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December 23-29, 2020 • 10040 Hwy 54 • Weatherford • (580) 772-5939 • email: sales@westokweekly.com • www.westokweekly.com • Vol. 6 No. 50

Thomas Terriers bring home the silver ball

Danny Henderson
Wright Wradio Sports Director

The pursuit of an eleventh gold ball by the Thomas Terriers football team will have to wait for another season.

The Terriers met the Cashion Wildcats last Saturday evening for the Class A state football championship at Wantland Stadium on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. Cashion prevailed by the final score of 34-7. It was a re-match of a game played earlier in the season on September 18 that Cashion won, 28-7.

Cashion struck first when junior quarterback Ben Harman capped off a 37-yard drive in ten plays on a 2-yard run with 8:46 left in the opening quarter. The extra point attempt was missed by place kicker Lance Christensen with Cashion leading, 6-0. The Wildcats would score again with less than a minute gone in the second quarter on a 48-yard touchdown pass from Harman to senior Brexten Green who would convert on the 2-point attempt pushing the score to 14-0 with 11:06 remaining in the first half that is where the score stayed at halftime.

Thomas received the second half kickoff and went 72 yards in eleven plays culminated by senior quarterback Jaxon Ward's 1-yard run. The extra point by Ryden Luper was good and Thomas cut the lead in half, 14-7 with 6:58 remaining in the third quarter. The Terriers did not find the end zone the rest of the game as the offense struggled with moving the ball against Cashion's stingy defense. In the earlier game Occasion held the Terriers' offense to 178 total yards and limited them to 189 total yards in the title game.



Cashion then scored one more time in the third on another keeper by Harman followed by two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Green scored from eight yards out and Landon LaGasse scored on a 19-yard touchdown pass from Harman. The extra point was missed after the TD toss.

The win gave Cashion its first-ever state championship in eleven-man football and the first since 1981. Thomas finished the season with a 12-2 record after making an appearance in the playoffs for the sixty-second time. This game was the last high school football contest played in Oklahoma for the 2020 season.

State Board of Education suspends school report card letter grades for 2020-21 school year



OKLAHOMA
STATE DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
— JOY HOFMEISTER —
STATE SUPERINTENDENT of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The Oklahoma State Board of Education approved a one-year suspension of the Oklahoma School Report Card letter grades for the 2020-21 school year. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister said the move is necessary in light of the significant disruptions in instruction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

States across the nation have been exploring the impact of COVID-19 on their respective school accountability systems since the Spring of 2020. Hofmeister said it has become clear that the abrupt end to the 2019-20 school year and tumult of the current school year made it necessary to disentangle accountability from the administering of assessments this spring.

"The reality of 2020 impedes our ability to provide the public with information that can be used to compare school's progress year over year. We are committed to providing schools and the public with actionable, meaningful and transparent data – and that relies on credible trend data that can be used to make valid inferences about school quality and performance," said Hofmeister.

"Our priority is to now provide schools with as much information as we can on how students may have been impacted when compared to grade-level expectations, with an emphasis on the impact to students most at risk of falling behind academically."

Students will still take federally required tests during the spring. While assessment results will not factor into the report card, they will help inform how students have been impacted academically and what supports are needed. Academic assessments are given in English language arts, mathematics and science for grades 3-8, as well as the ACT or SAT to high school juniors.

The board voted unanimously to approve the measure. In other action, the Board of Education unanimously approved giving districts the opportunity to request a waiver to the qualitative evaluation portion of the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (TLE) system. The professional learning requirement of the TLE system remains in place.

"COVID-19 has impacted accountability on many levels. Right now, districts are finding it challenging to complete the observations and evaluations," said Hofmeister. "This optional waiver will relieve pressure on the districts as they navigate this pandemic and keep their focus on supporting students."

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Robert Wayne Jackson

Visitation for Robert Wayne Jackson was from 10am to 5pm on Friday, December 11, 2020, at Ray and Martha's Funeral Home in Cordell, Oklahoma. Graveside service was held at 2pm on Saturday, December 12, 2020, at the Hobart Rose Cemetery, Hobart, Oklahoma.



Jeff of Oklahoma City; one brother Marion Sawatzky and wife Sandra of Adams; one sister Joann Meget and husband Mark of Denton, Texas; one sister-in-law Grace Sawatzky of Weatherford; three grandchildren: Jerry Ray "Trey" Ulrich III, Megan Nicole Rose, and Stephanie Gierhart; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Richard and Orlie.

Darrel E. Brooks, Sr.

