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## Sage signs with University of Arkansas

Chase Wright  
Staff Writer

Ashlyn Sage, a shooting guard (SG) on Weatherford High School's Lady Eagles basketball team, has officially signed with Arkansas Razorback Women's Basketball. Ashlyn is one of the first basketball players from Weatherford to go to a collegiate power 5 conference team - a feat that surprised no one that knew her. A multi-sport athlete, Ashlyn has adopted a champion's mentality that has served her well on and off the court.

When the recruitment team for the Razorbacks first saw her play during the summer league games in Texas, they quickly noticed her prowess on the court. Not only did she display a dominate defensive game inside the paint she also opened the court for her teammates with offensive scoring and driving plays. She cares about winning, and she has realized the best way to get there is to listen to your coaches and get your teammates involved in the game. Adaptability, long-range accuracy, and aggressive defense are the cornerstones of her game.

Ashlyn has received numerous accolades and nominations throughout her career, including VYPE's Top 100 (2019, 2020), All Conference (2018, 2019, 2020), Tulsa World Top Players (2020), and she has led Oklahoma in FT% and 3PT% for 2020.

With all the spotlight she's been in, her coaches and friends see that she's still the kindhearted and hardworking kid she's always been. When asked about her views on the campus, Ashlyn was excited because she'll have some familiar faces alongside her. Two of her friends have also



Krystal Blackwell/WW

Ashlyn Sage, pictured with her mom and dad Debbie and David Sage front row and siblings Tate, Shelby and Ethan show their support, she signs her letter of intent to play basketball at the University of Arkansas.

committed to the University of Arkansas, and they got to tour together at one of the fall football games. "We just had a blast. We met so many people. It was really fun."

With a powerhouse lineup of other signees coming to

the Razorback squad next year, the future for Ashlyn and the Hogs looks bright.




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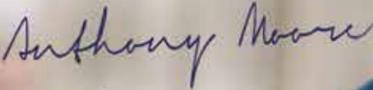
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**Evelyn "Penny" Lucille Baker**

Evelyn "Penny" Lucille Baker, also known as Evie by her family, was born to Charlie and Zora (Gray) Pennington on February 6, 1922, on the family farm near Reydon, Oklahoma, and passed away on Sunday, November 8, 2020, in Watonga, OK having reached the age of 98 years, 9 months and 2 days. She was a member of the Fay United Methodist Church.



Penny was raised at Reydon and graduated with the class of 1941. She attended Southwestern State College and earned a teaching certification. She taught in Roger Mills County before going to teach at Oakwood. While there, she met Clifford "Snip" Baker. They married in Watonga on May 11, 1944. She not only taught but also she worked at Boeing in Wichita as a Rosie the Riveter during WWII and later served as assistant postmaster in Fay. She was a true matriarch and was devoted to her husband of 76 years, her four daughters, 11 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. Penny loved the farm and lived there for 66 years before moving to Watonga in 2016. She was a member of the Fay United Methodist Church.

Penny is survived by 4 daughters: Janice Stinson (husband Allen) of Fay, Phyllis Hightower (husband Gary) of Watonga, Trinna Caldwell (husband Rod) of Watonga, and Lane Mahoney of Yukon, Oklahoma. Grandchildren: Brad Stinson (wife Tanya), Chad Stinson (wife Rossemmary), Thad Stinson (wife Skye), Brian Hightower (wife Kristyn), Greg Hightower (wife Jayme), Hollie Williams (husband Jason), Kyle Caldwell, Bethany Parham (husband Loren), Dustin Mahoney (Mika), Lacey Savage (husband Will), and Hilary Mahoney. Great-grandchildren: Sebastian, Angelina, Veronica, Rebecca, and baby girl Stinson, Noah, Ady, Makenzie, Morgan, Maegan, and Gideon Hightower, Braxton and Baron Williams, Ezra and Myra Caldwell, Caden, Kinsley, Kyler, and Creed Parham, Gracie, Carson, and Maguire Mahoney, Maverick and Everett Savage, Jordan Mahoney and Preston Webb.

