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SWOSU basketball season begins

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

SWOSU's upcoming basketball season will begin in a new way in 2021. According to the Great American Conference's announcement, regarding COVID protocols, teams are allowed to return to play with a few guidelines. Following the first two weeks of games, the GAC will reconvene to evaluate the protocols. If everything looks good, teams will be allowed to open their courts for "25% revenue capacity." The venues will need to set up a 12-foot buffer zone between fans and players. Everyone in attendance will be required to wear face coverings. During the season, every team will be

Baptist (Jan. 16th). Livestreams of the games will be played through SWOSUAthletics.com and WRIGHT.media. Radio broadcasts will be provided through the Coyote's sister stations.

Following the first two weeks of games, the GAC will reconvene to evaluate the protocols. If everything looks good, teams will be allowed to open their courts for "25% revenue capacity." The venues will need to set up a 12-foot buffer zone between fans and players. Everyone in attendance will be required to wear face coverings.

During the season, every team will be

required to have seven healthy players each game, and those with fewer than seven will be unable to compete, resulting in a no-contest label on that game. If a team plays 50% of their scheduled games, they will gain eligibility for the GAC Championships.

The GAC will continue to monitor the state of each member of the conference, and they will adjust the protocols as necessary.

While we may miss attending the games in person, it's important that we do our best to support these athletes and do what we can to ensure they can have a great season.



Photo Provided

Pioneer Cellular Event Center on the campus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Construction is underway!



Photo by Harold Wright

Construction has begun to erect a new Wright Wradio radio tower in Elk City. The tower will be 11 miles closer to Clinton and will provide better reception of KKZU, 101.7 FM in the Clinton/Weatherford area.

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LaNell Rae McCammon

Funeral services for LaNell Rae McCammon, 83 year-old Weatherford resident, were held Tuesday, December 22, 2020, 10:00 A.M. at First Baptist Church of Weatherford with Earl Stephenson officiating. Burial will follow in Hydro Masonic Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



LaNell was born June 26, 1937, in Hydro to Barney Earl and Velma Marjorie (Klinder) King and passed away Thursday, December 17, 2020, at OSU Medical Center in Tulsa. LaNell was raised and attended school in Hydro, graduating with Hydro High School in 1955. She married and made their home in Amarillo where she went to beauty school and ran her own shop. In 1972, LaNell moved to Hydro and later moved to Weatherford. On November 11, 1978, she married Carl Ray "Butch" McCammon in Walters and made their home in Weatherford. She owned and operated LaNell's Beauty Shop for over 40 years. After retiring she volunteered at Weatherford Regional Hospital as a Volunteer. LaNell enjoyed traveling, decorating, her YMCA time, working in her flower beds and gardening, and spending time with family and friends. Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church.

LaNell is survived by her husband of 42 years, Butch McCammon of their home in Weatherford; two daughters: Vicki Clark of College Station, Texas and Rhonda Payne and husband Brent of Weatherford; one step-daughter Debbie Colwill and Steve Sanford of Mesquite, Texas; one step-son Michael Mason and wife Ronda of Lewisville, Texas; one brother Jack King and wife Mary of San Diego, California; one sister Lynn Webb and husband Paul of McKinney, Texas; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Lester Ramsey

Funeral Services under the direction of Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home, were held for Lester D. (Dee) Ramsey of Dill City, Oklahoma, at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel, Clinton, OK, with Rev. Ron Roskam officiating. Internment will be in the Antioch Cemetery, north of Butler, OK.



Mr. Ramsey was born on a farm near Butler on October 28, 1947, to Calvin Odell Ramsey and Nettie Lee (Davis) Ramsey. He passed away Sunday, December 20, 2020, in his Dill City home after a long illness. He attended school at Butler and later at Clinton. On June 11, 1971, he married Emma Ruth Adams in Clinton, Oklahoma. He was employed by Whites Auto where he became a co-manager, Coca-Cola and became an area sales manager for CTC Janitorial in Clinton until his retirement. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Clinton. He enjoyed travelling, gardening, and working in his yard. He also loved football, was an avid OU fan, and was a loving grandparent and father.