Darrel E. Brooks, Sr. was born October 2, 1938, to Gene and Cora Mae (Clayborn) Brooks in Hinton, OK. He passed away Saturday December 12, 2020, at the Binger Nursing Home in Binger at the age of 82. Darrel attended Hinton Schools. He served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. Darrel married his high school sweetheart Jo Nell Thompson, on December 8, 1961, in El Reno. They lived in Hinton where Darrel worked for Kenneth Darrah at the Chevrolet Garage and for Dennis Howard at the Pontiac Garage. He later worked for Sears in Oklahoma City and at TG&Y in El Reno as a mechanic. He and Jo Nell moved to Weatherford, and he worked at Raven. Darrel enjoyed watching TV, spending time with his family and enjoying his grandkids. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior in Odessa, TX in 1966. He and Jo Nell enjoyed watching Billy Graham and Charles Stanley on TV.



Darrel was preceded in death by his parents Gene and Cora Mae Brooks, daughter Deborah Pitchford, siblings: John Brooks, Betty Deevers, Gyola Melton, and Roy Brooks.

He is survived by his wife Jo Nell of Hinton; four children: Elizabeth Pavich of York, PA, Becca Klassen and husband Raymond of Lookeba, Clint Brooks of Ponca City, and Darrel Brooks and wife Kynna of Lookeba; twelve grandchildren: Ron Gathers, Joshua House, Zachary House, Matthew Brooks, Ashley Butcher, Jessica Pitchford, Jonathan Brooks, Heather Brooks, Casey Pitchford, Jimmy Niedzielski, Johnny Klassen, and Thomas Klassen; numerous great grandchildren; sister Ned House of Lookeba; and sister-in-law Lenora Anderson of Moore, OK.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to the Hinton Food Pantry, 501 W. Main Street, Hinton, OK 73047. Services will be held at a later date. Services entrusted to Turner Funeral Home, Hinton, Oklahoma. Condolences may be sent to the family at turnerfuneralhomes@gmail.com, turnerfh.net, or you can find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/turnerfuneralhomes) (Turner Funeral Homes).

Raymond E. Cook

When we speak of the life contributions of Dr. Raymond E. Cook, we are speaking of a true Oklahoman. Dr. Cook loved his family, patients, friends and music ministry. He was a civic leader and visionary of his time. Among Dr. Cook's many accomplishments, he was instrumental in pioneering chiropractic medicine in the state of Oklahoma. Dr. Raymond E. Cook was born on June 15, 1937, in Oklahoma City, OK to William C. and Mary B. (Egbert) Cook. He passed away on December 12, 2020, in Weatherford, OK at the age of 83. Raymond graduated from Capitol Hill High School in 1956, where he was active in the student body, represented his sophomore class as president, and served as president of the Athletic Club. Through the years he has remained active with Capitol Hill High School as the treating physician for athletes, coaches, school administrators, and teachers for more than 20 years. He has had a



lifelong commitment to Capitol Hill High School, staying involved with the reunion committee, leading committee panels and planning events for his classmates. He played college football on scholarship at Tulsa University. He then went to Chiropractic College in OKC, OK, then moved to Davenport, Iowa, to attend Palmer Chiropractic College and finished his doctorate at Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis, MO, graduating in 1961.

