

# WEST OK WEEKLY



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## SWOSU Student Makes Times Square Billboard for Worthy Cause



Provided

Pharmacy student Benjamin Sandecki of Tahlequah (Sequoyah) is participating in the Great Cycle Challenge to help raise money in the fight against kids' cancer. A billboard of him recently appeared in New York City Times Square.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University student in Weatherford is participating in a Great Cycle Challenge and apparently he impressed the sponsoring organization enough to have his picture on a billboard in New York City Times Square.

Benjamin Sandecki, a student from Tahlequah (Sequoyah) in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy, is participating in the Great Cycle Challenge during

the month of September and is raising money in the fight of kids' cancer for the Children's Cancer Research Fund. Sandecki

Sandecki said cancer is the biggest killer of children from disease in the United States. Over 15,700 children are diagnosed every year, and sadly, 38 children die of cancer every week.

"Kids should be living life, not fighting for it,"

Sandecki said.

Sandecki is raising money to help fight child cancer by committing to riding his bike 400 miles for the Great Cycle Challenge. Sandecki currently is working on clinical rotations with the SWOSU College of Pharmacy and is scheduled to graduate this December 2020.

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**FRIDAY,  
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3-7pm**

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Luke Bailey of Clinton and Annelise Bull of Weatherford raise the American flag as part of Western Oklahoma Christian School's daily routine. All sixth grade students learn the proper technique for displaying and folding the flag. Both are students in Erin Funk's sixth grade class.

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### Terry Lynne Rickel

Terry was born August 9, 1961, in Newton, Kansas to Eugene Max and Myrtle Loy (Harder) Busenitz and passed away at her home in Weatherford on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 having reached the age of 59 years and 17 days.



Terry was raised on her family's farm near Newton and attended Elbing Grade School and graduated from Berean Academy in 1979. At around the age of 7, she accepted Christ as her Savior with her grandmother at a Good News Camp. She attended Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas. One of Terry's greatest joys was her two adopted daughters and grandchildren. The family made their home in Weatherford. She worked at WOCS in Clinton for 12 years, United Methodist Care Center, and was currently working at SWOSU. Terry enjoyed scrapbooking, cooking and making rolls, sewing, spoiling her grandkids and spending time with family and friends.

Terry is survived by two daughters, Brittney Rickel of Weatherford and Alexis Kinman and husband, Dalton of Tulsa; one brother, Brent Busenitz and wife, Anna of Newton, Kansas; two sisters, Kathy Penner and husband, Leon of Wichita, Kansas, and Yvonne Dakwar and husband, Elias of Crowley, Texas; and three grandchildren, Brianna, Maverick and Max. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Stanley.

### Shirley Stewart Huser

Shirley Stewart Huser of Weatherford, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully in the early morning of August 28, 2020, surrounded by her four children. She passed in her home of 52 years in Weatherford, Oklahoma, at the age of 86. She was a loving and devoted wife, mom, and Grammy and lived out her strong faith in God in all she did.



Shirley was born on October 14th, 1933, in Wewoka, Oklahoma to Rex and Dessie Stewart. Growing up in Wewoka, Oklahoma, Shirley was raised by Christian parents along with two sisters, Betty and Darlene, and a younger brother, J.R. While in high school, Shirley dated a handsome young man who would one day become her husband, John Huser. Going their separate ways after graduating high school, Shirley attended East Central University while John went to Oklahoma University. One special day while at East Central, Shirley was called to her dorm lobby, she had a visitor. There was John—he surprised her by hitchhiking from Norman to Ada to visit her. As Shirley told the story, when she saw John, her heart fluttered! They were a couple from that grand gesture on. Shirley transferred to OU, and she and John began their 64-year love story.

Married on June 4th, 1955, Shirley pulled out of school to put John through college and medical school. She later graduated with a degree in English from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1979, the same year her son J. was graduating from high school.

Shirley and John came to Weatherford in 1965 after residing in Oklahoma City for John's internship, Lafayette, Louisiana for his residency and Wahiawa, Hawaii for his military service. They lived in Ada two years before John

was recruited to be a doctor in Weatherford.

Shirley and John had four children—Becky, J., Larae, and Mendy—and together they built a loving and fun Christian family. Throughout their life together, Shirley and John took their family on many fun vacations and Spring Break ski trips. Children in the home followed by years of teen activities kept Shirley busy and taxiing for a long and joyful season. Later in life, Shirley and John traveled extensively together and with friends.

At the age of 40, Shirley learned both snow skiing and tennis, as well as reminding herself how to water ski. John was an avid tennis player, so Shirley learned and began to play singles with friends and teamed up with John to play doubles. They also played in local tennis tournaments. She was a good athlete and tennis partner, being especially aggressive at the net in follow up to John's strong serve. Shirley was also a skilled bridge player; she and John enjoyed playing couples bridge with friends.

Family and church were Shirley's life and heart priorities, and she served both exceedingly well. She taught Sunday School and VBS at Weatherford Church of Christ for many years, as well as participating in and teaching Ladies Bible Class. She served on various church committees, most involved serving food, as her gift for cooking and baking combined well with her heart to serve. In the Weatherford community, she was involved in P.E.O., Sorosis, and Bridge Club, serving in various leadership capacities over the years. Shirley was a devoted reader and served for a season on the Weatherford Library Board. She has had wonderful friendships through church and her community involvement.