She was preceded in death by her parents 6 brothers: Parker, Cliff, Dee, Earl, Percy, Pascal; 2 sisters: Auba Pennington and Irma Womack, and son-in-law Mike Mahoney.

**William James "Bill" Hull**

Funeral services for William James "Bill" Hull, 40 year-old Weatherford resident, were held Saturday, November 14, 2020, 2:00 P.M. in Life Fellowship Church in Weatherford with Chris Dunn officiating. Burial will follow in North Burns Cemetery in Burns Flat under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



Bill was born September 16, 1980, in East Liverpool, Ohio, to William Daniel and Paula (Yourex) Hull and passed away Saturday, November 7, 2020, in Weatherford. Bill was raised and attended school in Liverpool until the age of 14 when his family moved to Burns Flat. He graduated from Burns Flat High School with the Class of 1999. Bill enlisted in the Marine Corp for four years, serving in Okinawa, Australia, Maryland, and Camp Pendleton. He met Lorena M. Alvarez while stationed at Camp Pendleton, and they married November 8, 2002, in Norwalk, CA before moving back to Oklahoma. They settled in Weatherford where he worked as a mechanic in the oilfield for Baker Hughes, Weatherford International and Quintana Energy Services. Bill enjoyed cooking, working on cars, collecting tools, and spending time with family and friends. He was a good husband for 18 years

and a devoted father who loved volunteering with the Boy Scouts and taking his children fishing.

Bill is survived by his wife of 18 years Lorena Hull of their home in Weatherford; two sons: Wyatt and Bryar Hull; one daughter Isabel Hull all of the home in Weatherford; one brother Michael Hull of Elk City, one sister Rachael Lowery of Edmond; one step-sister Danielle Leeson of Anmoore, West Virginia; his father Bill Hull of Erie, Pennsylvania; and step-father Tommy Brannum of Dill City. He was preceded in death by his mother, Paula (Yourex) Brannum.

**Eugene Hall**

Funeral Services for Eugene Hall, 88, Clinton resident, were held at 2pm, Saturday, November 14, 2020, officiated by Patrick Peters and Pastor Bobby Stewart. Burial followed in the Butler Cemetery with military honors and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

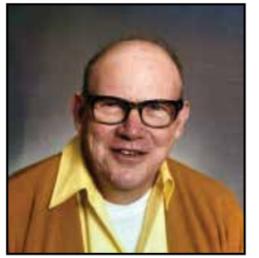


Marion Eugene Hall was born April 23, 1932, in Butler, Oklahoma, to Robert I. and Gladys (Cravens) Hall and passed away Monday, November 9, 2020, in the Oklahoma Heart Hospital South in Oklahoma City, OK with wife Reta by his side. Eugene, as he was referred to by family and friends, grew up in Butler and Clinton. He attended his first grade of school at Pie Flat School then he transferred to Butler Elementary School. He moved to Clinton at the age of 12 with his family. He began his first job, delivering the morning and evening Oklahoma City Newspaper. As he grew older and was a teenager, he worked for his Uncle Lee Creach as a Gas Station Attendant. On April 23, 1949, his 17th birthday, he joined the Oklahoma National Guard, HQ. Co.1st BN 179t INF Div. They were called to duty in September 1950 to 1952, serving at Ft. Polk, LA, Japan and Korea. He came home to Clinton and finished his high school on the GI Bill. He rejoined the National Guard in 1954 and then transferred to regular Army on January 1, 1955. From 1955 to 1957 he served in the INF at Ft. Chaffee, AR, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN, Eielson Air Force Base, AK and Ft. Lewis, WA. At that time he went to the 9th Combat ENG, serving for three years in Germany from 1957 till 1959 and Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. In 1960 he went Airborne in the 307th ENGR. BN 82 ABN Div. Ft. Brag, NC; and in 1961, he served in the 7th Group in Laos. He was reported Missing in Action (MIA) on January 18, 1961, serving on White Star and Ft. Brag NC; the first group in Vietnam, Okinawa, Korea, Thailand and Taiwan: The 8th Group in the Panama: the 5th Group in Vietnam and was wounded on May 14, 1970. Eugene's last overseas assignment was MAG China, Taipei, Taiwan. He returned to Ft. Brag, NC and served one year as Operations Sgt. HHC 20th ENGR BDG and Retired from the United States Army on August 31, 1975. While in the military he served in Combat for six months in Korea in 1951 and 1952 and six months in Vietnam 1963 to 64, one month in 1965 and one year in 1971. He went on Expeditionary Missions in Lebanon for three months in 1958; Laos for six months in 1961 and 1962; Korea one year in 1965 and Thailand for six months in 1971. He has received the Bronze Star, 2nd Award, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Award and Joint Service Commendation. He has also received Combat Infantry, 2nd award; Master Parachute with 106 jumps and Scuba; His Foreign Jump Wings included South Korea, South Vietnam, Thailand and Taiwan. After retirement, he worked for the Vinnell Company in Saudi Arabia for 3 and 1/2 years, training the King's National Guard. When he returned home, he took some time off, traveled and looked up some of his Army buddies. He worked a short time for an oil Field Service Company before returning home. He then began a career with Public Service Company of Oklahoma in 1981 and retired there with 15 years of service in 1989. After 54 years of bachelorhood, he met Reta (Selby) Hardy, and they were married on April 26, 1986, at the Ft. Sill Main Post Chapel by the Chief of Chaplains, Lt. Col. David White.