He is survived by his wife Emma Ruth Ramsey of the home, and his children: Sarah Ramsey of Yukon. Sean Ramsey and wife Kama of Yukon, and Carl Ramsey and wife Jennifer of Cordell. He is also survived by two brothers: Kenneth Ramsey of Oklahoma City, and Eddie Ramsey and wife Cindy of Cordell, and his sister Vickie

Bartlett of Dill City, OK, 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers Calvin Eugene Ramsey and Tex Loraine Ramsey

Melvin Roy Lancaster

Melvin Roy Lancaster was born on October 20, 1936, in Pendleton, Oregon, to Otto and Mary (Richardson) Lancaster and passed away Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at home in Thomas, at the age of 84 years, 1 month, and 26 days.

Melvin was raised and attended school in numerous states. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. On June 2, 1959, Melvin married Deanna Donelson in Tulsa and made their home in Skiatook, Colorado and Collinsville. In 1962, they moved to Thomas to raise their family. He worked for the Christensen family with their farming.

Melvin is survived by his wife of 61 years, Deanna Lancaster of their home in Thomas; one son Melvin Lancaster and wife Tammy of Thomas; one daughter, Vivica Gossett and husband Darryl of Thomas; one sister Ivadale Borrer of Thomas; two grandsons, Melvin Roy Lancaster III and Mason Lancaster; one granddaughter Billie Baker; and brother-in-law Larry Donelson. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister Cora.

Edna Heidebrecht

Graveside Services for Edna Heidebrecht, 98, Corn resident were held 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, December 22, 2020 in the Corn Mennonite Brethren Cemetery, officiated by Pastor Tim Sandy and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Edna Lois Heidebrecht was born to Carl D. & Tena (Boese) Heidebrecht on June 8, 1922, in Corn, Oklahoma. She attended Corn public schools through high school. She then attended Southwestern State Collage in Weatherford, OK for two years and then began teaching elementary school. She later completed her courses and received her degree in elementary education.

She taught school in Delhi, OK for two years in Cutler in CA, for one year and San Joaquin, CA for five years. After returning to Corn, she worked at Corn Bible Academy as cook and girl's dorm co-matron along with Bertha Pauls. She then moved to Wichita, Kansas, where she returned to teaching in the Wichita area schools. She was an elementary school teacher for about 25 years.

After retiring from teaching, she worked as a nurses aid in a retirement home in Enid, OK for several years. She also worked as a nurse's aid in the Corn Nursing Home (now Corn Heritage Village) after moving to Corn to live with her Mother. She later became a resident of Corn Heritage Village.

Edna's brothers and sisters remember her as a prayer warrior who faithfully studied the Word of God. As a teenager she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and on August 14, 1938, she was baptized by Rev. J.J. Wiebe and became a member of the Corn Mennonite Brethren Church. In her study of the Bible, she kept many note books with scripture verses and her thoughts on the scriptures. Edna's constant concern was living as a testimony to her faith.

As a teacher, she worked with fellow Christians to reach students for Christ. For her family, her concern was evident in the praying she did for each one. Until her later years, she knew the names of every family member, including the great-grandchildren, and prayed that everyone would have experienced the greatest, that is being born again.

Edna had a great love of music. The family often enjoyed hearing her play the piano. She also loved to sing, and at family gatherings she would encourage and help her nieces and nephews share their musical talents. She also had a great interest in the scholastic involvement of her nieces and nephews and would have them share this as well.

At her 90th birthday celebration in June 2012, she still recognized many family members and was able to share

one of her special Bible verses by memory: Hebrews 4:12 "For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Preceding her in death were her parents, her brothers Allen and Harry, her sister Vera, two brothers-in-law, two sisters-in-law, two nephews.

Survivors are her brother John Heidebrecht, sister-in-law Dorothy (wife of Harry), sister Mary Ann and husband Walter Heinrichs, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Judy Moore

Funeral Services for Judy Moore, 68, Butler resident were held 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 23, 2020, in the Cornerstone Church, officiated by Rev. Roy Dobbs. Burial followed in the Shiloh Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Judy Elizabeth (Shelton) Moore was born October 14, 1952, to Vernard "Son" Shelton and Sarah (Kauk) Shelton I Clinton, Oklahoma and passed away Friday, December 18, 2020 in the Integris Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK.

Judy was raised north of Butler on the family farm. She gave her life to the Lord at the age of 14 and was baptized in the German Freewill Baptist Church. She attended school at Butler High School where she graduated in 1970. She then attended beauty school and graduated in 1971 and worked for Sandra McDow at the Cinderella Beauty Shop for two years. She continued her education by completing a Business Program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Upon completion, she worked for the Ramada Inn as a desk clerk.

