caldwell Collection located at Mustang Field in El Reno.

In conjunction with the event's World War II theme, special screenings of a short documentary directed by filmmaker Katrina Parks highlighting the service of Rosie the Riveters will play in the museum's theater. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts and cocktails will be served at the event, but more interestingly a floral bar will also be at the event offering corsages for attendees.

Regular tickets for the event are available for \$50, but members of the Stafford Air & Space Museum are eligible for a \$5 discount. All tickets for the event come with a commemorative challenge coin, two drink tickets and admission to all of the evening's activities.

You can purchase tickets and register by visiting www.oklahomaroute66.com, navigating to the events tab and searching for the event which is listed under "Centennial Event Series: Route 66 Big Band Hangar Dance."

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Tim Hindbaugh

Timothy James "Tim" Hindbaugh, age 44, of Elk City, passed away on April 6, 2026.



Tim was born on February 22, 1982, in Gillette, Wyoming, to John and Martha Hindbaugh and Brenda Hindbaugh. Known to many as Tim, he built a life defined by hard work, loyalty, and deep love for his family.

Tim spent his career in the oil field as a dedicated flow hand. Outside of work, he found joy in the things that meant the most to him—fishing on quiet days, gaming with his sons, Timmy and Jesse, and sharing time with the people he loved. He had a deep love for the simple joys in life—especially fishing and cooking. Whether he was grilling the perfect steak or trying his hand at a new recipe, he could make anything taste incredible. He also took great pride in his 2010 Camaro, a car that brought him countless hours of happiness. His heart was just as full when it came to his animals. He adored his Husky, Chloe, and his cat, Oreo, and he cared for his Bearded Dragon and Leopard Gecko with the same devotion.

Tim will be remembered for his big heart, his easy laugh, and the way he showed up for his family. His memory will live on in the lives of those who loved him.

He is survived by his sons, Timothy Hindbaugh and Jesse Hindbaugh; daughters, Amya Gonzales, Alison Hindbaugh, Lana Metcalf; girlfriend, Misty Rogers; sisters, Chastity Smith, Karetha Bruns; step daughters, Trinidee Mikles, Baylee Garling; grandmother, Claudia Thompson; granddaughters, Nova Gonzales, Alexis, Paisley and Virginia Garling; and grandson, Henry Metcalf, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Martha Hindbaugh; brother, Cassidy Hindbaugh; sister, Candy Lindsey; grandfather, Louis Hindbaugh; grandparents, Jerry and Louise Baker.

Donna Hightower

Donna Leah Hightower was born July 18, 1950, in Weatherford, OK, to Howard Edsel and Freda Marie (Hart) Hightower and passed away Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City at the age of 75.



Donna was raised and attended school in Hydro, Oklahoma. She graduated from Hydro High School in 1968, earning the distinction of Valedictorian of her class. Donna was also very active in school life and was honored as basketball queen. She later earned her Registered Nursing Degree from OSU Technical Institute. In 1976, Donna began working at Weatherford Regional Hospital with the most recent years of her career spent in obstetrics. She was a night shift nurse and had the fortune of working with her sister, Dawn. After 40 years at Weatherford Regional Hospital, Donna retired in 2016.

Donna loved West Highland white terriers and her dogs Fergus, Jake and Isabell were among her favorites. She had many hobbies and interests including Celtic and Classical music, Winnie the Pooh, needle point, cross stitching, reading and going out to eat. She had a very special relationship with her niece, Jennifer and Jennifer's children, Leah and Taylor. Over the years they remember Donna teaching them to drive, taking them to IHOP in the middle of the night, going shopping and watching movies at the theater all weekend long. Donna and the family would get out of one theater and go in the next, she loved all kinds of movies but held a special place for Disney movies. She also loved road trips and never used a GPS. She could get anywhere, and if she couldn't, she wasn't scared of being lost. Donna's family remembers her always being there and always having an answer for everything.