Eugene was a longtime and faithful member of the Church of Christ; he loved God and Country, and when he joined anything, it was for life. He always lived by the Motto: "Veterans Serving Veterans." He volunteered at the Clinton Veterans Center for many years and helped numerous veterans over the years. He was a Life Member of the Special Operations Association, Special Forces Association, First Special Service Force Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart Association, Association of the United States Army, 82nd Airborne Division Association, Combat Infantrymen's Association, 45th Infantry Division Association, 179 Infantry Regiment Association, The Disabled American Veterans, and The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Eugene is a 32nd Degree Mason and Life Member in Clinton Lodge #339, Weatherford Lodge #138, Cordell Lodge #127, The Scottish Rite and India, and Shriners International. He is also a member of the National Rifle Association, The Whittington Center Gun Club, and The Association of Mature American Citizens and The Republican National Committee. Eugene, along with wife Reta, loved going to conventions and visiting with friends from around the world and working together in all the Veterans Organizations. He is preceded in death by his parents and two sisters: Evelyn Baumwart and Francis Hall. He is survived by his wife Reta, of the home; step-children: Billy McCoy of Clinton, OK, Raylene (McCoy) Ray and husband Tony of Foss, OK and Gena (Hardy) Cornell and husband Bryan of Clinton, OK. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren: Travis, Whitney, Katy, Justin, Logan, Lexi, Landon, Jacob, Maci, Will, Jordan, Jessica and Jackson; 10 great-grandchildren: Travis, Jr., Isaac, Courtney, Micah, Elisha, Jordyn, Reece, Colin, Addler and Klara; one great-great-grandson Maverick; two nephews: Donald Baumwart and wife Bobbie and Gary Baumwart and wife Vickie; and one niece Alice (Baumwart) Cannon and their families.

**Jesse Hyman**

Graveside Services for Jesse Hyman, 84, former Elk City resident were held 2pm on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, in the Silent Home Cemetery in Strong City, OK, officiated by family and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Jesse N. Hyman was born April 17, 1936, to John and Lula Ethel (Hill) Hyman in Strong City, OK and passed away Sunday, November 8, 2020, in the Great Plains Medical Center in Elk City, OK. Jesse's mother passed away when he was 6 months old, so he went to live with his Uncle and Aunt (Albert and Ola Hubbard) in Elk City. Jesse was raised in Elk City and was drafted into the Army before he graduated from high school. After his military service, he returned back to Western Oklahoma and began a career with Kelly Milk Distribution. It later was sold to Hiland Milk Distributors, and he worked there with them until his retirement. Most recently, Jesse became a resident at River Valley - previously known as Grace Living Center. He is preceded in death by his parents his aunt and uncle that raised him, and brothers, Herman, Lloyd, Elvis, David, Raymond, Kenneth and Melvin. He is survived by his brother Harold Hyman Clinton and several nieces and nephews.