Shirley is survived by her four children and their spouses—Becky Woodward, and husband Paul, of Enid; J. Huser, and wife Gina, of Weatherford; Larae Barton, and husband Rick, of Garland, Texas; Mendy Dunham, and husband Rory, of Oklahoma City; nine grandchildren—Cody (Katie) Woodward, Cassie (Michael) Taylor, Marshall (Whitnie) Huser, Jace Huser, Luke Barton, Jared Barton, and Eli, Rowan, and Tatum Dunham—as well as seven great grandchildren; the family of Bill and Angie Pounds and their three sons—Justin, Michael, and Brandon; her sister, Betty Jones, of Edmond, and brother, J.R. and his wife, Pat, of Ada. Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, John, on October 6, 2019, and her sister, Darlene Hair, of Wewoka.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her honor to: John M. Huser Jr. Cancer Center, checks payable to Weatherford Regional Hospital Foundation (3701 E. Main, Weatherford, OK 73096) or Lariat Creek Christian Camp (c/o Ray Hull 36349 Carter Road, Waynoka, OK 73860).

### Virginia Mae Milliner

Virginia Mae Milliner was born February 23, 1926, in Colony to John and Susie (Brown) Fetter and passed away Thursday, August 27, 2020, at Broken Arrow Nursing Home in Broken Arrow, at the age of 94 years, 6 months, and 4 days.



Virginia was raised and attended Pioneer School near the farm and graduated from Colony High School in 1944. She earned her pharmacy degree from Southwest Pharmacy School. Virginia married Bernard Milliner May 29, 1948 in Colony and made their home in Oklahoma City where she worked for McBrides Bone and Joint Hospital. She loved to travel across the United States for Bernard's job in the aeronautical industry. In 1954, they returned to

Colony. Virginia worked at Clinic Pharmacy and Wycoff Drug. Virginia enjoyed working in her flower garden, taking trips on the motorcycle and spending time with family and friends. They moved to Weatherford in 1979. Virginia moved to Broken Arrow in 2016 to be closer to her daughter. Memorials may be made to OMRF – Alzheimer Research.

Virginia is survived by one son, Barry Milliner and wife, Deborah of Colony; and one daughter, Karen Ivey of Broken Arrow; one grandchild; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

### Bertie O. (Reinschmidt) Walls

Funeral services for Bertie O. (Reinschmidt) Walls were held Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 2 pm at First Baptist Church of Weatherford under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home, burial followed at Greenwood Cemetery in Weatherford.



Viewing was available at Lockstones beginning Friday September 4, 2020 and the family will receive friends on Monday September 7, 2020 from 3 to 5:00 pm in the Lockstone chapel. Additional information can be found on Facebook at In Memory of Bertie O Walls.

Bertie, long-time resident and retired school teacher, of Weatherford, OK, passed away on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at Oklahoma Heart Institute in Tulsa; she was 80. She moved to Bartlesville to be near her family in 2018 after the 2015 death of her husband, Jimmie "Jim" Walls. She most recently resided in independent living at Baptist Village of Owasso.

Bertie took early retirement for health reasons from Weatherford Public Schools in 1998, after a long and fulfilling career in Elementary Education. She taught 5th grade and Special Reading at East Elementary for 15 years.

Bertie was born May 11, 1940 to Alfred and Elsie (Schultz) Reinschmidt in Gotebo, OK. She grew up on the family farm and attended Lake Valley Schools, graduating in a class of 12 in 1958. She attended college at Southwestern in Weatherford briefly before reconnecting and marrying the love of her life, Jimmie K. Walls.

Bertie met Jimmie when she was 12 and he was 13. They dated off and on through high school and their paths crossed again in college. Bertie and Jimmie were married November 25, 1959 at Odessa Baptist Church in Gotebo, OK and were blessed with 55 years together. The couple made their first home in Sentinel, OK, where they had 2 children. Later moving to Walters, OK where they lived and worked for 11 years before making their way back to Weatherford in 1975.

She completed her college education by earning a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education and English at Cameron University in Lawton, OK. She later earned a Masters Degree and Special Reading Certificate at SWOSU in Weatherford. She was an active member of First Baptist Church of Weatherford, Kappa Kappa Iota, OREA and Weatherford Retired Teachers Association.

She played basketball in high school and was a huge fan of OKC Thunder. She was an avid reader and quilter, she loved to cook, garden, sew and crochet. She was the best daughter, wife, Mom and Grandma ever and loved nothing more than spending time with family and friends, especially her grand and great-grandchildren.