Dr. Cook began his career as a Chiropractic Physician January 1962, with a practice, located in the Capitol Hill Area of Oklahoma City. During his first year in practice, he became acquainted with R. Lewis Barton, with Mr. Barton's financial assistance; Dr. Cook was able to open a clinic for children in need. Oklahaven was formed to benefit children with many debilitating diseases, such as polio. Dr. Cook was the first president of Oklahaven clinic, which is still operating today. It all began with Dr. Cook's dream of providing chiropractic care to children, regardless of ability to pay. He built a foundation that is still strong 50 years after its conception. Dr. Cook's love of children and the chiropractic profession is embodied through Oklahaven. Dr. Cook was always quick to give credit to his mother for instilling in him a strong faith-based foundation. Dr. Cook remembered these early childhood lessons, leading to a lifetime love of music ministry. He was an evangelistic music ministry, traveling the state, ministering through his music. He recorded an album and CD which was played on a variety of radio stations for a number of years, and which family and friends still enjoy today. He joined various civic clubs and held many positions within them. He was especially active in the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis, holding positions in each office of these organizations. In 1964 he was runner up for Outstanding Young Man of the Year. Dr. Cook had more influence over the advancement of chiropractic medicine in the state of Oklahoma than any one other chiropractic physician. Dr. Cook held a position on the Chiropractic Board for the State of Oklahoma for 10 years. Throughout his life, Dr. Cook was recognized with commendations for his service in chiropractic medicine and service on the board of regents by the Oklahoma State Senate and the Oklahoma State House of Representatives. Dr. Cook was also instrumental in establishing the Hinton Museum, which has grown to include a warehouse size museum. Located in Hinton, Oklahoma, the museum stands as tribute to the vision of Dr. Cook and his ability to see needs and then set into motion action to meet those needs. In 1987, Dr. Cook was honored by being the first of two chiropractors voted into the Chiropractic Hall of Fame. Colleagues continued to acknowledge the commitment and dedication given by Dr. Cook to the profession by voting him Chiropractic Physician of the Decade in 1990. Dr. Cook was the only physician to ever receive this honor. Dr. Cook was blessed with three wonderful children, whom he loves very much. Bryan Eugene Cook of Weatherford, Oklahoma, made All State Quarterback in high school. Dr. Douglas Cook, Weatherford, Oklahoma was drum major in high school and now has one of the largest chiropractic in the state, and daughter Kay Lynn Richards of Hobart, Oklahoma, was a cheerleader in high school and now serves as Kiowa County Court Clerk. Her husband Mark is a coach. Raymond loved eating, enjoyed flowers; he loved tending to his flower beds, loved dominoes, loved helping people, loved visiting, loved entertaining in his home, and held many family reunions. Dr. Raymond Cook has inspired over 30 young people to go to Chiropractic College. Of those, he has a son Dr. Doug Cook, grandson Dr. Chandler Cook grandson Dr. Preston Cook and his wife Dr. Brittany Cook, and grandson-in-law Dr. Derek MakesCry, all chiropractors, because of his passion for helping children and adults, to healing the sick, the lame, and the less fortunate.

Survivors include his children: Bryan Cook and wife Kim of Weatherford, OK, Doug Cook and wife Kim of Weatherford, OK; and Kay Richards and husband Mark of Hobart, OK, his grandchildren: Blake Cook of Weatherford, OK, Blair MakesCry and husband Derek of Weatherford, OK, Chandler Cook and wife Samantha of Atlanta, GA, Preston Cook and wife Brittany of Beacon, NY, Andrae' Cook of Norman, OK, Aaron Richards of Crescent, OK and Blaine Richards and wife Lindsey of Hobart; 9 great-grandchildren, as well as several cousins other relatives and friends. Raymond was preceded in death by his parents William and Mary Cook, his siblings Billy Cook, Herman Cook, Harold Cook, Duke Cook, Bob Cook, Mary K. James, Charles Carter, and his granddaughter, Kandace Suzanne Richards.

Dr. Cook was preceded in death by his parents Gene and Cora Mae Brooks, daughter Deborah Pitchford, siblings: John Brooks, Betty Deevers, Gyola Melton, and Roy Brooks.

Karren Ann Dunklee

Graveside services for Karren Anne Dunklee, 74 year-old Oklahoma City resident, was held Saturday, December 12, 2020, 10:00 A.M. at Independence Cemetery, north of Custer City, with Jerry Yoder officiating. Services are under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home of Weatherford.

Karren was born May 19, 1946, to Newt and Nell (Crum) Wilburg and passed away Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at Norman Regional Hospital. Karren was raised and attended school in Custer City and Thomas, graduating from Thomas High School in 1964. She earned her L.P.N. and started her nursing career in Thomas. In 1966, Karren moved to Tulsa and was active in nursing and continuing her career when she moved back to Thomas in 1980. In 1986, she married Guy Dunklee in Thomas. Karren moved to Overholser in 1994. Karren enjoyed outdoors, gardening, crocheting, her pets, Elvis Presley, and spending time with family and friends.

Karren is survived by her husband of 34 years Guy Dunklee of their home in Oklahoma City; son Lewis Radeker and wife Cheri of Parker, Colorado; four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Sharon.

Leroy Martin Sawatzky

Graveside services for Leroy Martin Sawatzky, 82 year-old Weatherford resident, was held Friday, December 18, 2020, 2:00 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery with Brian Harris and Kevin Hopkins officiating. Services are under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



Leroy was born October 22, 1938, in Weatherford to Orval Ralph and Elsie (Penner) Sawatzky and passed away, Sunday December 13, 2020, at Integris Baptist Medical Center Portland in Oklahoma City. Leroy was raised west of Weatherford on the family farm. He attended Gyp Hill rural school, a little one room school west of the farm and graduated from Corn Bible Academy in 1957. On May 29, 1960, Leroy married Doris Bourquin in Clinton and made their home in Weatherford. He farmed, ran a bull dozing business and worked in construction during his working career. Leroy enjoyed fishing, his church life, going to Jerry's Restaurant to drink coffee, and spending time with family and friends. He spent his final years at Broadway Living Center in Lexington, enjoying the food, friendships, and those were the best years of his life. Memorials may be made to Pine Acres MB Church.