Judy married George Moore on December 12, 1975, in Butler, OK. Once her two children were born, Josh and Amber, she had the joy of being a stay-at-home mom for many years. In 1996 she started working outside of the home and worked as a secretary for the Butler Public Schools. She worked with the school until its closing in 2008.

She spent her time following all her grandchildren's sports and other performances and followed nearly all the sports that OU participated in, and she loved the OKC Thunder. She enjoyed her dog Izzy and spent much of her time pampering her.

Judy grew up in the German Freewill Baptist Church. She was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and had been attending the Cornerstone Church in Clinton as of recent.

She is preceded in death by her parents Vernard and Sarah Shelton, father and mother-in-law, Ancil and Beatrice Moore, sister in law, Toni (Meacham) Shelton, sister in law, Marsha (Moore) Taylor, brother in law, Larry Siess and her niece, Julie Siess.

She is survived by her husband, George Moore, of the home, son Josh Moore and wife Nichole, Arapaho; daughter Amber Sawatzky and husband Wayne, Butler; brothers: James Shelton and wife Shirley and Sam Shelton and wife De Anne.

She is also survived by four grandchildren: Austin Moore, Xavier Sawatzky, Natalie Moore and Zayne Sawatzky and many nieces and nephews.

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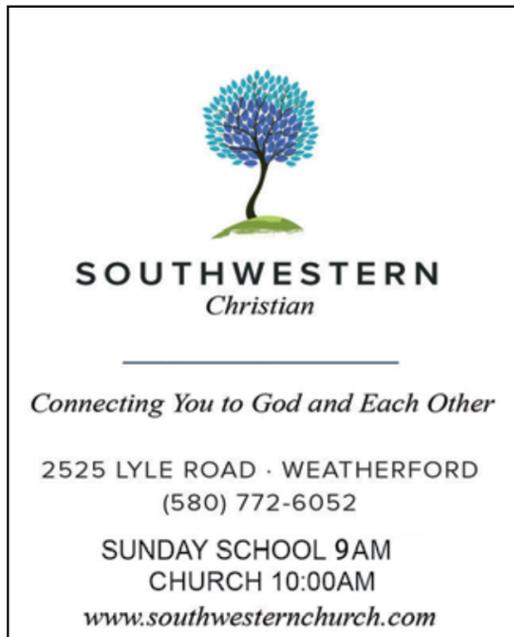
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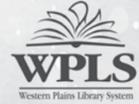



Photos Provided
 Lisa Lee (pictured on the left) was the winner of the Wright Wradio prizes at the Christmas in Hydro drawing on Saturday, Dec. 19th! Santa toured through Hydro on his Engine Express, waving at children while his 'little elves' handed out goodie bags all over town. Jackie Entz, Hydro Chamber of Commerce President, said that the event was a big success.

2021 Winter Reading ages 17+ January 1st to February 28th

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

09' Toyota Corolla- very nice and clean. \$6500 OBO. 2009 Volkswagon Station Wagon, 80k miles, heated seats, very nice and clean. \$6500 OBO. 580-330-3489

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For Sale- Antique milk can converted into a very nice cushioned seat, \$40. Couch with hide-a-bed. \$100. Single size mattress \$30. More lamps and more furniture. Call 580-613-0108.

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For Sale - Sears Table Saw with extended table and on wheels. Used very little, Excellent Condition \$175. Sears Air Compressor, 7 1/2 gallon tank with hose, Very Good Condition \$75. Weatherford 580 330 0160.

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For Sale- (4) rear tractor tires 480/80R42 or 18.4R42. \$1000 OBO. (580) 774-7242

For Sale- (2) Sportsman generator. \$100 for both. (2) riding mowers. \$300 for both. (405) 639-9667

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MISC.

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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- Very nice Huffy Trailblazer bike with dual suspension, \$50. 580-613-0108.

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For Sale- Nativity set (large) \$10. Plantation porcelain dolls lace, pearls, fancy dresses, wonderful gifts for Christmas. \$35/each. George foreman grill, like new. \$13. 580-613-0108

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

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Red Diamond Tea gals All Varieties.....	2 for \$5.00
Food Club Butter 16oz.....	2 for \$4.00

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LOCAL & AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

MT. VIEW FIRE - Investigators are still looking for the cause of a horrible fire in Mt. View that took the life of a child. Two homes were destroyed in the blaze. Both families lost everything, including their vehicles, in the fire; but most tragically, one family lost their 5 year old daughter. The State Fire Marshall is investigating. Go fund me accounts have been set up for both families.