Bertie is survived by her two daughters, Kelley Young of Owasso, and Kim Maguire of Bartlesville; six grandchildren, Jamie Maguire of Lawton, Jarod Young of Austin, TX, Lindsey Watters and husband Cory of Ochelata, OK; Jessica Pulliam and husband Ryan of Beggs, OK Sarah Maguire of Tulsa, and Seth Maguire of Apache, OK. Her pride and joy were her two great-grandchildren, Stetson and Remington Watters. She is also survived by three sisters-in-law; Charlene Reinschmidt of Duncan, Jean Reinschmidt of Yukon and Pat Andrews of Snyder; one brother-in-law, Virgil "Wayne" Walls of Houston, TX; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, both of her twin brothers, Dennis and Dennie Reinschmidt, one nephew, Danny Reinschmidt, and two nieces, Janie Sullivan and Debbie Wemmer. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Weatherford Public School Foundation or the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation.

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# The Story of Antelope Hills (part 1)



**Kelly R. Kilhoffer**  
Oklahoma History  
Enthusiast

Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, the Spanish explorer, first recorded the flat-topped mesas in journals and on maps around the year 1541 or 1542. Camping within view of the hills, he watched vast quantities of wildlife in the area and his men harvested many antelope, hence the hills became known as The Antelope Hills. Even the Spanish explorer Juan de Onate mentioned The Hills while traversing along the Canadian River's northern side in 1601.



Provided

## Looking northwest to Present-day Antelope Hills.

in conjunction & other times they acted separately.

John Salmon Ford, (also known as "Ol' RIP" for all the men he had helped bury) was the quintessential frontiersman. Tall and lanky with a rough-featured face reminiscent of a young Abraham Lincoln, Ford was a Texas Revolution Veteran who fought in The Mexican-American War. He was commissioned by Governor Hardin R. Runnels in 1855. The newly commissioned Captain Ford was given authorization to create a company of Rangers for immediate service. The company was mustered into service on January 10th, 1856. The new company was 135 men strong. Many of his recruits were seasoned fighters so, though newly formed, his men were well-experienced.

After months of scouting and patrolling, the decision was made to turn north and head into Indian country, that being north of the Red River and Texas border. Seeking a fight and an enemy, they would soon get their wish.

On the 22nd day of April, 1858, they set out from their camp along the Brazos River (not far from present day Ft. Worth). At this time, they consisted of 120 men. Colonel Shaply P. Ross was an Indian agent at Cottonwood Springs. He merged 113 friendly Indians with Ford's Ranger Company. Many of the Indians were Tonkawas, the mortal enemy of the Comanches. At one time the Tonkawas were cannibals.

Traveling through Archer and Young counties in Texas, the company crossed the Red River at the mouth of the North Fork. Moving northwest through what is now

Kiowa and Tillman counties, they came to present day Beckham County (at the time it was Indian territory) near a spot where the Sweetwater Creek runs into the North Fork of the Red River. Turning northward, they pushed into Roger Mills county and proceeded to Rush Creek near a point where it flows into the Washita River (at the time known as Rio Negro). Crossing there, they advanced up Sand Creek to the location where it splits between the Washita & South Canadian Rivers. The Fort Smith-Santa Fe Trail was nearby and it was a well-traveled area.

North of the Washita, one of Ross's Indian scouts reported back with two arrowheads removed from a recently killed buffalo. The arrowheads were of Comanche origin. Assuming their quarry was close at hand, the party began to get cautious. Wagons, pack animals and an ambulance wagon were moved to lower ground where they could be hidden among the brush for cover.

Not long after, more scouts reported the Comanches were nearby running buffalo herds to the company's north. Strict orders were given that no one was to leave camp and no firearms were to be discharged. Nobody was to run buffalo, though hundreds of the big "woolies" could be seen nearby in every direction.

Captain Ford and Colonel Ross set out with field glasses (binoculars) to try to find the Comanches camp but none were to be found. Pockmark Jim, an Anadarko Indian, returned with news of pack animals, laden with fresh meat, were moving toward The Antelope Hills and that a village was seen north of the river.

(to be continued next week)

The Antelope Hills were part of the Comanche nation known as Comancheria. Comancheria was a huge body of land extending through portions of West Texas & the Texas Panhandle, The "Llano Estacado" (Spanish for The Staked Plains), the Texas Hill country, Western Oklahoma & its Panhandle, Eastern New Mexico, much of Colorado and Southwestern Kansas and Nebraska. At the time, it was larger than Texas and many European countries. The Antelope Hills are located in the northwest corner of Roger Mills county.

The Texas Rangers were formed as a paramilitary organization to quell the hostilities between Native Indian tribes in Texas, particularly, the Comanches and bandits. Texas was in a continuous state of war with native tribes up until the day these tribes were put on reservations in 1875. When Texas was still a Republic, the Rangers and non-Ranger volunteers patrolled the interior and frontier. The task of containing hostile tribes fell to the United States Regular Army after the Annexation of Texas in 1845. These troops began to establish post across the western part of the state.

From 1855 to 1860, there were no fewer than 27 Ranger companies patrolling the borders and frontiers of Texas. Often the Rangers and soldiers of the U.S. military acted

## Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholarship Awarded to SWOSU Student Railey Rumohr



Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) student Railey Rumohr of Rio Vista (TX) has been named the 2020-21 Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholar by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., in Weatherford.

Rumohr is studying environmental & organismal biology. In addition to her class schedule, Rumohr is active in the SWOSU Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club. She is a Weatherford Community Scholar.