**Guadalupe Roque**

Memorial Services for Guadalupe Roque, 59, Elk City resident were held at 2pm on Thursday, November 12, 2020 in the Christ Our Hope Church in Clinton, OK, officiated by Pastor Juanita Belnotes and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home. Guadalupe Roque was born May 1, 1961, to Manuel Roque and Luisa (Baca) Roque in Hondo, TX. He passed away Sunday, November 8, 2020. Guadalupe was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers: Jesus Roque, Simon Roque, Gilbert Roque and two sisters: Dolores Puente and Diana Mendoza. He is survived by sister Margarita Lilliebridge of Elk City and three brothers: Juan Roque of Dill City, OK, Joe Roque, Arapaho of OK and Carlos Roque of Burns Flat, OK. He is also survived by his very favorite nieces and nephews and his very best friend Jennifer Roque. I'll love you always!

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The Weatherford Eagles took home the gold trophy with a 34-6 win against Altus Bulldogs. The Eagles were a part of the Oklahoma Independent Youth Football League consisting of teams throughout Western Oklahoma. Congratulations on a winning season!

Courtesy of Sarah Shultz



Celebrating Veterans Day were Western Oklahoma School siblings Barrett and Jada Blatnick of Weatherford.

Courtesy of Jena Skarda



Budding artist Ava Johnson of Foss shows her winning Veterans Day poster. This was the first year WOCS had a coloring contest and an essay contest for the older students. The other entries are displayed in the background.

Courtesy of Jena Skarda

## Lawmakers Request Investigation of Education Department in Wake of Auditor's Findings

A group of lawmakers commented on the recent report from State Auditor and Inspector Cindy Byrd regarding the investigative audit of EPIC Charter Schools performed at the request of Governor Stitt and called for further action as a result of the findings.

"As lawmakers who have advocated for increased accountability, we take the allegations against EPIC Charter Schools (EPIC) very seriously. If the allegations against EPIC are proven to be accurate, they should be held accountable. While there may be disagreements as to the facts of this case, there can be no debate as to the seriousness of the issues raised by the state auditor.

"One of the most serious issues contained in the auditor's report, however, does not deal with EPIC specifically. Throughout the report, the auditor notes the failure of the State Department of Education (SDE) to properly monitor the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS) for compliance. Specifically, the state auditor states that SDE has 'no process in place to evaluate actual compliance with the written policies

and procedures, or with applicable laws, statutes, or Administrative Rules.' The auditor goes on to state that 'there is virtually no follow-up or on-site review conducted by SDE as it relates to the actual records underlying the data reported.'

"If the state auditor is correct in her assessment that the State Department of Education repeatedly neglected its responsibility to ensure compliance with OCAS and other required reports, one must ask if this dereliction of duty was confined solely to EPIC Charter Schools or if it permeates throughout our public education system. If SDE did in fact routinely fail to perform its regulatory duties, this could result in the discovery of hundreds of millions of dollars of misused funds.

"It is the duty of the Legislature to protect taxpayer

dollars, and as such we are respectfully requesting that Governor Stitt task the State Auditor and Inspector's office to conduct an investigative audit of the State Department of Education to determine the full extent and impact of its potential failure to ensure compliance."

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For Sale- Everett motion recliner, navy blue, USB charging cord, hidden arm storage, used 5 months. Excellent condition. \$200. 580-343-2189

For Sale- Outdoor wrought iron table with 4 wrought iron chairs, \$100. Like new, well-built welcome metal bench, \$85. Old-fashioned, all wood rocker, excellent condition, \$85. Antique milk can converted into a very nice cushioned seat, \$40. Call 580-613-0108.