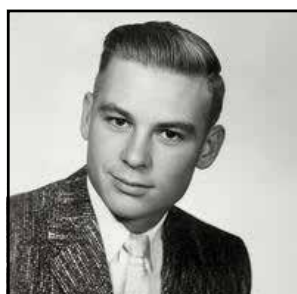
Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Freda Hightower, maternal grandparents, Louie and Georgia Hart and paternal grandparents, Wilson and Faye Hightower.

Donna is survived by her sister, Dawn Ray of Hydro, Oklahoma; brother, Howard "Butch" Hightower of Grandbury, Texas; niece, Jennifer Rhoads and husband, Glen of Hydro, Oklahoma, nephew, Brady Benton and wife, Amanda, of Elk City, Oklahoma; nephew, Cody Hightower and wife, Whitney of Benbrook, Texas; niece, Cassidy Hightower of Weatherford, Texas; and great-nieces and nephews, Leah Ray, Taylor Ray and his wife, Sarah, Landry Hightower, Lane Hightower, Dylan Hightower and Mason Hightower.

Memorial donations may be made to Hydro First Responders.

Don Herring

Donald M. Herring was born in Thomas, OK on September 21, 1940 to Milton Walkup and Helen Lenore (Ogden) Herring. He passed away in Weatherford, OK on April 12, 2026 at the age of 85.



Don was raised in Thomas and graduated with the class of 1958. He was a proud teammate of 3 State Championship teams from 1955-1957. Don met Wanda Maurine Forney during high school, they started dating and were later married on April 20, 1962 at the First Christian Church of Thomas. The couple made their home in Thomas and welcomed 4 children - Trina, Damon, Holly and Devin.

Don and his close friend K.O. Kippenberger had an agricultural business selling fertilizer and providing equipment for application. Over the years, he also worked as a custom harvester, had a bulldozing business which supported the Thomas Fire Department when called upon, and operated an oil field service company. He also served on the Thomas School Board for five years and the First Christian Church Board for many years.

Don enjoyed working, and retirement didn't change that. He spent his time working with his son, Devin, bulldozing for farmers in the area. He also farmed wheat and ran cattle. His family says that he loved the land and loved taking care of it. He always said "if you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life." When he wasn't working, Don loved his time with his family especially playing Dominoes and board games.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, L.B. and Richard Herring; sister, Julia Mae McNeill; and nephews, Larry and Brent Herring.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda Herring of the home; daughter, Trina Rendon and husband, Adam, of Fay, OK; son, Damon Herring of Los Angeles, California; daughter, Holly Herring of Sacramento, California; son, Devin Herring of Weatherford; grandchildren, Tori and Caleb Rendon; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Carol Perkins

Caroline (Carol) Leah "Brower" Perkins, 96, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on April 11, 2026.



Carol was born on December 13, 1929, to Rose Marie Shiniver and David Brower in White Oak Township, Michigan. She attended Fowlerville High School and went on to earn a certification in cosmetology. Carol spent over forty years as a hair stylist managing multiple salons, owning her own, and doing more than a handful of heads at her kitchen table.

While she loved doing hair her true passion was music. Carol played the fiddle with precision and joy along with the piano, accordion, and Hawaiian guitar. One of her favorite things to do was play music with her brothers, sisters, friends, and in her sixties, she was part of the musical band "The Older Kids on the Block."

In her early twenties she married Thomas Spencer Perkins and they welcomed two beautiful daughters into the world. One of the things Carol valued most in her life was her role as a mother and grandmother. She guided her daughters through life with unconditional love, support, and laughter. As a grandmother she spent countless days and nights reading Roald Dahl books (character voices included), baking cinnamon rolls, trips to The Goat for fried mozzarella sticks, and sharing her love of music.

In the last few years, she got to spend valuable time with her great grandchildren. She loved to read to her babies and hold them while sitting in the rocking chair. She even loved to cuddle with her great grand-pup.

Carol's later years in life were spent with her partner Robert "Bobby" Kangas who filled the role of stepfather to her girls and grandfather to her grandchildren. Above all Carol was strong in her faith in the Lord and moved through life as a child and servant to God. She was the foundation of faith in her family.