"Congratulations to Railey Rumohr on being awarded the Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholarship," said SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler. "The late Paula Horsburgh was a beloved graduate of our university and an active and generous part of the local community. SWOSU is humbled and honored that the Horsburgh and Bartmann families have generously continued to make

possible this scholarship that provides much-needed assistance to students at Paula's alma mater."

Paula Jeanne (Meckel) Horsburgh was born on October 22, 1944, in Pittsburgh (PA); she passed away on December 31, 2014. She spent her first seven years in Oakmont (PA) and later moved to Parma (OH) where she graduated from high school and became an LPN, graduating from the Lakewood Hospital School of Nursing.

She was united in marriage to James "Jim" H. Horsburgh on September 11, 1965, in Cleveland (OH). Jim and Paula later moved to Boulder (CO) where they worked and attended the University of Colorado. In 1973, they moved to Weatherford, where they made their home and raised their two children, Jimmy and Katie. Paula taught in the Weatherford Public Schools for a decade. Paula was well known for her passionate commitment to assisting homeless and neglected animals and devoted many volunteer hours to that cause.

Paula had a rich history at SWOSU, earning both a B.A. in Sociology in 1979 and an M.A. in Education in 1992 from SWOSU; her husband, Jim, served as an instructor in the then-SWOSU School of Business

Finance from 1973-1978. Paula was an active parishioner of St. Eugene's Catholic Church in Weatherford and, in this capacity, she served on the College Students Luncheon Committee where she touched the lives of many different SWOSU students over the years.

Contributions may be made to the Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholarship Fund by visiting [www.GivetoSWOSU.com](http://www.GivetoSWOSU.com) and designating gifts to the "Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholarship" or via mail at SWOSU Foundation, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096 (please make check payable to "SWOSU Foundation" and designate "Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholarship" in the memo line).

The SWOSU Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy, award scholarships, and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards over \$26 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For more information about the Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholarship Fund or any SWOSU Foundation funds, please contact 580-774-3267 or visit [www.SWOSUFoundation.com](http://www.SWOSUFoundation.com).

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For Sale- Troybilt garden tiller with 7hp motor, like new. \$600. 8N Ford tractor, good condition. \$1,500. (580) 729-0001

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For Sale- radio with clock and phone. \$15. Pocket watch with chain, new in box, \$50. Neck ties (50) brand new \$2.50 each. (580) 330-3489

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# LOCAL & AREA NEWS



**Mike Smith**  
News Director

**WEATHERFORD CITY COMMISSION GRANT** – The Weatherford City Commission accepted the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and supplemental budget request of more than \$27,000 for its 10% match of the grant dollars. Fire Chief Mike Karlin says the grant allows for the purchase of fire breathing apparatus units.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR FOR CORDELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL** – Cordell Memorial Hospital is getting a new Administrator and Director of Nursing. Deb Kifer assumes her new duties on September 14th. Kifer has been the Director of Nursing for Weatherford Regional Hospital for nearly a year. She succeeds Kenny Downs who had been serving as Hospital Administrator for Cordell Memorial Hospital.

**WATONGA TOPPING-OFF CEREMONY** – A Topping-Off Ceremony for the Lucky Star Casino Watonga Hotel and Convention Center was held in Watonga. The Ceremony is held when the last

beam is placed atop a structure during construction. The tentative opening date is in February of 2021.

**WEATHERFORD TANK BATTERY FIRE** – Lightning is blamed for a tank battery fire near the intersection of County Roads 990 and 2395, northwest of Weatherford. Fire Chief Mike Karlin says the two tank batteries that caught fire were destroyed.

**BECKHAM COUNTY SCAM** – Officials in Beckham County say that they have had reports of residents receiving a call from a man saying they have taxes due to the county. Officials say that if you receive a call like this, do not give them any personal information. Beckham County will never call you asking for social security numbers or payment over the phone. Calls can be reported to the Beckham County Sheriff's Department.

**WEATHERFORD STARBUCKS** – Starbucks is coming to Weatherford! President of L5 Construction, Shawn Driver, made the announcement. Driver says the shell of the building should be complete next March with opening possibly mid to late May of 2021. The project will locate north of McDonald's at the Eagle Car Wash site.

**CUSTER COUNTY DISTRICT COURT** – A Weatherford man is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on November 5th in Custer county District Court. Twenty-one year old Cole Isaac Phillips is charged in the April 4th shooting death of 20 year old Joshua Price. Court records show that Phillips told police that Price came to his house angry and was trying to fight him and that Phillips defended himself. Phillips further stated that Price made threats against him and when Price shoved him, Phillips drew his weapon and shot Price twice. However, authorities say there did not appear to be any signs of a struggle inside the residence and the two men had been arguing via text leading up to the incident.

## PUBLIC RECORDS

### Arrested

Eddie Mendez, Jr., arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with domestic assault & battery.

Tylee Fuller, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with domestic assault & battery. Domestic A&B

Cory Greeley, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with possession of meth and paraphernalia.

Antonio Celso Perez-Lopez, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol, charged with DUI.

Edgar Perez, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol, charged with DUI, DUS and unsafe lane use.