CLINTON EXIT UPDATE - Now that the public comment period has ended for the new I-40 Exit Project in Clinton, Mayor David Berrong says ODOT has a big decision to make. Berrong says he is hopeful plan 2D is chosen. ODOT will post responses to the public comments in February.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL - The Oklahoma Department of Transportation reminds motorists, traveling this holiday, that there are several construction projects that may cause delays. I-40 is narrowed to one lane between Stafford Road near Foss to exit 65 in Clinton for pavement rehabilitation. I-40 is also narrowed to one lane in each direction over the North Fork River in Sayre for pavement and bridge reconstruction. State Hiway 73 is closed over the Washita River six miles west of I-40 in Clinton for bridge work. There is also construction in Blaine County on State Hiway 33 and in Caddo County on US-62 south of Apache. ODOT reminds travelers to slow down in construction zones.

COMMISSIONERS MEETING - Custer County Commissioners held their regular meeting recently. In addition to signing off on payroll, they discussed extending a road project in District 1 according to Commissioner Lyle Miller. The

commissioners also appointed Randy Kelley and Robert Gordon to the Butler Ambulance Board.

DEWEY COUNTY ACCIDENT - A Canton woman is hospitalized after a two vehicle accident southwest of Seiling. A Ford Expedition was westbound on County Road 610 and failed to yield when crossing Highway 270 and was struck by a 2018 Silverado pickup. The Expedition departed the roadway and landed in a ditch. The driver, 25 year old Asa Little Bird, was not injured but his passenger, 67 year-old Myra Little, was mediflighted to Baptist Medical Center in OKC with head, trunk and internal injuries. The driver of the Silverado was not injured. The accident is still under investigation.

VACCINATIONS AT CORN HERITAGE VILLAGE COVID-19 vaccinations are starting for some nursing home residents in Western Oklahoma. Administrator Sharif Raji says Corn Heritage Village will start vaccinations in Corn and Weatherford. He says they hope the majority of residents and staff will be willing to get vaccinated.

CUSTER COUNTY INVESTIGATION - The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation is looking into two separate incidents, involving Custer County Sheriff's Department personnel. OSBI spokesperson Brooke Arbitman says one incident involves a current deputy who was off-duty and allegedly inappropriately touched an adult female. Another incident involves a current deputy who allegedly made inappropiate contact with a juvenile prior to his employment with the county. No arrests have been made and both incidents remain under investigation.

CLINTON INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE - The Clinton Indian Health Service began distribution of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to C-S-U frontline health care workers last week. The Indian Health Service is following distribution guidelines with first doses being given to health care professionals, fighting COVID-19 on the frontlines and the vulnerable elderly living in nursing homes, assisted living centers and long term care centers.

ELK CITY BREAK-IN - A break-in occurred at the Food Bank at Help Inc. in Elk City. The break-in resulted in their freezers being emptied. Many people and businesses are reaching out to help get the agency back on its feet. Help Inc. is always taking food donations. You can go to their website at www.helpinccc.org and donate through their secure service.

CLINTON/TEACHER OF THE YEAR - Clinton High School teacher Brittany Miller was named District Teacher of the Year. She has been at Clinton High School for three years. Sheffield Southall was named Support Staff of the Year and Carrie Shackelford was recognized as Newcomer of the Year.

CORDELL CITY COUNCIL - The Cordell City Council met and approved improvements to the railroad crossing on west 4th Street, according to City Manager JC Moser. The city received a federal grant for the \$430,000 project. Cordell's portion is only \$26,000. The Council also agreed to purchase new taser guns for the police department. The cost of the new tasers is \$15,000.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Arrested

Kandi Pool, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with driving under suspension.

Allen Perrin, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with larceny of a controlled dangerous substance.

Alfredo Galvan, arrested by Clinton Police Department, charged with unauthorized use of motor vehicle.

Marissa Sharp, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for improper lane usage, transporting an open container, obstructing an officer, and driving under the influence.

Michael Harper, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for Custer County warrant.