Carol was preceded in death by her mother, father, sisters; Vera Liechti, Neva Paye, Marianne Hanifan, and Rosemary Elliot, brothers; Frank Brower and Hank Brower, ex-husband Thomas Spencer Perkins, and partner Robert Kangas. She is survived by her sisters: Joanne Perkins, and Katherine Lucas; daughters: Leah Tackett (James), and Kathy Burch; granddaughters: Trisha Abraham (Mike), Tara Tackett, and Lindsay Cohagen (Eric), and Grandsons; Thomas Johnson (Abbey), and Andrew Tackett.

Carol also leaves behind her great grandchildren; Kayden and Calvin Johnson, Waylon Dixon, Emma, Addison, and Austin Cohagen, Junie Tackett, Kaylee Beeman, Noah Beeman, Camden Beeman, and many great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Carol will be remembered for many things but above all will be her smile, gentle hands and compassionate heart. She was the best mother, sister, and grandmother that anyone could have asked for. Carol's spirit and legacy will live on in her daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren as she impacted their lives so monumentally.

Marciea Driver

Marciea N. Driver, age 90, of Clinton, Oklahoma, passed away on April 14, 2026, at Corn Heritage Village in Weatherford, Oklahoma. She was born on January 6, 1936, in Lenora, Oklahoma, to Kenneth and Anna (Burton) Frazee.



Marciea lived a life rooted in family and the simple joys of the outdoors. She and her husband, Doyle, shared a deep love for fishing, often spending peaceful days together at their three favorite ponds. Family was at the heart of everything Marciea did. She found joy in tending her flower garden, mowing her yard, cooking for her loved ones, and taking drives through the countryside to enjoy the beauty around her.

Over the years, Marciea worked as an Ambassador for Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home and also at the Green Stamp store, where she was known for her warm presence and friendly spirit.

Marciea will be remembered for her kindness, her devotion to family, and the quiet strength she carried throughout her life. Her legacy lives on in the memories she created and the love she shared.

She is survived by her son, Kenny Driver of Oklahoma City, OK; daughter, Kathy Driver of Clinton, OK and niece, Linda Goucher.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Kenneth and Anna Frazee; husband Doyle "Bud" Driver; sisters, Agnes Bettis and Vivian Oakley; Niece, Joy McElyea, Beth Thompson and nephew Jerry Oakley.

Vicky Littke

Vicky Littke went to be with Jesus on Saturday, April 11, 2026, after a battle with ALS. She was born February 3, 1943, in Clinton, OK, to parents Lenora (Petty) and John McGee. She lived a life centered on family, faith, and hard work.



Raised in Clinton, she enjoyed horseback riding, earned rodeo honors, and developed a lifelong love of crocheting. After attending Clinton High School, she married Richard Littke on February 10, 1961, and they shared a devoted marriage for 57 years.

Above all, she cherished her roles as a mother, "Mimi," and devoted wife and sister leaving behind a legacy of love, service, and strong family traditions.

Vicky was definitely the "leader of the pack." She attended sporting events and supported her children and grandchildren. She was the best cheerleader for "her kids." Her passion for travel took her to Alaska, Cancun, and Myrtle Beach with family, creating such special memories. Laughter and her special dishes were her love language.

She was a member of the First Christian Church where she volunteered with youth, served her delicious dinners and desserts, and led with passion. Her belief in Jesus was strong, even through hardships.

Vicky held several jobs: Bill's Bakery, McCellan's, Dairy Best, JC Penney in her early career. She dedicated her life to hard work with 32 years at Oklahoma Bank and Trust and 18 years at Western Equipment. She was well respected, known for her willingness to go beyond expectations. She worked for 67 years, before retiring reluctantly at age 82.

Vicky was well known for her famous dishes such as Millionaire Pie, Chex Mix, jellies and homemade bread. Her love for life included cooking, crocheting, swimming, bowling, golfing, traveling, and caring for her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents John and Lenora McGee, her husband Richard Littke, her sister Jeanne Meyer, nephew, Dean Meyer, her brother Johnny McGee, and several in laws.