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For Sale- 18" Muccullough Chainsaw brand new chain with case and extra chain. \$50. (2) Ryobi Weed eaters. Bolens weed eater 10" Craftsman tablesaw. (580) 819-1399

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Simply Done Bath Tissue 12 Double Rolls.....	\$8.99
Fiora Paper Towels 6 giant Rolls.....	\$5.99
Simply Done Paper Plates 44 count.....	\$4.99
Simply Done Knives, Fork, Spoons 96 ct.....	\$3.59
Simply Done Napkins 250 ct.....	\$1.59

Frozen	
Pillsbury Grands Biscuits 12 ct.....	2 for \$5.00
Village Pie Maker Pies All Varieties.....	\$11.99
Reames Egg Noodles 16oz.....	2 for \$5.00
Bird's Eye Steamfresh Sweet Peas or Brussels Sprouts.....	2 for \$4.00
J&L Sugar Free Baked Pies All Varieties.....	\$4.99

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# LOCAL & AREA NEWS



**Mike Smith**  
News Director

**CLINTON/FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS** - The President of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce Julie Caldwell says it's unclear as to what the festival of lights will look like this year due to COVID 19. However, she says there will not be a parade this year. The festival of lights is held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

**CADDO COUNTY FATALITY** - The east-bound lanes of interstate 40 near Hydro were closed for several hours due to a fatality accident last week. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says 59 year old Martin Hoselton of El Reno died at the scene of the accident. Fifty-four year old Otis Baker of Hinton was treated and released from Weatherford Regional Hospital. Troopers say a collision in the outside lane diverted traffic to the inside lane. OHP says Hoselton was driving in the inside lane with his flashers on and rear-ended a semi that was driven by baker.

**CLINTON SCHOOLS/ FACE MASK REQUIREMENT** - Clinton School officials implemented a policy that requires staff and students in grades Pre-K through 12 to wear face coverings while at school. Superintendent Tyler Bridges says the district is trying to be pro-active and avoid the risk of having to go virtual. Bridg-

es says the district has recently seen a larger uptick in staff positive and quarantine cases. District officials urge the washing of hands, wearing of masks and watching your distance as ways to prevent the spread of COVID 19.

**WEATHERFORD SCHOOL BOARD AUDIT** - The Weatherford School Board of Education approved the fiscal year 2020 audit report. James Kuykendall of Britton, Kuykendall & Miller CPA's say the district had an ending fund balance of just over \$3 million. Kuykendall says the audit revealed no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies.

**WEATHERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION** - Two Weatherford police officers were given letters of commendation recently. Patrolmen Kyle Ellerbeck and Chaz Hickman were recognized for their actions during an armed robbery on East Univesity last month. Detective Matt Bartel says their immediate actions and calm control of the situation prevented further threat to the safety of citizens.

**CUSTER COUNTY OSU/COMMUNITY GARDEN** - New Custer County OSU AG Ed-

ucator Zack Henderson is wanting to see how much interest there is to start a new community/teaching garden in the spring of 2021. Henderson has applied for a community improvement grant to help get started. The garden would be located across from the Weatherford Food & Resource Center, which will benefit from all excess produce from the garden. Anyone who has interest should call Zack Henderson at the Custer County extension office.

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# PUBLIC RECORDS

**Arrested**

Clayton Charles Kerlick, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with attempting to elude an officer, DUI, and operating a motor vehicle while under influence of alcohol, and failure to stop at a stop sign.

Jake Dylan Reynolds, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with domestic assault and battery, intoxication in a public place, obstructing an officer, and resisting arrest

Anthony Michael Pena, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged on Custer County warrant.

Rachel Allynn Watan, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with domestic assault & battery.

Dylan Donald Spencer, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with larceny of gasoline and fraudulent concealment of property.

Kyle Justice, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with unauthorized use of motor vehicle.

Aaron Dwight Payne, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with threatening to perform act of violence and protective order violation.

Mason Bailey Dees, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with 3 counts forged instrument.

Anthony Michael Edward Pena, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with feloniously pointing firearm, possess firearms after conviction or during probation.

Catherine Cheyenne Six, arrested by Custer County Sheriff's Office, charged with Rule 8 bench warrant and DUI.

David Dean Stotler, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with domestic assault & battery

and obstructing an officer.