Mario Perez, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, unlawful possession of paraphernalia, failure to stop at stop sign, failure to display current number plate, and unlawful possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

Jimmy Banks, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for indecent expo-

sure.

Timmy Cook, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for domestic assault and battery in presence of a minor.

Deidra Dyer, arrested by Clinton Police Department, for city warrant for public intoxication and petit larceny.

George Perez, arrested by Clinton Police Department, on a Custer County bench warrant.

Erica Guevara, arrested by Clinton Police Department, on four city commitments for DUS, one city commitment for no insurance, one city commitment for expired tag, one city commitment for obstruction, and one new charge of obstruction.

Kristan Davis, arrested by Clinton Police Department, on city Clinton warrant for no drivers license, custer county warrant for no drivers license, failure to appear on wreckless driving and a gray county texas warrant for driving under the influence with child under 15 years of age.

Alberto Soto, arrested by Clinton Police Department, on custer county warrants for failure to appear on no

seatbelt, and failure to appear on driving under suspension.

James Barringer, arrested by Dewey CO, for petit larceny.

Nathaniel Bolden, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for DUS, petit larceny, operating mv while DUR, possession of controlled substance, and possession of paraphernalia.

Michael Buckmaster, arrested by Thomas Police Department, for possession of controlled substance, domestic assault and battery, malicious injury of property, TOC-BEER, DUI under 21, DUS, unauthorized use of vehicle, DUI 2nd in ten years, Burglary 2nd degree, obstructing an officer, possession of firearm, and possession of sawed off shotgun.

Pedro Gwyn-Martinez, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for possession of contraband by inmate, and probation and parole.

Alfredo Galvan, arrested by Clinton Police Department, for petit larceny, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, first degree burglary.

Allen Perrin, arrested by Clinton Police Department,

for larceny of controlled dangerous substance.

Jonathan Sieh, arrested Montgomery CO KS, for burglary in the 2nd degree.

Brandon Woods, arrested by Blaine CO, for breaking and entering dwelling without permission.

Bond

Shanicia Carter, arrested by Elk City Police Department on Rule 8.

Michael Harper, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for possession of firearm, bringing contraband into jail, possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of paraphernalia, and obstructing an officer.

Rueben Ramirez, arrested by Custer County Sherrif's Office, for public intoxication.

Marissa Sharp, arrested by Weatherford Police Department, for improper lane usage, transporting an open container, obstructing an officer, and driving under the influence.

Kristina Stevens, arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol, for driving under the influence.

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 December 30th - Peggy Brittenham, Natalie Bryson, Mary Crane, Cody Kreizenbeck, Lauren Ledford, Bruce Peoples; **December 31st** - Kyle Buckner, Clara Clift, Linda Henley, Terry Jordan, Jackie Lindsey, Jeff Mary, Lenard Natseway, Megan Page, Candice Rushing, Alan Wedel, Brock Whitson, Malachi Yellow Eyes; **January 1st** - Todd Anderson, Keely Anderson, Billy Byrum, Tyler Colwell, Sheryl Dungan, Paula Evans, Roy Kliewer, Jerry Lee, Kay Pitt, Danyal Rollins, Bill Seitter, Iva Walters, Luke Woods; **January 2nd** - Angela Duff, Travis Greening, Chelsie Lister, Steven McLaughlin, Tim Ray, Alana Robinson, Journi Sterken, Margrate Washington, Chance Williams, Felicia Yellow Eyes; **January 3rd** - Charlene Ashcraft, Roberta Cheadle, Ben Gooch, Samantha Hamburger, Chelsey Harmon, Mike Janning, Rene Lopez, Sue Lowrance, Gracie Mooney, Elisabeth Rivera, Candy Rogers, Becky Storm, Colleen Vance, Betty Weichel; **January 4th** - Carol Ann Janning, Beatriz Martinez, David Nickels, Bo Anna Popich, Yolanda Soto; **January 5th** - Misty Carmin, Jackie Gallo-way, Ivonna Hinton, Carrol Kiegha, Stacy King, Jennifer Pebley, Kendra Robison, Luke Toho, Lucian Twins.

SPORTS *Presented by:*



Scott Wright
The Oklahoman

Oklahoma State landed a big-time talent from small-town Oklahoma.

Aden Kelley, the 6-foot-3, 295-pound defensive tackle from Thomas, committed to the Cowboys on Sunday, making his announcement on Twitter.