Vicky leaves behind her sister Cheri Lou Gastineau and husband Joe, of Clinton, OK, son Tony Littke and wife Angie, of Arden, NC, grandchildren, Austin Littke, Kimi Espinoza and husband Ray, Lauren Leathers, Jason Leathers, of Arden, NC, Linley Hatfield and husband Jody of Burleson, TX, Micheala Ribnick and husband Tommy, of Melbourne, FL, Shyanne Salcido and husband Miguel, of Clinton, OK,

In addition, Vicky is survived by her 12 great grandchildren, along with many nieces and nephews and other extended family members.

Clinton Classic Run Returns June 6th, 8AM



Provided

The Clinton Classic Run's organizing committee. Pictured, from left: David Berrong, Suzanne Simon, Robert Johnston, David Davis, Traci Heerwald, Shelley Lively, Terri Trent, and Shannon Dowdell.

The 5th Annual Clinton Classic Run returns to celebrate 100 years of the Mother Road on Saturday, June 6, 2026. All proceeds go to McLain-Roger Park in Clinton.

The event features four run packages:

1-Mile Fun Run (\$25)

This is the casual option, where participants can run, jog, or walk at their own pace.

5K Run (\$45)

This is the full route, listed to the right, which incorporates downtown and residential Clinton.

10K Run (\$60)

This is the 5K route through downtown and residential Clinton looped twice.

Ghost Runner (\$25)

This option is for those who cannot attend or participate, but would still like to show their support through donation.

In-person registration and packet pickup opens at 7AM, with all three races beginning at 8AM.

A full route map can be found online by visiting ClintonClassicRun.com/about. The race starts on the Corner of Frisco Avenue and 4th Street. Runners will head west down Frisco (part of the Historic Route 66 Highway) before travelling down 15th Street, Broadway, 19th Street, Opal Avenue, and 10th Street before returning to the starting line on Frisco.

Whether you're a regular participant, or looking to join your first ever run, the Clinton Classic Run is an engaging and fun event geared towards people of all ages and from all walks of life. They believe that fitness equals happiness, and encourage our participants to challenge their bodies while maintaining a healthy lifestyle. For more information and useful tips, find them on Facebook. To register early, visit ClintonClassicRun.com.

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Senate Review by Sen. Darcy Jech (April 15th)

Sen. Darcy Jech
R-Kingfisher, District 26

2026 marks my 12th and final year in the State Senate, and after working and voting on the state budget every year since 2014, I can say that I have truly seen it all. I've seen our state in extreme budget shortfalls, and I've seen our state with record amounts in savings. But one thing remains true, no matter the amount of funds available, is that the Legislature must fulfill its Constitutional duty to craft and pass a balanced budget.

The state budget does not come together overnight, but is rather a process that begins months before session begins. The Appropriations process has been ongoing for months, starting with state agencies submitting their annual budgets, subcommittees reviewing agency requests, and the Board of Equalization certifying state revenues. The process continued with legislative leaders working through priorities, revenue estimates, and fiscal constraints to craft a responsible plan that reflects the needs of Oklahomans. Over the last decade, most of the budget agreements did not come together until the final weeks of the 16-week session. However, this year differs as Legislative leaders and the governor have already released this year's budget plan, announced during the ninth week of session.

The budget package for Fiscal Year 2027 totals nearly \$12.79 billion and includes increased education funding, strategic infrastructure investments, and select one-time costs. The budget agreement includes significant public safety investments, including funding to hold an Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Academy, and funds to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for a Forensic Center and warehouse, as well as appropriations to the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics for a new headquarters building. These strategic investments and facilities will serve our state for many years and enhance our statewide public safety efforts.

The largest portion of the state budget each year is directed towards education, and this year we have continued to invest in education from K-12 through

higher education. The budget directs \$40 million to Oklahoma State University for a new agronomy building, fostering continued growth following the Legislature's \$250 million investment in 2025 to construct a state-of-the-art veterinary medicine facility. As for common education, the state will see a \$232 million increase over the prior year's budget. With this additional allocation, Oklahoma schools will see additional funding for school security measures, as well as literacy and math initiatives.