Arik Tyler Soto, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with failure to stop at stop sign, Dui, and transporting loaded firearm under the influence.

Ricardo Vela, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with failure to appear for petit larceny.

Angel Badillo, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with DUI, DUS, left of center and disobeying a stop sign.

Victor William Morgan, Jr., arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with 1st degree robbery.

Eddy Charles Blackwolf arrested by Arapaho Police Department, charged with assault & battery.

Teddy William Stolhand, arrested by Stephens County Sheriff, charged with falsely personate another to create liability.

Martha Betty Thomas, arrested by Oklahoma County Sheriff, charged with failure to appear for loitering, injure, molesting motor vehicle or joyride.

Regina Yeager, arrested by Elk City Police Department, charged with failure to appear for larceny of merchandise from retailer.

Tyree Medicinechips, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with

public intoxication and trespassing.

Candida Landa, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged on a Custer County warrant for speeding and a city warrant for DUS/DUR/DUC/DUD.

Tanah Poor, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged on a Kingfisher county bench warrant.

Erick Orihuela-Buenosaires, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with public intoxication.

Victor Morgan, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with robbery in the 1st degree, public intoxication, and a Canadian County bench warrant.

### Out on Bond

Timothy Dale Cottrill, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol, charged with failure to wear seat belt and obstructing officer.

James Perkins, arrested by ECPD, charged with driving a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs.

Dreanna Adams, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with possession of controlled dangerous substance with/ intent to distribute.

Aldridge Lesawn Davis, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with possession of controlled dangerous substance with/ intent to distribute.

Bradley Joe Owens, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with failure to appear for obtaining cash or merchandise by bogus check.

Eric Watson, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with knowingly concealed stolen property.

Juanita Pauline Chapman, arrested by TSI, charged with failure to appear for possession of controlled dangerous substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Christopher James Cotton, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol, charged with obstructing officer and DUS.

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**Alcohol causing problems?** Alcoholics Anonymous meets daily at 928 W. Main, Weatherford. Call (580) 819-0727 for more information. **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 7:00-8:00 Hwy 58. (5 miles) South of Hwy 152. For Information contact 405-643-9211 **Free and Open to the Public.**

**Happy Birthday Wishes for September 9th** - Parker Broadbent, Brianna Dillion, Mary Elliot, Baylee Lehman, Marcella Panana, Taylor Parish, Ramona Patron, Kyle Slagell, Thomas Stephens, Emily Wise; **September 10th** - Christopher Albright, Mickey Allen, Billy Austin, Corissa Crosby, Rachelle Epp, Adam Esparza, Hudson Ingram, Dr. Karen Miller, Shirley Pendleton, Anita Spradlin, Mattie Tolley, Lynda Vermillion, Donald Walters, John Wilson, Mandy Wise; **September 11th** - Nathan Albright, Tommy Baldwin, Jennifer Friesen, Shannyn Gaffney, Randy Gilbert, Patricia Mitchel, Terry Pearey, Irvin Schmidt, Tyler Sloan, Al Swaney, Jessica Vassar; **September 12th** - Emma Kay Christian, Colton Gay, Reonna Gossen, Betty Jo Hill, Anita Malone, James Mitchell, Grant Schamburg, Nikki Slagell; **September 13th** - Colby Ellis, Devin Flores, Liz Hinojosa, Janie Hunter, Lora Jones, Tori Laird, Johnathan Mccoy, Maurillo Sabanilla, Tammy Sperle, Amanda Williams, Star Williams; **September 14th** - Tanya Garrison, Randy Goossen, Angie House, Trinity Howell, Lauren Jones, Slade Nightengale, Donna Osborn, Jerina Pearey, Ty Short; **September 15th** - Jennifer Billy, Blair Cook, Sherri Goeringer, Chris Kreizenbeck, John Seifried, Turner Sharry, Jennifer Thiessen, Larry Wright.

**Happy Anniversary Wishes on September 14th** - Bobbi & Steve Tompkins.

# SPORTS *Presented by:*



## SWOSU Celebrates Successful First-Ever Online Athletic Auction

**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The SWOSU Athletic Association's 14th Annual Athletic Auction, which was conducted entirely online with bidding open from August 8-29, has come to a close.

The 211 bidders in this year's online-only event were from 49 Oklahoma cities, 12 other states, and Canada. 1,396 bids were cast on a wide range of 145 donated auction items and experiences.

The Auction is a crucial fundraising activity for all SWOSU Athletic programs with proceeds from the auction going to benefit SWOSU's investment in Athletic Scholarships. "This is an incredibly challenging year, but as they always do SWOSU's supporters stepped up tremendously," said SWOSU Interim Athletic Director Todd Helton. "We are very grateful!"

