

# WEST OK WEEKLY



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February 24-March 2, 2021 • 10040 Hwy 54 • Weatherford • (580) 772-5939 • email: sales@westokweekly.com • www.westokweekly.com • Vol. 8 No. 08

## Bessie Fire Department schedules pancake fundraiser

The Bessie Community and Fire Department Pancake Supper will be held March 1st from 4 PM - 8 PM. The immensely popular supper will feature whole hog sausage and be held at the Bessie Gym. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 years old. Curbside delivery will be available and all proceeds will go to the Bessie Fire Department. So, set aside the date and come on by for some delicious food and good company!



The City of Weatherford, Western Equipment, and Rick Spain Construction all pitched in to clear the street, parking lot, and sidewalks for the drive-thru food pantry at the Weatherford Food and Resource Center.

## Daddy daughter dance rescheduled



The GPF YMCA Daddy Daughter Dance has been moved to Saturday, March 6th from 6 PM - 9 PM. Dinner will still be provided in a socially distanced space

inside the second gym. Entry pricing is \$45 per couple and \$5 per additional child.

## Spotted Hound Saloon BBQ contest

1st annual "Smoking at the Hound" BBQ contest at The Spotted Hound Saloon in Weatherford begins on Saturday, March 20th with thousands in cash prizes, trophies, and more. The cook-off will have competitors bring their best meats for judgement in the Ribs, Pulled Pork, and Chicken categories. A bonus category for Best Steak will be held for an additional \$50 entry fee. First place of the Best Steak competition will receive all of the entry fees from the Bonus category.



Entries for the regular Ribs, Pulled Pork, and Chicken categories will need to be registered by March 13th. The registration fee is \$150 and rules and regulations will be provided before entry. There will be a meeting for the cooks at 8 AM the day of the competition.

Tickets for the BBQ tasting, which will take place after judging, are \$10 for adults and \$5 for anyone under 18 years old. They'll also include entry to the after-contest party and concert that begins at 2 PM. A variety of vendors will be on site during the day as well. The event will be family friendly with designated areas, but entry to the bar will still be for people 21 and over.

So, don't miss out on the fun at the 1st BBQ contest at The Spotted Hound Saloon.

## WHS winter play rescheduled

Weatherford High School's theatre class is showcasing a short play based on Edgar Allen Poe's poem "The Raven." The play, set on a dreary night in December, centers around lost love, grief, and desire. Poe's poem brought him international spotlight and set his name as a major talking point on the lips of the public upon its release. It inspired countless retellings and imitations. His work has been referenced in all forms of pop culture (film, music, video games), and even led to the name of the professional football team the Baltimore Ravens - a name chosen due to Poe's time in Baltimore and his burial there.

Weatherford's winter performance will open on April 1st and will feature the talented cast: Chase Dawson as Poe; Mackenzie Copeland as Edgar, Sam Kellar as Madeline; Brittany Arnold as Roderick; and Isaac Martyn as The Raven.

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**Sign up now for Baseball, T-Ball, and Softball**

Sign up online at [cityofweatherford.com](http://cityofweatherford.com)  
Ages 4-12 which include Tball, 8U, 10U, and 12U age divisions or in person at City Hall.  
Sign-up Deadline: March 5, 5pm  
Contact Trent Perkins or Todd Earp: [wfordparks@cityofweatherford.com](mailto:wfordparks@cityofweatherford.com) or 774-2450

**Bessie Community & Fire Department**

# PANCAKE SUPPER

AND WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE  
**MONDAY, MARCH 1ST**  
**4pm-8pm**

Location: **BESSIE GYM**  
(Curbside delivery will be available)

**Adults - \$10**  
**Children - \$5**  
(Under 12 yrs.)

Proceeds go to the Bessie Fire Department

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**Sheryl Ann Troxel**

Sheryl Ann (Swartzendruber) Troxel of Weatherford was born August 25, 1953, to Glenn Swartzendruber and Mabel (Miller) Swartzendruber in Thomas, OK. She gained her heavenly wings on February 13, 2021, at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City, at the age of 67 years, 5 months and 18 days.



Sheryl grew up on the home farm northwest of Hydro, graduating from Weatherford High School in 1972. Following graduation, she moved to Tulsa where she worked in a cafeteria and attended school 2-3 years before returning to Weatherford. She continued to work in various restaurants and hotels in Weatherford as well as the Weatherford Opportunity Workshop.

In 1994 she married Wayne Troxel of Weatherford. She lived her adult life in Weatherford and was often seen riding, first her bike and then her canopy covered tricycle, around town to her favorite places. She loved riding her bike. She was fiercely independent, enjoyed the simple things of life and found satisfaction, comfort and peace in the little things. She enjoyed lunch at the senior center, found friends as she attended worship and events at the First United Methodist Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church and the Church of the Nazarene at various points in her life.

She was preceded in death by her mother Mabel Swartzendruber in 2001, her oldest sister Shirley Phelps in 2007 and her father Glenn Swartzendruber in 2011. She is survived by her husband Wayne Troxel of Weatherford; brother-in-law Joel Troxel (April), and niece Addison of Shawnee, OK; sister Marlene Russell (Richard), of Oklahoma City, OK; daughter Susie Howell (Lonnie) of Spring, Texas; brother-in-law Ronald Phelps of Bethany, OK, nephew Michael Phelps (Kim) of Bethany, OK and niece Melissa Johnson (Paul) of Yukon, OK; great nieces: Zoey Phelps, Brooklyn Johnson; and great nephew Reid Johnson, as well as many loving cousins and community friends.