We continually invest in education because we know that investing in our youth and improving educational outcomes means investing in the future of Oklahoma. Our commitment to strengthening education is reflected in the remarkable achievements of our local schools and the students who continue to make our communities proud.

I recently had the honor of welcoming many local students to the Capitol and highlighting their accomplishments. It was a pleasure to have the Calumet fall baseball and boys basketball teams, the Okarche fall baseball and boys basketball teams, Dover boys basketball team, as well as the Omega girls basketball team join us on the Senate floor to recognize their State Championship wins in their respective classes.

It was also a privilege to have Harper Jones, a junior at Canton High School, and Saidee Wright, a senior at Lomega High School, serve in the Senate Page Program. These young ladies represented their schools and communities well as they assisted with legislative proceedings and learned more about state government. Again, it is a privilege to recognize and celebrate the excellence that exists in our schools and continue to support the students, educators, and communities who make these achievements possible.

If I can assist you with a legislative matter, feel free to contact my office at 405-521-5545 or Darcy.Jech@oksenate.gov. We would also love to welcome you to our state Capitol and invite you to visit our office in Room 234.

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS

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Mike Smith
News Director

Keep Hydro Beautiful Hosts “Clean Up Day” for Maintenance Projects



Provided by Cierra Hughes

Around 50 volunteers helped with various tasks around the City of Hydro, including repainting the Hydro Police Department (pictured, left) and cleaning up branches and other debris for eight different residences (pictured, right).

Cierra Hughes
Event Coordinator

Keep Hydro Beautiful recently hosted Community Clean Up Day in Hydro. There were around 50 volunteers who helped with various projects around town. The day began with a delicious breakfast served by the Hydro Methodist Church Men. The group was able to complete ten different projects,

which included cleaning up eight residences and painting the police station. KHB received over \$500 in donations to help with the projects, covering painting supplies as well as refreshments for volunteers. Various businesses in Hydro also offered discounts for the day to encourage residents to get out in the community.

Keep Hydro Beautiful is a local organization whose mission is to foster a sense of pride and stewardship in the Town of Hydro by nurturing and preserving its unique beauty. We are always looking for more volunteers for our projects. Our next meeting will be May 4 at 10:30 a.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall in Hydro.

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BFDC / FINANCIAL CHALLENGES - Financial challenges lie ahead for the Burns Flat-Dill City School District. Superintendent Jamie Matuszewski says the district is experiencing a projected budget deficit due to the windmill valuation protests, the expiration of temporary federal funds and a decrease in student enrollment. “Across the state for student population, as everybody knows, the birth rate in Oklahoma is down roughly 12.5%, so that affects every school in the state,” explained Matuszewski. “If you look at the trends on the National Center for Educational Statistics, you’ll see that across the country, the trend is dropping for student enrollment. In our school district, we have lost [roughly] 220 students since 2015.” Matuszewski says some options include reducing staff through attrition, adjusting (or reducing) certain programs or services, and/or reprioritizing resources to focus on core instructional needs. He says there are no anticipated cuts to extracurricular activities.

WEATHERFORD / BACCALAUREATE - The WHS senior class’ Baccalaureate will be held on May 13th at 6 pm at the First United Methodist Church (817 N 7th Street, Weatherford).

ARAPAHO-BUTLER / SOUTHALL - Outgoing Arapaho-Butler Superintendent Jay Edelen made a motion during a special meeting to hire the next Superintendent of the district. Southall, who currently serves as Elementary Principal in the district, will succeed Edelen, who is moving on to serve as Superintendent for Western Technology Center.

GLOSSIP / NEW TRIAL - Richard Glossip is heading back to court for a new trial after a judge in Oklahoma County denies an alleged plea deal. The judge denied a defense motion to enforce an agreement with the state of Oklahoma that could have led to the release of Glossip. Glossip has spent more than 20 years on death row for his role in the 1997 killing of Barry Van Treese, who owned motels in both Oklahoma City and Weatherford. Justin Sneed admitted to beating van Treese to death and later testified that Glossip had paid him to commit the crime. A new trial date has not been set. Prosecutors have said they will not seek the death penalty this time.