**Out on Bond**

Christy Michelle Jones, arrested by Washita County Sheriff's Office, charged with possession of controlled dangerous substance and possession of paraphernalia.

Clayton Kerlick, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with eluding an officer, DUI and failure to stop at stop sign.



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## HIGHER GROUND Reflections on Life



The following quotes are from UNFINISHED a book by Richard Stearns, former President of World Vision: Meaning, purpose, and significance are found only by aligning our lives with God's purposes; in lives committed to following Jesus Christ.

God didn't create any extras meant to just stand on the sidelines and watch the story unfold; he created players meant to be on center stage.

The assignment Jesus gave to the disciples. . . was a clarion call to follow him by joining him in his mission to reconcile humankind to God's purposes. It was a call to go into the world to reclaim, reform, and restore it for Christ.

The first disciples were on fire. Nothing could stop them. Their radical lifestyles were characterized by a sense of urgency and divine purpose. . . no price was too high to pay. Affluent, comfortable, and distracted, Christians today

seem to have lost the fire to change the world.

If we are not personally engaged in God's great mission in the world, then we have missed the very thing he created us to do.

Three choices people must make.

1. Believe there is no story. Life is random and without meaning.
2. Make up your story. "What's right for me may not be right for you."
3. Becoming part of God's story.

If God is the Author of the big story and you are a character in that story, then it follows that the author created you to play a key role in His story. Doesn't it make more sense to believe that our story has an author than to believe that everything we see and experience is meaningless and without purpose?

The tragedy of modern man is not that he knows less about the meaning of his own life, but that it bothers him less and less? Vaclav Havelli.

Truth ignored is no better foundation for our lives than no truth at all.

The truth is that the only things we can really know

about God are the things he has chosen to reveal to us in one way or another.

The story of Scripture is the story of a Father's love for his children. It is the story of a Father faithfully reaching out to the children who rejected him. It is the story of a loving God who never gives up.

God. . . decided long ago that he would restore his relationship with his children in a costly way, by himself taking the punishment for their rebellion because he could not bear for them to be punished so harshly. He would be the Lamb of God sacrificed once and for all to pay for the sins of God's children.

The early disciples were given a choice. They could walk away and return to their former lives as fishermen, laborers, and tax collectors. They chose obedience instead. The disciples proclaimed the gospel with revolutionary fervor throughout Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. They were driven, Nothing was more important. The truth had implications.

To comment: [jhm82@82outlook.com](mailto:jhm82@82outlook.com) or call 580-772-2311

**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.**



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**Happy Birthday Wishes for November 18th** - Dylan Jarvis, Donna Barnett, Patsy Girard, Steven Hardebeck, Lloyd Horn, Michele Lee, Betty Mccray, Layne Mitchel, Pastor Wanda Murray, Roy Pope, Kim Quintero, Jeff Ross, Deirdrah Smith, Larry Snider, Braden Terrell, Dennis Williams; **November 19th** - Brooklyn Bailey, Walt Brandhorst, Shawn Brown, Natalie Houck, Landon Lorenz, Megan Meek, Whitney Orum, Nancy Stephenson, Mindy Taylor, Ryan Willis; **November 20th** - Daniel Blackwolf, Becky Brandhorst, Chellie Cox, Phil Hoover, Kenneth Hoover, Polly Hulsey, Kasi Kincaid, Blake Pearson, Neva Taff, Kyia Trent, Mike Trent, Tanner Wilburn; **November 21st** - Leanna Aycock, Tyler Carder, Brian Gossen, Linda Hays, Chris Holt, Reyna Mcdaniel, Emily Meyers, Craig Morton, Debbie Schwartz, Catherine Stewart; **November 22nd** - Keely Anderson, Henry Ross, Cindy Broadbent, Dakota Estes, Dorothy Lafauer, Naida Meyer, Alan Newman, Mike Taylor, Jenny Vincent; **November 23rd** - Shelia Goerend, Shelly Lavelle, Benny Pruitt, Annbriella Roberts, Kayla Shepherd, Karen Spain, Zach Weichel, Austin Wile, Dustin Williams, Carla Wilson, Cody Wright; **November 24th** - Beckiebeebech, Cara Coy, John Flaming, Paula Isch, John Locke, Steven Sawatzky, Leon Sellers, Kenlee Smith.