A three-star prospect according to Rivals.com, Kelley was rated No. 11 on The Oklahoman's Super 30 for the 2021 recruiting class. He had 21 scholarship offers, with several from around the Big 12 Conference.

He's the first interior defensive lineman of the 12 players now committed to the Cowboys.



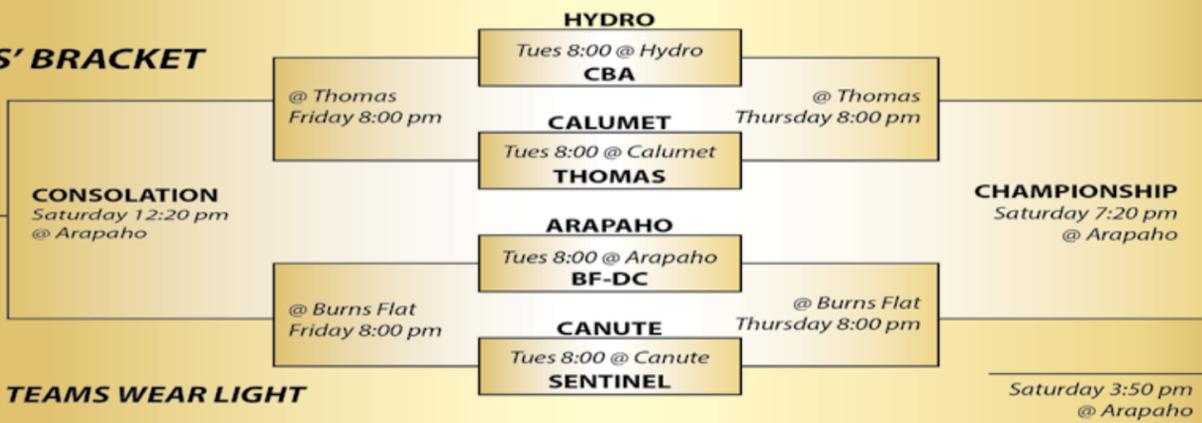
Photo Provided

Aden Kelley a senior at Thomas-Fay-Custer signs with Oklahoma State University as a defensive tackle. The four star recruit from Thomas helped lead Thomas to the state championship game.

WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

JANUARY 19th (Tues), 21st (Thurs), 22nd (Fri) and 23rd (Sat) 2021

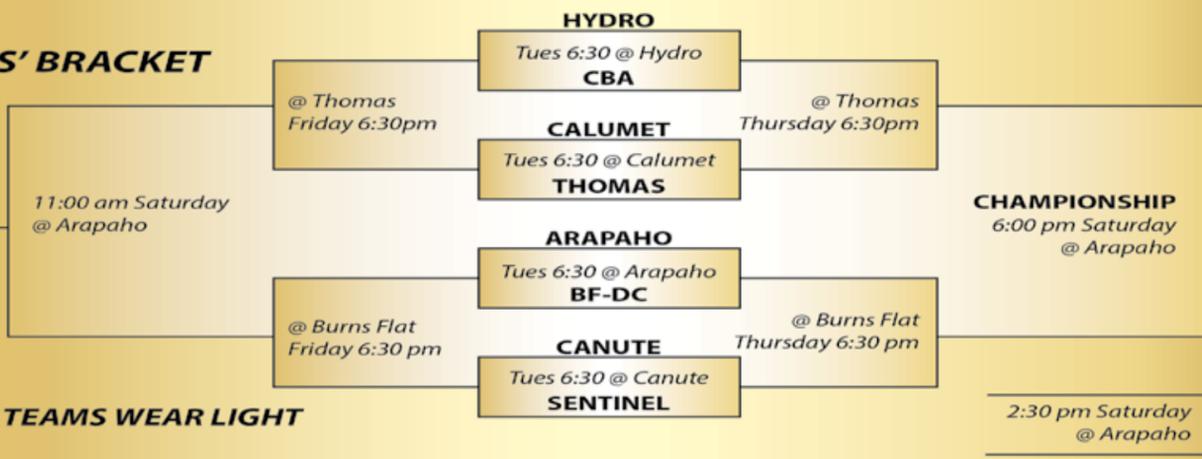
BOYS' BRACKET



WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

JANUARY 19th (Tues), 21st (Thurs), 22nd (Fri) and 23rd (Sat) 2021

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Regional Food Bank Serves 1,600 Families in Distributions Across Six Oklahoma Communities



The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma served 1,600 families Dec. 19 during food distributions in six Oklahoma communities. Families took home nearly 100 pounds of food at each event.