The Auction requires securing tens of thousands of dollars in underwriting support in addition to the annual event goal of raising tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship support. The SWOSU Athletic Association Directors and SWOSU Athletic Department recognized the unprecedented economic difficulties facing many of the Auction's generous traditional underwriting sponsors and decided earlier in 2020 to move the event to an online

format in an effort to reduce event production costs and maximize the fundraising revenues that go directly to SWOSU's student-athletes. Additionally, the Association and Department leaders recognized continued concerns related to large social gatherings in light of the outbreak and spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

"Restricted in our ability to host our traditional large gathering and with many of our sponsors negatively impacted by an incredibly difficult economic climate, our staff and volunteers set two overarching goals: reduce Auction expenses by 25% and raise a minimum of \$30,000.00 in the online version of this much-loved annual event," said SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Executive Director Mr. Garrett King. "Thanks to the generosity of this year's bidders and donors and to the tireless volunteer work of our Athletic Association Board of Directors we are delighted to announce that we reduced fundraising expenses for this event by nearly 50% and raised just under \$60,000.00. Those resources, combined with a generous grant from the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees, mean that the Association will be able to continue providing the same levels of scholarship support to SWOSU as it has since beginning the Auction fourteen years ago." King continued, "We appreciate so very much

all who made this year's online-only Auction a huge success, and we look forward to returning the Auction to its in-person format in 2021."

Longtime SWOSU benefactor Pioneer Cellular served as Underwriting Sponsor of the 14th Annual Athletic Auction and provided key financial support.

The event also benefitted from the generosity of Presenting Sponsors including Wright Wradio Network, WestOK Weekly, and United Country Heard Auction & Real Estate. BancFirst, Debbie Shepherd State Farm Insurance, Evans & Davis Attorneys PLLC, and David & Dianne Hunter all supported this year's event as Producing Sponsors.

The SWOSU Athletic Association is a subsidiary of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. The Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards over \$26 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For information on how to support SWOSU's student-athletes and athletic programs through charitable investment please contact the Foundation at 580-774-3267 or visit [www.SWOSUAthletics.com](http://www.SWOSUAthletics.com).

## SWOSU Throwback – SWOSU's Success Forges Women's Basketball Legacies

Even the best-schooled sports fan may not realize just how complex and elusive is the blend of genius, luck, and time that forges a dynasty in college athletics at any level.

All of which makes the story of Southwestern Oklahoma State University's women's basketball juggernaut all the more galling to their competition – their phenomenal success was both instantaneous and enduring. In 1981-82, John Loftin inherited a 7-17 program that was, in his own words, "nothing." In 1982-83, the Lady Bulldogs won the NAIA National Championship, topping off a perfect 34-0 season. They repeated the next year. In 1984-85, they brought a 31-0 record into the quarterfinals, but were upset. It took them only one year to reclaim the championship crown, however, and they finished 1985-86 with their second unbeaten march to the top of the NAIA in four years. They would win it all again in 1987-88 and 1990-91, wrapping up five national championships in 10 years. The Lady Bulldogs fell to Fort Hays State University in last year's championship game in Jackson, Tenn. The shortcut to infamy? Try this recipe: First, hire John Loftin, a coach from a sterling junior college program who's recruiting connections are secure... and many. Then successfully recruit Kelli Litsch, beating out big-time programs like USC to land the 6'1" Oklahoma native who played six-on-six for a senior class of seven students. You're not the only school who suspected she might be the best to ever lace up hightops in Oklahoma, but she chose your colors. As far as the "enduring" part, here's the spice: After Litsch leads you to three national championships in four years, wins three tournament MVP awards, and carries her approximate 4.0 GPA onto two All-American Scholar-Athlete teams, make sure you keep her around. Litsch earned her masters at Southwestern Oklahoma and became a full-time assistant coach and team academic advisor in time to help Loftin lead the Lady Bulldogs to their fourth championship in 1987-88. That kind of organizational continuity not only reinforces a sense of history and a winning tradition, it also turns the heads of some of Oklahoma's best high school basketball players. Jackie Snodgrass, a 1990-91 First

Team All-American, put it this way: "When Kelli Litsch started showing up at my gym and actually speaking to me, I thought it was about the greatest thing that ever happened in my life." And as the winning and academic legacy snowballs, the pipelines to Oklahoma high schools and junior colleges across the nation widen. "From the beginning, we basically overhauled the program," Loftin says. "We brought in seven juco players I recruited through my contacts and I added Texas to my recruiting territory through the contacts I'd made coaching high school ball." Loftin says getting to the top wasn't nearly as hard as staying there. "Bringing in the players we did, especially Kelli, and with the NAIA women's program just a couple of years old, we accomplished what we should have," he says. "But competition heated up quickly." "It hasn't been easy," Litsch agrees. "Since we won the first championship, every game we play is the other team's national championship."

And so, even with the intricate recruiting system in place, Loftin has had to coach. Consistent with his quarter-century of success on the high school, juco, and NAIA level, he's done so masterfully. "The kids who come here are winners, because that's all we'll accept," says the former Texas schoolboy all-stater and Texas Tech standout. "When you have kids who play to win, they're willing to subjugate stats and glory for a championship. And in our scheme, which I think bears resemblance to Dean Smith's at North Carolina, we don't focus on a go-to player. Ours is truly a team system." "He's a taskmaster," Litsch says more pointedly. "He's a winner and that's his only agenda. Each of our girls will strive to be the best-prepared player on the court or they won't be on the court." She pauses with a laugh. "Sometimes part of my job is to soften the blow."