Leroy is survived by one son Phillip Lee Sawatzky of Weatherford; one daughter Darla Check and husband

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Melody Ashenfelter Scholarship Awarded to SWOSU Student Shelby Lankford



Shelby Lankford

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) student Shelby Lankford of Blanchard has been named the 2020-21 Melody Ashenfelter Scholar by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., in Weatherford.

A junior at SWOSU, Lankford is studying accounting. She is a member of the SWOSU Rodeo Team, SWOSU

Honors Program, and the SWOSU chapter of Delta Mu Delta.

“Congratulations to Shelby Lankford on being awarded the Melody Ashenfelter Scholarship,” said SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler. “Dr. Ashenfelter’s contributions to the accounting profession are truly substantial, and her many former students have achieved tremendous success because of the foundation they received under her instruction. She is a valued member of our emeriti community and we are honored to steward this scholarship fund in her name.”

A native of Gotebo, Ashenfelter, CPA, retired from SWOSU in 2019 following an academic career of over 31 years at SWOSU. Ashenfelter previously taught accounting at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. Ashenfelter earned her doctorate from Oklahoma State University.

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 Melody Ashenfelter Scholarship Fund or any SWOSU Foundation funds, please contact 580-774-3267 or visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com.

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For Sale- (4) P215-60R16 tires, good rubber left. \$25/each. Text 580-340-3501

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For Sale- Baby grand piano. \$800. (580) 774-8059

For Sale- (8) big boxes of dept store hangers. \$10/box. (405) 848-5096 or (405) 885-2750 cash/mask only.

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For Sale- 12 Ga, Double 00 Ammo, Bx-25, \$20. 30 Rd, 10MM Glock Mags, \$25. 40 S.6.W. Most duty ammo, Bx-50 \$30. 6x42MM, sniper retical scope, \$35. All items NIB (918) 415-4236. Weatherford

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For Sale- Farm scene portrait; detailed hand painted. \$45. 580-613-0108

For Sale- (2) full-length mirrors. \$7/each. Lots of Christmas ornaments, very cheap. Clear lamp, base is clear glass. \$25. 580-613-0108

For sale: Sheet metal - barn tin. Approx. sizes are 4x16' and 4x14' \$5/sheet or \$500 for all of it. Call for details. For sale: 2016 Dodge pickup bed, popup hitch. Excellent condition, \$1600. 405-639-9667

WANTED

NEED- The Christian store is taking donations. Clothes, toys, dishes, anything you would like to donate. (580) 291-3875

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Food Club Tomatoes and Green Chilis 10oz.....	3 for \$2.00
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Keebler Pie Crust - Graham - shortbread.....	2 for \$3.00
Red Star Yeast 3ct All Varieties.....	\$0.99
Food Club Brown or Powdered Sugar 2 lb. bag.....	2 for \$3.00
Food Club Baking Chips All Varieties 10-12oz.....	2 for \$4.00

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Solo Plastic Bowls.....	2 for \$6.00
Solo Plastic Plates 10".....	2 for \$6.00
Solo Plastic Plates 9".....	2 for \$5.00
Simply Done Slow Cooker Liners 4ct.....	2 for \$4.00

Meat

Boneless Rib Eye Steak.....	\$12.99 lb.
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LOCAL & AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

WEATHERFORD REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND THE OLD HOSPITAL BUILDING - The Chief Executive Officer of Weatherford Regional Hospital says the Weatherford Hospital Authority has agreed to submit an offer from the City of Weatherford to Weatherford Hospital Inc. for purchase of the old hospital building on Kansas Street. CEO Brian Denton says the action occurred, following an executive session of the Hospital Authority. Denton says he expects the offer to be approved by Weatherford Hospital Inc. when it meets later this month.

Start programs in 7 counties including Beckham, Roger Mills and Washita.

CLINTON SCHOOLS AND RAPID TESTS - Clinton Schools Superintendent Tyler Bridges says the district has received 200 rapid tests that can be utilized on mostly staff and students in certain situations. Bridges says that this is primarily to allow for massive testing of school personnel. Bridges says there may be an opportunity or two for testing this week. However, he says the program will mostly be rolled out beginning next semester, which starts after the new year.

practicing of the recommended safety precautions during the holiday break in an effort to protect students and their families and the SWOSU community upon their return in January. Additionally, President Beutler is asking the SWOSU community to adhere to the medical experts' advice and get the vaccination as soon as it becomes available if you are medically able. He says the virus will continue to cause disruption to daily lives until immunity is achieved. See entire letter on page 8.