"This time of year can bring added stress to the lives of our neighbors living with food insecurity and add to that the increased number of Oklahomans who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we felt these distributions were needed," said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank. "We are so grateful to our partners in these communities and their volunteers who helped provide food, and hope, to our neighbors in need of food assistance."

The distributions were made possible through the help of six Regional Food Bank partner agencies

and their volunteers: Loaves & Fishes in Calvin, Chickasha Emergency Food Pantry, Hobart Area Ministerial Food Pantry, Christian Lay Resources in Mangum, Loaves & Fishes in Mustang and River of Life in Wilson.

Families received shelf-stable food, vegetables, fruit, frozen chicken, eggs and dairy at each drive-through distribution.

The Regional Food Bank and its partner agencies have witnessed a 30% increase in need among Oklahomans facing food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic and many are seeking food assistance for the first time. The Regional Food Bank has more than 300 partner agencies distributing food across central and western Oklahoma. If people are in need of food assistance, they should contact the Regional Food Bank at 405-972-1111 or visit rfbo.org/get-help to find a nearby food pantry.

Learn more about the fight against hunger in Oklahoma by visiting rfbo.org.

"The Coin Guy"

Proof 1899 Quarter Considered Almost Perfect



Trent Boesen

Proof silver coins in the latter years of the 19th century are referred to as technical marvels. The above pictured 1899 quarter is the epitome of collectors.

It is known as the finest-minted proof quarter in existence. The quality and beauty in the strike shows a liquid-like fields with frosty elements in its design. It appears as if it was struck recently.

It was certified by the Professional Coin Grading Service as a Proof 69 Deep Cameo (it is one point away from being a "perfectly struck" coin. The Deep Cameo means the surface appears like a mirror)

On November 19, 2020 it sold at auction for \$90,000. A great investment.

Do you have questions about collecting but did not know who to ask? Call "The Coin Guy" at 580-890-8076 so we can meet at Jerry's and talk about them. Thanks for reading.

Hofmeister remarks on federal agreement for additional COVID-19 school relief funding



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister made the following statement after Congressional leaders announced they will vote on another COVID-19 relief package, which includes

funding for education:

"As schools wrap up their first full semester

operating in a pandemic, Oklahoma educators are preparing for another semester of teaching, learning and keeping our school community safe and healthy," said Hofmeister. "Another round of desperately needed education relief funds will help offset the effects of the pandemic and allow our schools and districts to focus on supporting their students. These funds – which are significantly more than K-12 education received under the CARES Act – are the emergency boost schools need to implement intensive student supports to recover lost ground."

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Oklahoma History

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

A tragic day on August 15th, 1935. Two world-renowned Oklahomans Will Rogers and Wiley Post passed away during a flight in northern Alaska. Rogers and Post both had lustrous careers and heavily influenced their fields.

Will Rogers was a stage and film actor, performer, humorist, world-traveler, newspaper columnist, and commentator. During his time as a vaudeville act, his skills gained him enough notoriety to transition into Hollywood. He quickly rose up among the Hollywood elite, thanks to his comedic wit and ability to poke fun at controversial topics in a way that ensured both sides had a laugh. At the time of his death, Rogers had made 71 films, wrote over 4,000 nationally syndicated newspaper columns, traveled around the world 3 times, was the highest paid Hollywood film star, had published several books, began a radio show that ranked among the top radio programs in the country, gave lectures and speeches around the world, and gave to victims of natural disasters of floods, droughts, or earthquakes.

Wiley Post was a world-renowned aviator during the Golden Age of Aviation (between WWI and WWII). He flew around the world in record time, twice, and was the first pilot to fly solo around the world. He was instrumental in the development of pressure suits and is often credited as one of the original discoverers of the jet stream, a discovery he described encountering during his solo flight around the world. Thanks to his record setting flights, Post received parades and receptions on par with Charles Lindbergh, arguably the most famous pilot of that generation. After his world flights, Post and his navigator Harold Gatty published an account about

their journey titled, *Around the World in Eight Days*. The book included an introduction by Will Rogers, who Post had met when flying Rogers to one of his rodeo shows.