For Litsch's part, she wouldn't trade places with Loftin, or any other head coach, if she had the chance. "I'm not interested in the constant recruiting trips of focusing so much on the strategy," she says. "I'm most interested in working one-on-one with the girls, making sure their college experience is everything it should be. I enjoy the

academic counseling part of my job as much or more than anything else I do."

"Women play college ball to enjoy it, because there's no gold over the rainbow, even for the best," she says, referring to the pro career's men can aim for. "They choose their school based on academics first, for the most part, so they're here to study. I don't have to lean on them much, but I can help them manage their time and achieve their potential." And as a role model, you won't find a better prospect than Litsch, who recently became the first female basketball player inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

"My dad was an educator, and I've always sworn that nobody would ever call me a dumb jock," says Snodgrass, who scored as low as a "B" only twice in high school. "Kelli is someone who knows and understands that, because he's been there. She's a winner on the court and in the classroom, so she knows what kind of discipline it takes. She's always there for us." And speaking of being there, the Lady Bulldogs entered the 1992 NAIA Women's Division I Basketball Championship as the No. 3 seed looking for their sixth championship. The entire starting lineup that got edged in last year's finals is back, including Snodgrass and speedy six-foot gunner Linda Broomfield.

Snodgrass says she can still summon the aches from her losing battle with Fort Hays' bruising center Annette Wiles, and welcomes the added inside size Loftin and Litsch are bringing in. "There's a mystique surrounding this team, now," Litsch adds. "So, we always believe we should win." (The Lady Bulldogs' 141-3 home record supports her Celtic-ensue allusion.)

Ever the realist, Loftin sums up this team's chances: "To stay on top, we've had to learn to adjust both to our competition and our personnel," he says. "Last year, we were small so we played quick. This year, we're experienced but not deep. We'll have to find a way to adapt and focus on our strengths."

"It's not a challenge we haven't faced before."

To the closing comment, Southwestern has that air of a dynasty.

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# Oklahoma History- Cherokee Land Run

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

Land runs across the US are a staple part of its early history. The lands of Oklahoma went through a few different land runs, but none could match the sheer magnitude of the Cherokee Outlet Land Run of 1893. The run, which, quite possibly, is the largest land run in US history and potentially the world, took place on September 16th on the eastern front of a new piece of land received from the Cherokee natives as part of the Treaty of New Echota.

The Outlet land was located on the Oklahoma/Kansas border, just west of the Cherokee Reservations, and was central to the cattle drives (like the Chisholm Trail) out of Texas. Due to its "potential" for grazing, cattle ranchers, a.k.a. "Boomers", began to lease land in the Strip from the Cherokee. However, Congress quickly deemed grazing in the Outlet land forbidden and profits fell drastically leaving the Cherokee with no choice but to sell the land to the US government. This opened the land to settlement in 1893.

The fourth land run in Oklahoma, the Cherokee Outlet Land Run faced new issues as the promise of a better life lured in ranchers, farmers, tycoons, hunters, traders, bankers, and more. Many of these hopeful settlers were seeking reprieve from the economical downfall that became known as The Panic of 1893. The Panic was one of the most serious depressions to hit the US and it affected every piece of the economy. Speculated to begin with the wheat crop failure and price plummets of properties in South Africa and Australia, the depression quickly saw global markets sell U.S. stocks because the cash was backed by gold. With stocks plummeting, people rushed to withdraw their money from banks, crippling the credit lines for many businesses. This nation-wide panic left many without work and without a home. Looking to better their fortunes, these wayward souls gathered in droves as tens of thousands began to line up days before the event for run certificates.

These certificates were an attempt by Secretary of the Interior Hoke Smith to quell "sooners" – folks who snuck into land runs early and staked claims to highly sought-after deeds. He established only nine registration booths where people could get their certificates. The certificates were needed by individuals who had legitimate claims during the run. They would need to show both the claim and the certificate for the land to be granted. 115,000 certificates were handed out, but many more never got to register, and as many as 20,000 were still in line on the day before the run. This new rule caused a great deal of turmoil as waves of runners lined up for miles in the dry summer air, well away from any source of water and days before the event. While waiting, chaos broke out as



drunk belligerent home seekers grew violent, and heat strokes began to sweep through the crowds.

Smith assigned more cavalry troops and guards around the borders of the land and forced the civilians back. The new holding lines caused mass confusion among the restless civilians. One starting location, the Chillico reservation (near Arkansas City, Kansas), ran into so much confusion a stampede broke out and resulted in one confirmed death and perhaps more. While pushing the general starting line back, some officers permitted participants to begin from a point three miles inside the border. Protestors to the unfair advantage began to push back against the soldier's line until about 10 minutes before the noon start time, when the line broke, the soldiers fired, killing a man. The stampede continued unfazed which caused other nearby districts to break loose fearing they'd be left behind. Other stampedes and injuries were recorded all over the land as people fought to board trains into established cities and others leaped from the moving trains in an effort to be first.

The chaos of the Outlet Land Run affected the growth of the area for years as towns were over-built and land unsuitable for farming was abandoned. Even successful towns and farmers were feeling pressure as American commerce began to industrialize which reduced the need for small family farmers and the towns that relied on them.