ALLIANCE HEALTH-CLINTON'S CEO STEPPING DOWN - Alliance Health-Clinton Chief Executive Officer Landon Hise will downsize his responsibilities for the hospital corporation early next year. Hise has served as CEO of the company's Woodward and Clinton hospitals since July 2019. Beginning January 1st, Hise will only serve as CEO Of Alliance Health-Woodward. Jay Johnson will continue as Chief Administrative Officer for Alliance Health-Clinton.

CUSTER CO DIST COURT SAMBRANO ARSON - A Clinton man is charged with 4th degree arson in Custer County District Court. Court records show 41 year-old Rudolfo Sambrano allegedly poured gasoline in the garage of a home on Littell avenue in Clinton and threatened to burn the home down. An occupant of the home called police who then took Sambrano in custody.

WEATHERFORD SCHOOLS FEDERAL GRANTS - Weatherford Public Schools claimed about \$500,000 of federal grant money over the past month. Interim Superintendent Steve Callin says the monies were used on student Chromebooks, Schoology and Engenuity. Callin says the district has purchased additional student computers and iPads for the youngest students in the district that will be funded with federal dollars.

COMMUNITY ACTION DEVELOPMENT GRANT - Community Action Development Corporation headquartered in Frederick has been named a grant recipient by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant, totaling more than \$1.3 million, will support the administration of Head Start and Early Head

WEATHERFORD BEUTLER LETTER - In a letter to the SWOSU community, President Randy Beutler says he is proud of the way that faculty and staff have risen to the occasion during the Covid-19 pandemic and how students conducted themselves under enormous strain. He urges the

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PUBLIC RECORDS

Arrested

Billy Jerome Parvin, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with domestic assault & battery.

Mckenzie Ellen Flynn, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with unauthorized use of motor vehicle.

Johnny Jones, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with public intoxication.

Rainey Ward, arrested by Washita County Sheriff's Department, charged with larceny burglary or theft of controlled dangerous substance.

Delans Marquis Griffin, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol, charged with DUI, DUS, and leaving scene of accident.

Raul Cruz Perez, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with failure to appear for DUI and DUS.

Jared Cable, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with public intoxication.

Billy Jerome Parvin, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charge with domestic assault and battery.

Marcus Larod Jackson, Sr., arrested by TSI, charged with failure to appear for falsely personate another to create liability, driving while license is cancelled, suspended, or revoked, and DUI, improper display of current number plate, fail to comply with comp ins law, and fail to use child restraint.

Felix Jerome Soto, arrested by Canadian County Sheriff's Department, charged with possession of controlled dangerous substance, possession of paraphernalia, driving while license is cancelled, suspended, or revoked, operating a vehicle with defective or equipment or unsafe condition.

Dustin Gordon, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with petit larceny.

Dylon Lee Perez, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with aggravated DUI, unlawfully transporting open container of liquor, transporting open container of low point beer, and failure to keep right in making right turn.

Dakota Beaver, arrested by Orange County Sheriff's Department, charged with unauthorized use of motor vehicle, obtaining signature under false pretenses.

Justin Dale Riggs, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with protective order violation.

Jessica Trebing, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with public intoxication by drugs.

Billy D. Spillman, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, charged with cruelty to animals, failure to appear for malicious injury to property, tampering with utilities, failure to comply with ins, failure to pay taxes due to the state.

Darian Baggett, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with no driver's license, no insurance and expired tag.

Bond

Anessa Jean Madbull, arrested by El Reno Police Department, charged with larceny of merchandise from retailer and obstructing an officer.

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HIGHER GROUND Immanuel - God is with Us



Jim Morrison

It is the time to be jolly. But for many it is a difficult time. We have lost five members of our church to Covid. One member lost both his mom and dad. I'm sure that many of you have lost loved ones or friends. We must pray that the vaccine and those already immune will create a "herd" immunity before long. A year ago none of us would have dreamed this would be happening. My wife and I have almost fully recovered from our bout with the monster.

Sometimes it is difficult to keep our focus on things eternal. But we must not let our temporary problems steal the joy of the season. While the cross and resurrection are primary in the overall picture, neither of those things would have happened were it not for a plan established before the foundation of the earth. God saw that it would be necessary for deity to become flesh and live among men. How could

it be? The creator of the universe would humble himself to fit into the womb of a teen age girl and be born in a natural yet supernatural way—perhaps 20 inches long, weighing maybe 6-8 lbs. He would cry in the night when hungry and need his diaper changed as all babies do. The term Immanuel was applied to him. That term simply means, "God with us." We have heard it so much that we take it for granted. In reality it was the greatest miracle. It was God's love gift to us. "For God so loved that he gave..."