In 1935, Post began working on an air route from the West Coast to Russia. While working on custom fittings for the plane, Rogers asked Post to fly him through

between parts or another cause.

The pair received a multitude of honors and tributes from parts around the world. Post was enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame and in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He received multiple awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, The International Harmon Trophy, and the Gold Medal of Belgium.

A memorial of the two men was erected at the site of their crash and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Rogers received a statue, commissioned by the state of Oklahoma in the National Statuary Hall Collection. The collection is located in the United States Capitol and features people, nominated by states, that had an historic impact on their state. Roger's is one of the 2 statues Oklahoma has, and he is the only statue facing the Chamber entrance, potentially, because Rogers agreed to the sculpture if he was allowed to "keep an eye on Congress." Each U.S. president supposedly rubs the left shoe of his statue for good luck before their State of the Union address. Memorials for Rogers were set up in multiple states and landmarks/buildings were named in his honor. Rogers received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the famous highway Route 66 is commonly known as



Photo Provided

Will Rogers Highway with a plaque, dedicated to him in the route in Santa Monica. Rogers and Post exemplified strength of character, bravery, and humbleness in life that others can strive to emulate. They proved people from Oklahoma have a lot to offer the world and will forever be remembered as fun-loving everymen who pushed boundaries, basked in the light, and pursued their dreams.

HIGHER GROUND My Christmas Story



Jim Morrison

I like to share this story every year. Since most of you have not heard it, this is my chance to tell it again, because it so demonstrates the goodness and grace of God.

In 1964, I married a cute school teacher from Louisiana, named Mary Ruth Prater. I was still in seminary preparing for ministry. After graduation we came directly to Weatherford where I served as a campus minister through the Baptist Student Union for 37 years. But back in 1966 we were ready to start a family but things didn't work out at first. Mary was teaching school in Corn, Okla. I remember the phone call I received in my office. The test was positive and we were going to have a baby. I left the office to tell everybody I knew about the good news.

It was an exciting time as we prepared a nursery room, and eagerly awaited our first child. The summer was hot but and as the August due date approached we saw no problems and we drove to Burns Flat to see my parents on the night before the baby was due.

On the way home Mary mentioned that she had not felt the baby move for a while. We thought perhaps she was

just sleeping. The next morning Mary went to her doctor to check things out. I was out running some errands and dropped by the church. The secretary said that I needed to go to the doctor's office at once. It was only a couple of blocks away so I quickly made my way there. Just inside the door a nurse ushered me back to the examining room. I found Mary quietly sobbing on the table as the Doctor informed me that the baby was dead.

The next day the baby was delivered. They could find nothing wrong and we never knew what happened. I have hinged in my memory the little doll-like baby girl in the pink casket. She was perfectly formed and looked like she was sleeping. We buried the little one while Mary was still in the hospital. Her parents took the baby things to their home in Shreveport.

We grieved as the days went by. We looked into adoption but process was so slow. As Christmas approached we took our annual trip to her home in Shreveport. When Mary's mom asked what she wanted for Christmas all she could say was, "a baby."

We made it though the Christmas time, the fellowship easing the pain to some degree. We sat down for the evening meal on Christmas, as we prepared to return to Weatherford the next day. The phone rang and Mrs. Prater rose to answer it. It was a call that would change our lives. Mrs. Prater was

a nurse and had shared the story of our loss with the doctor with whom she worked. The phone call was from that doctor. It seems that a Louisiana Tech co-ed had given birth to a little girl a few days before. She was not married and as a college student felt she could not give the baby a good home. She was considering giving the child up for adoption. The doctor remembered our situation and the call was to see if we were interested in adoption. Of course we were excited and pleased to say yes.

The Prater's hastily made plans to find a lawyer to go through the legal process. And a day or two later we drove to the hospital, our hearts pumping faster with each block. We waited and waited, it seemed like an eternity. And finally, the nurse brought out this little bundle. The delay was to give her time to change the name on the little bracelet to show Morrison. The nurse placed her in my arms. She was a beautiful baby girl. We could hardly believe the way God had worked to give us such a Christmas present.

The nursery things were there and we took them with us to a joyful and surprised homecoming in Weatherford. That little girl will be 52 this next week. She has been a blessed reminder of the goodness of God. We named her Michelle and she and her husband, Scott, have given us two wonderful grandchildren and this last summer a great grandchild.

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