WEATHERFORD / TAP GRANT - Weatherford Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell said she, along with Mayor Mike Brown, recently met with officials from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation surrounding the more than \$2 million TAP grant to be used for sidewalk installation. Bidding starts in July, with the project expected to begin in December.

HINTON / ODOC DEATHS - The Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC) is adding deaths in custody to its website. The new dashboard provides information on not only the number of deaths but also the manner of death and which facility the death occurred. So far in 2026, a total of 52 deaths have occurred at ODOC facilities statewide. Five of those have occurred at the great plains correctional center in Hinton. Each of the five deaths at the Hinton facility are still awaiting results regarding the manner of death.

CLINTON / VIRTUAL - Clinton Public Schools will be adding virtual schooling options for students. “We’re going to have asynchronous instruction with Edgenuity. There’s going to be an application process because this isn’t for everybody and you have to have shown you have the capability of doing it so there will be an application process,” Superintendent Nathan Meget shared. “We will have a virtual director that will be in charge of monitoring weekly progress and academic advising and on-site tutoring as needed.” There are also blended options and opportunities for students to still be involved in extra curriculars and career tech. Approval for the program is still pending from Thrive Academy, which is through Newcastle Public Schools. Thrive Academy charges based on enrollment numbers, but multiple choices are available for students. “We’ll also have synchronous instruction through Thrive Academy. That means there will be a daily schedule,” Meget added. “There are certified teachers with Thrive Academy [with] daily class meetings. They’ll [also] have SPED support through Thrive Academy.”

CUSTER CO / BURN BAN UPDATE - Custer County is no longer in a burn ban following a decision recently made by County Commissioners. The 14-day burn ban expired last week and was not renewed, which was a suggestion from a majority of local fire chiefs. Despite the burn ban no longer being in effect, District 3 Commissioner Lyle Miller warned citizens of the ongoing fire danger in western Oklahoma. Commissioners plan to continue discussing the potential need for a burn ban each week.

WEATHERFORD / AMAZON UPDATE - During a recent interview, Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown spoke about construction of the new Amazon Fulfillment Center in the Weatherford Industrial North Park. “We’re hopeful they’ll put the walls up this week or next. It’ll be exciting just to see the size of the building [which will] hopefully be completed by September,” said Brown. “So excited about that new business being in town and the people that it’ll employ and the activity it’ll generate.” The center will bring approximately 100 jobs to the Weatherford site.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

Happy Birthday Wishes for April 22 - Christie Belmer, Tad Boone, Adalyn Daniels, Tip Farris, Jarrett Isch, Zach Lowrance, Ashley Nickels, Danielle Schmidt; **April 23 -** Marilyn Baldwin, Shelby Blogg, Lena Cardenas, Tyler Ellis, Andrew Fraser, Adam Fraser, Devon Jordan, Daryl Mosburg, Tom Willis; **April 24 -** Sandy Duncan, Nikki Frye, Ron Goodman, Mary Harris, Jason Kemper, Shelby Martinez, Greg Mouse, Carol Wahnee, Jill Ward; **April 25 -** Casey Elston, Gary Eytcheson, Regena Gardner, Mercedes Hampton, Edward Lopez, Bailee Pond, Kacie Roof, Brooke Scheberger, Shaun Skinner, Baylor Watkins, Lonnie Whitson; **April 26 -** Megan Britton, Peyton Carmin, Micah Dobrinski, Dennis Green, Alex Hicks, Matt Lamm, Denise Lay, Kenneth Maddox, Dakota Meinhardt, Benton Toczek; **April 27 -** Richard Ballew, Kaden Buckner, Arthula Carmen, Songhawk Fields-Toahy, Melissa Martin, Liz McBrayer, Avry Nailon, Hermon Small; **April 28 -** Janice Ball, Jacob Bass, Alison Mainers, Jay Martin, Alvin McNeal, Gentry Ortiz, Matthew Sumner.