Truly, he was born to die. That was his purpose. His closest followers couldn't understand it. One of the clearest word pictures of the purpose of his life and death is found in 2nd Corinthians 5:15. "And he died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." It changes our perspective. Paul continued in verse 16, "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view..." Jesus saw people as objects of love and compassion, not as projects to increase our worth or position.

As a part of the Ministerial Alliance, my role is to provide financial assistance to families who need help with their utility bills. It gives me the privilege of entering

homes of many families who are struggling with various issues. Single moms make up a number of these folks. We can help them with temporary assistance but we are often helpless with the deeper problems. I sometimes ask myself, where is the church in the midst of these problems? I'm not talking about dollars and cents, but more about coming alongside, developing a caring relationship, seeing them as Jesus would, without judging how they got themselves in this position. How can we be Christ incarnate to these, our brothers and sisters? They need more than an invitation to church, although most have never even had that.

They need to see that we really care. They need to see Christ in human flesh. What are our plans and where is our intentionality? We are often too comfortable in our safe world. As I ponder these things I pray for a vision and a passion, for courage to act, a will to obey, and a faith to believe that these lives really matter.

If any of you would like to send a Christmas card to an inmate at the Custer County Jail please contact me via email and I will send a name and instructions. To comment: jhm82@outlook.com or 580-772-2311. Merry Christmas.

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.**

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

HAPPY Day TO YOU!

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Happy Birthday Wishes for December 23rd - C.J. Barnhill, Jared Deaton, Lynn Graham, Jason Hines, Lisa Lee, Jacqueline Parker, Dusty Rhoads, Andy Sister, Keke Sutton, Anthony E. Thomas, Larry Waldrup, Bentli Whitson; **December 24th** - Marquez Borjas, Patrick Bostwick, Dorothy Burns, Zachery House, Kaitlin Kimble, Lucille Ralston, David Richmond, Hannah Sperle; **December 25th** - Teresa Andrews, Pat Barnett, Steve Bellew, Brady Coffelt, Ronda Harmon, Jake Ivy, David Martin, Michael Mendez, Hank Peter, Linda Pye, Mary Stelting; **December 26th** - Kenny Bragg, Nick Davis, Curtis Duff, Ruben Garlin, McKayla Goodwin, Michelle Williams, Carl Wilson; **December 27th** - Erno Cook, Abby Ewing, Gabe Ferrell, Lee Hamilton, Mark McClure, Chad Meinhardt, Fay Schwartz, Matt Wisdom; **December 28th** - Luke Ferrell, Tanya Hamlin, Larry Heger, Gena Manhart, Mildred Schwartz, Colby Setzer, Carlene Smith, Peyton Watson, Jessica Wedel; **December 29th** - Rebecca Baugher, Addison Blackwell, Mason Hawthorne, Harvey Kliever, Nick Merle, Travis Ratcliffe.

SPORTS *Presented by:*



Volleyball Adds Two Transfers to 2021 Recruiting Class

Danny Henderson
Wright Wradio Sports Director

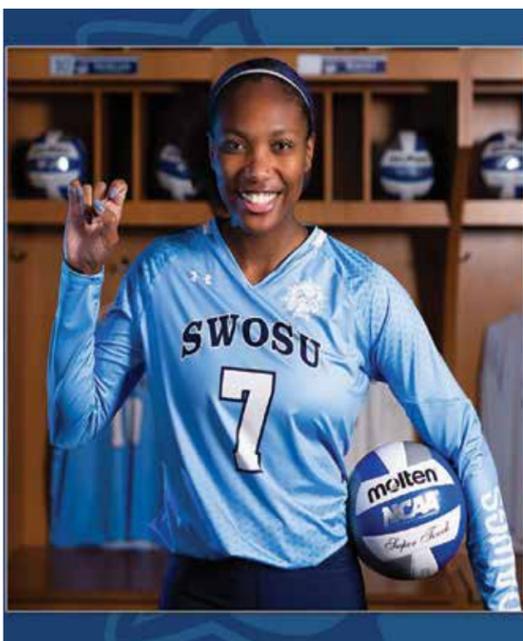
SWOSU Head Volleyball Coach Josh Collins announced the addition of two NCAA Division I graduate transfers to the Bulldogs' recruiting class. The duo will join SWOSU next fall and be eligible to play as seniors for the 2021 season.