# SPORTS *Presented by:*



## SWOSU selects newest Bulldogs of the Week



**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The SWOSU Athletic Department is proud to continue the selection for Bulldogs of the Week during the fall by choosing Ashley Jekel of SWOSU Volleyball and

Aaron Jeffreys from Bulldog Football as the latest award winners.

The award is brought to you by Wright Wradio, the

home of the Bulldogs over the airwaves on both 95.5 'The Coyote' and 100.3 'Coyote Classic.'

Jekel (Edmond, Okla.) is a sophomore setter for the Bulldogs and she chose to attend SWOSU because of the family atmosphere and great people here. Her favorite memory thus far in college was going to Silver Dollar City with her team last year after a tournament.

Quote: "The best part of this semester has been being able to continue to get better and practice as a team."

Favorite Athlete: Baker Mayfield

Personal Goals for Season: To get better in my position and continue to carry on the SWOSU Volleyball tradition.

Jeffreys (Moore, Okla.) is a redshirt sophomore tight end on the SWOSU Football team and he chose to become a Bulldog because it gave him the best opportunity to get an education while playing for a great coaching staff. His favorite memory in his time at SWOSU was defeating Southern Nazarene last season on Senior Day.

Quote: "The best part about this challenging semester was still having the opportunity to wake up on a Saturday in the fall and play football. Even though we didn't have a season due to the pandemic, the practices we had and the competitiveness that came with them was fun to be a part of."

Favorite Athlete: Kobe Bryant

Personal Goal for Season: Continue to improve every day as a person, player and leader.

## Great American Conference Announces Return to Play Dates

On Monday, the Great American Conference announced second-semester start dates for the conference sports of Men's & Women's Basketball, Volleyball, and Women's Soccer.

GAC Basketball will feature a 20-game divisional schedule, beginning on Thursday, January 7, with SWOSU in Ada to face East Central before hosting Southeastern Oklahoma State on Saturday, January 9 inside the Pioneer Cellular Event Center. Full SWOSU Basketball schedules can be found at the links: Men's | Women's.

GAC Volleyball will implore a 10-week, 10-match divisional schedule that opens on Tuesday, January 26 and runs through Tuesday, March 30. SWOSU Volleyball opens the season at Southern Nazarene on January 26 and they'll play their first match inside the Pioneer Cellular Event Center on February 2 against East Central. View the complete SWOSU Volleyball schedule at this link.

GAC Women's Soccer will feature a seven-week schedule in which each team will play six conference contests and SWOSU opens the season on Saturday, February 27 by hosting Northwestern Oklahoma State at the Athletic Complex in Weatherford. See the current SWOSU Soccer schedule at the link.

"I can't say enough about the work done by our presidents and administrators to place the GAC in a position to safely resume competition," GAC Commissioner Will Prewitt said. There's a lot of work to be done, and we are keeping our fingers crossed regarding public health conditions across Arkansas and Oklahoma, but we are hopeful to see the lights go back on for games on January 7."

In addition, it was announced the SWOSU will host the 2021 spring GAC Cross Country Championships on

Saturday, February 27. Formats and dates for the men's soccer regular season as well as the championships for basketball, volleyball, and soccer will be determined at a later date.

"Our student-athletes have been working diligently this fall while patiently awaiting their return to competition and we are looking forward to them getting that opportunity beginning in January," SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton said. "I would like to commend our coaches for approaching the fall semester with a positive outlook and making the best of the situation they were in. We can't wait to see our teams back in action this spring. Go Dawgs!"

Members will play spring sports schedules as previously approved by the conference's Council of Athletic Administrators and Council of Presidents.

SWOSU Baseball opens their 33-game conference schedule on February 19-20 against Arkansas-Monticello while SWOSU Softball is also moving to a 33-game conference schedule, with play beginning on February 26-27 against Southern Arkansas. Each team can open their regular season with non-conference competition beginning at the start of February.