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.

Want to share a birthday?
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Hinton Begins Construction on Airport Hangar



Provided by Mark Wortherly

The Hinton Airport Authority and Town of Hinton are currently in process of constructing a second hangar building at Hinton Municipal Airport. The structure is 41 ft by 225 ft, containing five individual hangar units. Completion is projected to be around mid-May according to LBR, Inc., the consultant and project manager. The project is funded by several grants through the Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aviation, and Hinton Economic and Development Authority. The Hinton Airport Authority and Town of Hinton are grateful to these entities for their tremendous support.

McIntyre, Spoto Awarded Bulldogs of the Week

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 Freshman • Women's Rodeo

JOHN SPOTO
 Junior • Baseball

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Jon Chidester
 SWOSU Media Relations

Reagan McIntyre (women's rodeo) and John Spoto (baseball) have been named the Bulldogs of the Week. This weekly student athlete recognition is presented by Wright Media — the official partner for SWOSU athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

McIntyre (Grand Island, Neb.) swept the Goat Tying at Fort Hays State over the weekend, earning

her third average title of the season. She posted times of 7.5 and 7.7 seconds to take first place in both the long and short rounds.

Spoto (Joliet, Ill.) went 6-for-12 across three games against Henderson State. He recorded three hits, including a double, in the series opener, followed with two hits and a triple in game two, and added another hit in the finale. His six hits mark his highest total in a GAC series this season.

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City of Watonga Revving Up for 6th Annual “Bikes & BBQ” Rally



Watonga Bikes & BBQ Rally 2026 is set to roar back into town April 24–26, bringing a full weekend of motorcycles, music, and mouthwatering food vendors to downtown Watonga.

Now in its sixth year, the rally continues to grow as one of northwest Oklahoma’s premier spring events, drawing riders, families, and visitors from across the region. Hosted in the heart of Main Street, the event blends small-town charm with high-energy entertainment.

Organizers promise a packed schedule featuring

scenic rides across northwest Oklahoma, and a variety of attractions designed for all ages. Highlights include a poker run showcasing the area’s landscape, bike games, stunt riders, karaoke, and a mechanical bull. Blaine County Bikers For Education leads the effort to bring the rally to life each year. Food lovers won’t be disappointed, with food trucks, and other vendors, offering everything from ribs to local specialties.

Past events have also included bike shows and contests with cash prizes, adding even more excitement for

participants and spectators alike. The rally is designed to be family-friendly, welcoming not only motorcycle enthusiasts but anyone looking for a fun weekend experience. Visitors can stroll through vendor booths, enjoy exciting entertainment, or simply take in the sights and sounds of hundreds of bikes lining the streets.

“The Blaine County Bikers For Education host Watonga Bikes & BBQ Rally every year to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and get away from the stigma of all bikers are bad. The proceeds from our event feed our trade school scholarship program. Thanks to the our participants, we have been able to supply more than 20 scholarships helping needy individuals to get training to start their careers. Were excited to see everyone this year and hope you all come out and enjoy the epic time! If you see me running around, say howdy,” said Jon Morris event coordinator. Each year, the event helps support local efforts while boosting tourism and bringing new energy to Watonga’s downtown district.

Festivities kick off Friday afternoon and continue through Sunday evening, rain or shine. Admission is typically free, making it an accessible outing for families and visitors alike. With engines revving, and music filling the air, the Watonga Bikes & BBQ Rally is once again gearing up to deliver a weekend to remember.

For more information, schedules, and updates, visit the official event website at watongabikesandbbq.com

RUSO Board Selects Dr. Joel Kendall as 19th President of SWOSU



The Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) Board of Regents has selected Dr. Joel Kendall to serve as president of Southwestern Oklahoma State University after appointing him interim president in January. Kendall brings extensive experience in higher education, deep ties to SWOSU, and a strong understanding of the university’s role in serving students, communities, and workforce needs across western Oklahoma.