The Bulldogs newest additions are Markenzie Benoit, a 6-1 middle hitter from Bedford, Texas, who most recently played at Tulane University, and MacKenzie Harless, a 5-10 middle hitter from Brownsburg, Ind., and Belmont University. The duo joins four freshmen who signed in November to make up the 2021 SWOSU Volleyball recruiting class.

"We are thrilled to welcome these two graduate transfers to what we feel will be an outstanding 2021 recruiting class," Collins said. "Mark & MacK are both sure to have a great deal of individual success at SWOSU, but we were most interested in the fact that they are so focused and excited about the future success of the program as a whole. Each of these student-athletes expressed that they want to add to a program that values a family atmosphere, gives back to their university and community, and has lofty goals on the volleyball court. We think that they will do just that."

Benoit stats: Played three seasons in the American Athletic Conference (AAC) at Tulane, appearing in 62 matches for the Green Wave...Has career totals of 326 kills (1.76/set), 183 blocks (0.99/set) and 121 digs (0.65/set)...Career attack percentage of .222, which includes a career-best mark of .230 during her sophomore season... In 2018, led her team with 70 blocks, averaging 1.27 per set...Four-year letterwinner and team captain at Lake Ridge HS, graduating in the class of 2017... Two-time First Team All-District and Academic All-District selection...Named Defensive Player of the Year as a junior in high school and holds her school record for single-season blocks.

Coach Collins on Benoit: "Markenzie is an elite athlete who brings in valuable experience from her impressive career at Tulane University. She is an innate blocker who reads the game incredibly well and imposes her



physicality on the opposition at the net. She will also have an immediate impact offensively with the ability to hit the ball at angles seldom seen at the DII level. Markenzie is very driven in the classroom, coming to us with two degrees from a prestigious university. She has a fantastic fun-loving personality that brings joy to each person she encounters. I know that she will make Bulldog Nation proud on and off the court!"

Harless stats: Played her junior season in the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) for Belmont after playing two seasons at the NCAA Division II level at St. Mary's University in San Antonio...Played in all 31 matches during her season at Belmont, earning eight starts...Led the Bruins in hitting percentage (.209) while ranking third on the team in blocks with 57 (4 solo, 53 assist)...In two seasons at St. Mary's, she appeared in 59 matches and recorded 378 kills, 142 blocks, 105 digs and 10 service aces... Graduated from Brownsburg HS in 2017 after earning All-



Conference Honorable Mention and Academic All-State Honorable Mention honors...Helped her high school team to three consecutive Hendricks County Championships (2014-16) and the Indiana 4A Conference Championship in 2016...Four-year participant in Track & Field as well, winning sectionals and county championship in High Jump in 2014.

Coach Collins on Harless: "MacKenzie is a dynamic offensive player who is very comfortable attacking off of one foot. MacKenzie is also a gifted defensive player who will play high above the net, taking much of the offensive opportunities away from opposing hitters. Playing at both the DI & DII levels, MacKenzie has forged a high volleyball IQ to go along with a great deal of athleticism. Our conversations in the recruiting process confirmed what we saw in her transcripts; she holds herself to a high standard in the classroom and it is clear that she will make an impact in more areas than just the volleyball

SWOSU Basketball schedule

Date	Time	At	Opponent	Location
January 7, 2021 (Thursday)	7:30 pm	Away	East Central University	Ada, Okla.
January 9, 2021 (Saturday)	3:00 pm	Home	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
January 11, 2021 (Monday)	7:30 pm	Home	Northwestern Oklahoma State University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
January 14, 2021 (Thursday)	7:30 pm	Away	Southern Nazarene University	Bethany, Okla.
January 16, 2021 (Saturday)	3:00 pm	Home	Oklahoma Baptist University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
January 21, 2021 (Thursday)	7:30 pm	Away	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	Durant, Okla.
January 23, 2021 (Saturday)	3:00 pm	Home	East Central University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
January 25, 2021 (Monday)	7:30 pm	Away	Northwestern Oklahoma State University	Ada, Okla.
January 28, 2021 (Thursday)	7:30 pm	Away	Oklahoma Baptist University	Shawnee, Okla.
January 30, 2021 (Saturday)	3:00 pm	Home	Southern Nazarene University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
February 4, 2021 (Thursday)	7:30 pm	Home	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
February 6, 2021 (Saturday)	3:00 pm	Away	East Central University	Ada, Okla.
February 8, 2021 (Monday)	7:30 pm	Home	Northwestern Oklahoma State University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
February 11, 2021 (Thursday)	7:30 pm	Away	Southern Nazarene University	Bethany, Okla.
February 13, 2021 (Saturday)	3:00 pm	Home	Oklahoma Baptist University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
February 18, 2021 (Thursday)	7:30 pm	Home	East Central University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
February 20, 2021 (Saturday)	3:00 pm	Away	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	Durant, Okla.
February 22, 2021 (Monday)	7:30 pm	Away	Northwestern Oklahoma State University	Ada, Okla.
February 25, 2021 (Thursday)	7:30 pm	Home	Southern Nazarene University	Weatherford, Okla. Pioneer Cellular Event Center
February 27, 2021 (Saturday)	3:00 pm	Away	Oklahoma Baptist University	Shawnee, Okla.
March 5, 2021 (Friday)			Great American Conference	TBA