## Food for Kids Match Fighting Childhood Hunger in Oklahoma

Donations to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Food for Kids Match help the organization as it finds innovative ways to provide food to children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through Sept. 30, all donations to the Regional Food Bank's Food for Kids Programs are matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$160,000 thanks to gifts from the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, Dolese Bros., Mark and Beth Brewer, David and Lezlie Hudiburg and David Gorham.

"Dolese Bros. believes that no child should ever have to worry where their next meal will come from. We are proud to partner with the Regional Food Bank for this opportunity to help provide meals to the next generation of Oklahomans," said Kermit Frank, director of communications and community relations at Dolese Bros. "We believe in supporting the communities where our employees live and work and the Regional Food Bank's Food for Kids Programs are crucial to making that happen."

As the school year begins, the Regional Food Bank and its partners are finding innovative ways to continue providing meals in hundreds of school districts across central and western Oklahoma, some of which have opted to host school virtually. In order to safely serve school districts and ensure that children are getting the nutritious food they need, the Regional Food Bank is

offering delivery of Backpack Program components and boxes of food for the School Pantry Program.

Innovative partnerships with school districts like Oklahoma City Public Schools will see food being delivered to Backpack Program students along bus routes. Backpack Program and School Pantry Program components for Yukon Public Schools will be delivered to the district's high school gymnasium, where the district will distribute the food to families with children who participate in the programs.

"Collaborations like these are important in providing food to the growing number of Oklahoma children who are living with food insecurity," said Deb Bunting, interim CEO of the Regional Food Bank. "The Regional Food Bank's Food for Kids Match helps to ensure these types of partnerships can continue."

The Backpack Program provides kid-friendly, nutritious food to elementary school children who have been identified by school staff as food insecure while the School Pantry Program provides chronically hungry middle and high school students with food to sustain them after school and over the weekends. The Kids Café Program and Summer Feeding Program are also part of the overall Food for Kids Programs at the Regional Food Bank.

Make a donation today by visiting [foodforkids.us](http://foodforkids.us) or by calling 405-600-3136.

## SWOSU Fall Enrollment Closes at 4,878

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's enrollment for the 2020 fall semester is better than expected.

SWOSU President Randy Beutler said the official number is 4,878 for both the Weatherford and Sayre campuses.

SWOSU had a decrease of 1.6% from the 2019 fall semester but, because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the university was expecting a larger decrease—possibly

anywhere from 5-10% down.

"We are very pleased how it turned out with all the uncertainties that faced universities across the nation this fall," Beutler said. "Most universities in the state of Oklahoma are experiencing a larger drop in enrollment so we are fortunate."

Beutler said the entire SWOSU staff worked hard in preparation for the fall semester and continues to work hard to meet the needs of its students.

## "The Coin Guy" Uncut Currency Sheets



In the world of currency collectors is a group who specializes in un-cut sheets of notes. Currency has always been printed on large sheets which were separated by cutting them apart. At first this was done by hand by women who worked at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving.



Trent Boesen

From 1922 to 1927 the Register of the Treasury was Harley V. Speelman whose signature appeared on notes. His signature can be seen on Large-sized notes known as "horse blankets" to collectors. Mr. Speelman had his own collection of un-cut currency. He, because of his capacity, took advantage by acquiring un-cut sheets. Although no un-cut sheets were sold to the public this did not stand in his way. He called in his favors and Treasury officials made sure he got them.

Do you have concerns about your collection but didn't know how to find out? Call the Coin Guy in Weatherford, Ok at 580-890-8076. We can meet at Jerry's and help answer your questions. Thanks for reading.

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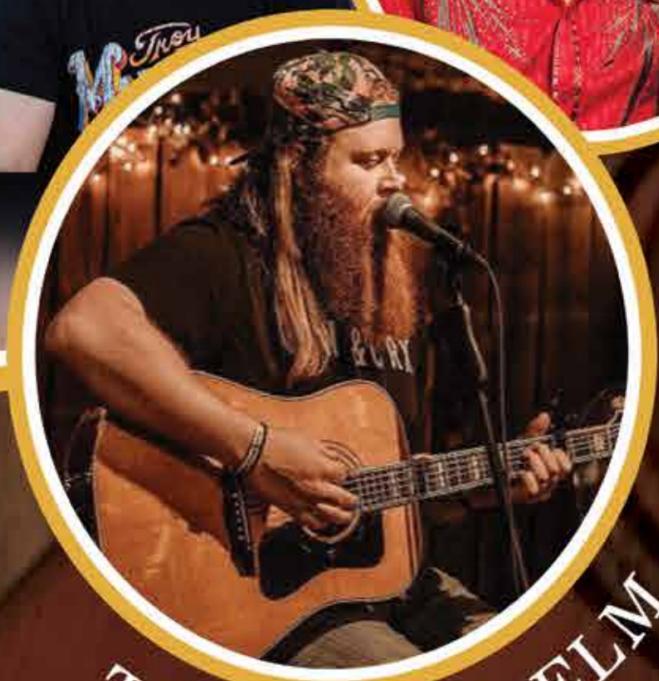
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