His selection provides continuity in leadership and reflects the Board’s confidence that he will continue leading SWOSU with a clear focus on student success, academic quality, and service to

the state. RUSO Board Chair Jane McDermott said Kendall’s experience, institutional knowledge, and leadership make him the right person to continue leading SWOSU.

“Dr. Kendall brings deep experience, sound judgment, and a strong understanding of Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the people it serves,” McDermott said. “He has helped strengthen the university’s academic foundation, supported growth in programs tied to Oklahoma’s workforce needs, and earned the confidence of those who know SWOSU best. We are pleased to select him as president and confident he will continue leading the university in a

way that supports students, strengthens communities, and advances the mission of RUSO.”

Kendall said he is grateful for the opportunity and focused on leading SWOSU forward. “I am grateful to the Board of Regents for the opportunity to serve Southwestern Oklahoma State University in this role,” Kendall said. “SWOSU has been an important part of my life and career, and I am honored by the trust placed in me. I look forward to continuing to work alongside our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners as we prepare SWOSU graduates to lead, serve, and meet Oklahoma’s workforce needs.”

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Third Inning Holds Up in Finale Victory at HSU



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Softball used a six-run third inning to secure a 6-5 win over Henderson State in Saturday's series finale, salvaging the road series.

All six Bulldog runs came in the decisive third inning, where SWOSU recorded eight of its 10 hits in the game. Entering the frame in a scoreless tie, the Dawgs erupted before the Reddies could record an out. Leading 2-0, Jaylynn Freer delivered the biggest swing of the inning with a three-RBI triple to extend the advantage. Taylor McMahon followed with an RBI single to cap the scoring.

Henderson State responded with a run in the third and four more in the fourth to cut the deficit to one. With two outs in the fourth, Alexis Taylor entered in relief and recorded the final out of the inning before

taking over in the circle. Taylor was dominant the rest of the way, tossing 3.1 hitless innings to earn the win. She struck out five and walked two, keeping Henderson State off the board after entering. She relieved Blaire Gentry, who started and pitched 3.2 innings.

SWOSU outhit Henderson State 10-8. Maddie Rahon led the offense, going 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI, and a run scored. Sierra Woods also added two hits and a run.

With the win, SWOSU heads into the final two weekends of the regular season looking to build momentum. The Bulldogs travel to face Northwestern in Alva next weekend before returning home to host Arkansas Tech to close the regular season.

Run-Rule Gives SWOSU Doubleheader Split



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Baseball split Saturday's GAC doubleheader against Henderson State, run-ruling the Reddies in the opener before falling 7-1 in the series finale. The split keeps SWOSU in postseason contention entering the final week of the regular season.

Game One (7 inn.) - SWOSU 11, HSU 1

SWOSU scored in all but one inning and backed a dominant complete-game effort from Garrett Folmar to cruise past Henderson State in the opener. After the Reddies scored a run in the first inning, the Bulldogs responded immediately with a five-run frame to take control. SWOSU continued to apply pressure throughout, scoring in every inning except the sixth.

Folmar (W) settled in after the opening inning and kept Henderson State off the board the rest of the way. He struck out six, walked two, and scattered six hits in the complete-game performance.

Four Bulldogs recorded multi-hit games, with

Kotaro Wakui and Jose Mendoza combining for four RBI.

Game Two - HSU 7, SWOSU 1

SWOSU had opportunities in the nightcap but could not capitalize, managing just one run in the loss.

Trailing 2-0 in the third, Kotaro Wakui doubled in the Bulldogs' lone run, but baserunning miscues prevented additional scoring. Earlier in the inning, a runner was thrown out at the plate on a ground ball, and later Wakui was cut down trying to score from second on an infield single.

Henderson State built a 4-1 lead through four innings before adding insurance runs in the sixth and seventh.

The Bulldogs stranded 11 runners in the game, while the Reddies left 12 on base.

Jared Adams (L) took the loss, working three innings.

Wakui led the offense, going 3-for-4, while Nolan McCrossin added two hits and a walk.

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EVEN A BLACKSTONE GRILL!