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Hofmeister remarks on educator COVID-19 vaccine priority

With the announcement by Gov. Kevin Stitt that teachers and support staff will be moved up a priority group in the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister made the following statement:
 "Teachers are the heart and soul of our school

community, and we cannot have school without them," said Hofmeister. "Allowing teachers to be among the top priority to get the COVID-19 vaccine is a tremendous move toward protecting the health of our hardworking teachers. I am grateful to Gov. Stitt for his decision to elevate K-12 teachers in the vaccine distribution plan."



Provided
 School resource officer Justin Bushong shows his ugly Christmas Sweater on the last day of the Fall Semester.

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Trent Boesen

A coin collector from San Francisco saved 4,000 to 5,000 pennies over a period of 50 years. He sold this massive collection to a coin dealer at 5 cents per penny. Each penny was kept in a small paper envelope.

The coin dealer found most of the pennies to be common dates except for one. It turned out to be a 1969-S Double Die Obverse. This means the date and mottos were doubled. It is one of about 100 examples known. The coin dealer immediately called the collector and arranged to return this very, rare and valuable penny to him. The dealer did not know its true value but impressed the collector to have it certified. It was certified by the Professional Coin Grading Service as a Mint State 63+ Red. It was consigned to Great Collections an online auction company. It sold on December 13, 2020 for \$43,444!!!

The coin collector wants to remain anonymous as well as the coin dealer. The coin dealer needs to be congratulated for his honesty one day. The dealer joked that he did not get the 5 cents he paid for the penny.

Do you have concerns about coin collecting but do not know who to ask? Call "The Coin Guy" at 580-890-8076. We can meet at Jerry's and talk about them over a cup of coffee. Thanks for reading and Merry Christmas to one and all.

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Oklahoma History

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 US 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 result 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.

Letter from President Randy Beutler to the SWOSU Community

SWOSU Students, Faculty & Staff,

To each and every one of you, I wish a relaxing and safe break over the upcoming holidays. You deserve it! I am very proud of the way that our faculty and staff have risen to the occasion during this pandemic and how our great students have conducted themselves under enormous strain.

During the break between the fall and spring semesters, I hope that you will continue to practice the recommended safety precautions to protect yourself, your families, and the SWOSU community upon your return in January. Please note that SWOSU will continue to take steps to ensure the safety of its students, faculty and staff for the Spring 2021 semester.

As you know, there is exciting news with the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. However, distribution will take time and we must continue our diligence by protecting one another until the pandemic

has ended. Please make sure that you are aware of how the vaccine will be distributed in Oklahoma (If you reside in another state, please reach out and ask for information in your locality).

Even though it was developed quickly, this is a tested vaccine that will help our country return to a level of normalcy that we have not seen in many months. Please adhere to the medical experts’ advice and get the vaccination as soon as it is available to you if you are medically able.

Below are links to websites that are constantly updated on how the vaccine will be distributed in Oklahoma. Please make sure you check back with these websites constantly or call your local county health department for more information.

OK Department of Health Vaccine Information: <https://oklahoma.gov/covid19/vaccine-information.html>.

COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Population Framework

for Oklahoma: <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/covid19/documents/vaccine/COVID-19%20Vaccine%20Priority%20Population%20Framework%20for%20Oklahoma%20-%202012-8-20.pdf>.

Finally, I would like to share this statement from Dr. Angela Gore, “The SWOSU Department of Nursing would like to encourage everyone to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. This virus has unleashed so much devastation upon our planet and has cost us more than 300,000 lives in America alone. This virus will continue to cause disruption to our daily lives until we achieve immunity. Receiving the vaccination will help to save lives!”

I look forward to seeing you on campus for the spring semester! Students, we will see you on Jan. 11!

*Randy Beutler
President*

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