The conference office also released a fall 2021 football schedule that kicks off a full 11-game round-robin slate on Thursday, September 2, with SWOSU hosting Henderson State.

The Great American Conference will continue to evaluate NCAA, federal, state, and local developments and provide updated revisions as further information becomes available.

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# The Debt



**Kelly R. Kilhoffer**  
Oklahoma History Enthusiast

We owe our soldiers a debt of gratitude, especially those of 'The Greatest Generation,' those who served in World War II. In my opinion, they truly are the greatest generation. The sense of patriotic duty could be found in everyday citizens throughout the country. A generation of men and women who "anted up" and did their duty, no matter how menial or overwhelming the task may have

been. They had the strength to dig in and do what was required of them. Even the children did their part by collecting scrap iron, paper, and working in the victory gardens. One didn't have to serve in a military branch to be a patriot. Patriotism was, and still is, born of ones love of country.

After WWII, those who returned to life, as they once knew it, did their best to put the war behind them. Many could close that chapter and put it away on a shelf, but not all. There is no shame in how one handles the horrors of war. No one is capable of walking in their shoes, therefore incapable of judging them. That is how it should be. Even 70-plus years later, they deserve our gratitude.

My father was called to duty in 1943. He received a one-year deferment. In 1944, he reported back and was told he was no longer needed. I often wonder if my brothers and sister would be here today if he had served in '43. It haunts me to think that someone out there took my father's place. I often wonder if he lost his life and how I might live to honor the sacrifice he made for my

family. My Dad did serve his country in the Korean War. The stories of our Mom following him from base to base and his stories of his fellow soldiers are some of my most precious memories. Many call The Korean War the "Forgotten War." I am sure South Korea and those who served, along with their families, have not forgotten it.

Vietnam was a different kind of war. In the eyes of a nation growing increasingly dysfunctional, many Americans could not separate the politics from the soldier. Sadly, many were treated disgracefully when they returned stateside. For those who committed such horrible acts against our veterans, they will answer for those actions in the hereafter. Only recently has our nation made efforts to right those wrongs. It is clear that war is war, and no matter how you view the politics of it, you MUST stand behind your military men and women and support them.

Since the times of Vietnam, we have learned to respect our service members again. We would like to think the soldier fights for us, you and me, and to a point that is true, but on the battle field, they fight for the soldier to their left and to their right. That bond of brotherhood is strong, still the same no matter the war, and it is lifelong. I will respect them to my dying breath.

Honor, duty, sacrifice and a sense of service is not reserved for the military, it is appointed to each citizen. As citizens, the best we can do to show honor and respect for their sacrifice is to pledge ourselves to our country

and serve faithfully. Learning the "true" history of our country is important, but to understand it is vital. Right things have happened, wrong things have happened, but it is our duty as American citizens to consider the whole of it. History is a record of what happened at that place in time. It is not for us to judge but, rather, to understand and decide which parts to repeat and which parts to correct. Stand up for what is right and denounce what is wrong. We owe to those brave souls to move forward as a better nation, not worse.



Photo provided by www.nationalww2museum.org

In honor of those who serve and those who have paid the price of our freedom, I say, "Thank you from the depths of my soul. I will never forget, and I will forever be in your debt." That's what's underneath this hat.

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## "The Coin Guy"

### Miniature California Gold Coins

Trent Boesen

During the California gold rush small coins were scarce. To remedy this situation private assayers in California began striking small-denomination gold coins. Their small sizes made it difficult to handle. When compared to their face value they were frequently under-weight in gold content.

On October 15, 2020, an auction in Dallas, Texas featured one of the biggest collections of small California gold pieces. The designs consisted of Native Americans and President George Washington in round and hexagonal shapes.

The above pictured coin is a gold round Washington quarter-dollar dated 1872. It was certified by the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation as a Mint State 65. It realized \$1,500.

Do you have concerns about collecting coins or currency? Then call The Coin Guy at 580-890-8076. We can meet at Jerry's and talk about them. Thanks for reading.

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