We are appreciative of the cousins who lived in the area who cared for her, the ladies at the ETC Shop, especially Ellen Shantz, and her friends in the community who made her feel safe and loved. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Et Cetera Shop, 121 N. State Street, Weatherford, OK 73096, since this was Sheryl's favorite "hangout."

Casual dress is the choice for the day as Sheryl was a casual dresser in most situations, especially in cold windy conditions.

**Mary Jane Keihn**

Private Services for Mary Jane Keihn, 78, Arapaho resident, will be held for family and officiated by Doyle Kinney. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Mary Jane (Son) Heinrichs-Keihn was born July 29, 1941, in Grady County, OK and passed away Sunday, February 14, 2021, in the Integris Hospice House in Oklahoma City, OK.

Mary Jane was raised in the Butler/Arapaho areas and graduated from Arapaho High School in 1960. She married Lonnie D. Heinrichs on August 6, 1960, in Custer County. She later married Fred Kiehn on July 20, 1998, in Clinton.

She was employed with the 3-M Company in

Weatherford and was a supervisor at the Kellwood Factory in Clinton until its closing.

She is a member of the First Christian Church; spending time with grandkids and traveling in her RV.

She is preceded in death by her husband Fred Kiehn, her children's father Lonnie Heinrichs, and her parents.

She is survived by daughter Christye Steigmen and husband Michael of Clinton; two sons: David Heinrichs and wife Gayla of Drummond, OK and Dean Heinrichs and wife Yvette of Benton, AR.

She is also survived by five grandchildren: Candi Johnson, Shane Steigman, Brett Steigmen, Jacob Steigman and Paige Heinrichs and eight great-grandchildren.

The family has requested those wanting to give a memorial contribution in lieu of flowers, may do so to the Arapaho/Butler School General Fund in Memory of Mary Jane Kiehn.

**Cleta Janice Thiessen**

Cleta Janice Thiessen was born on August 17, 1937, in Hinton, OK to Bill and Bertha C. (McKee) Murphy. She passed away on February 12, 2021, at her home in Hinton, OK at the age of 83. Cleta graduated from Hinton High School.



She married Lee Thiessen on August 21, 1955, in Hinton, OK. They lived in the Hinton-Hydro area all their lives. She helped Lee on the farm and raised her children. Cleta enjoyed gardening, canning, sewing clothes (made the kids clothes), and sang in the King's Trio for a number of years. She was very active in the Body of Christ in Western Oklahoma and most recently attended Mt. Zion Pentecostal Holiness Church in Hinton, OK.

Survivors include her husband Lee Thiessen of the home Hydro, OK; her children: Anita Lutz and husband Rick of Hinton, OK, Ben Thiessen and wife Tarissa of Hinton, OK, Mark Thiessen and wife Rhonda of Mustang, OK, and Joseph (Cory) Thiessen of OKC, OK; her grandchildren: Ryan Lutz and wife Erin of Edmond, OK, Eric Lutz of OKC,OK, Katie Braziel and husband Jeremy of Guthrie, OK, Karissa Huddlestone of Weatherford, OK, Joshua Davenport and wife Samantha of Mustang, OK, Andrew Thiessen of Mustang, OK, and Emily Harmon and husband Zachary of OKC,OK; her great grandchildren: Hannah Lutz of Edmond, OK, and Maddie Braziel of Guthrie, OK; her brother Basil Murphy and wife Lena of Hinton, OK, as well as many other relatives and friends.

Cleta was preceded in death by her parents Bill and Bertha Murphy; grandson Joseph Lutz; sisters: Mildred Winn and Irene Mogg; and brother Dan Murphy.

In Lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Cleta's name to First Stone Ministries, 1330 N. Classen Boulevard, Suite G80, OKC, OK, 73106 or at firststone.org

Services were at First United Methodist Church, Monday, 2:00 PM, February 22, 2021, Hinton, OK

Officiated by Rev. Gary Haynes, Rev. John Hauser, and Mr. David Meador.

Burial was at Bethel Mennonite Cemetery, Hydro, OK.

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 (Turner Funeral Homes).

**George Edward Teeter**

George Edward Teeter was born February 11, 1938, in Stafford to David and Winniford (Loughmiller) Teeter and passed away at his home in Oklahoma City on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at the age of 83 years and three days.



George was raised and attended school southwest of Stafford and graduated from Stafford High School in 1957. After graduation he attended OSU – Okmulgee

Cabinetry school. George lived in Oklahoma City and worked in construction. George enjoyed woodworking and working in his cabinet shop.

George is survived by three nephews: Lloyd and Robin Teeter, Ralph and Sheri Teeter, and Wayne and Mary Teeter; a cousin Margaret Pebley; three great-nephews: Jacob, Raymond, J.B.; and a great-niece and Heidi Teeter. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers: Doyle and Raymond; and one sister Pearl.

**Dr. Ching-Yi Chen**

Dr. Ching-Yi Chen went to our Lord on 2/16/2021. Dr. Chen was born on January 10th, 1945 to Mr. Mu-Hai Chen and Mrs. Ju-Chu Chen-Hsaio in Heitō Takao Prefecture of Japanese Formosa (Currently Pingtung City, Taiwan. He was conscripted to the Taiwanese Air Force from 1963 to 1965.



He married Lin Lin-Man, a nurse, in 1970 and graduated with a medical degree at Chung-Shan Medical Specialized School at Taitung, Taiwan. He obtained acupuncture certification in 1973 and completed his medical training in Taiwan. He had two sons before immigrating to the United States in 1974 for his United States medical residency. Due to immigration laws at the time, his family had to wait a year and joined him in Yonkers, NY in 1975.

He completed his residency in St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center of New York in Manhattan, NY in 1979. Afterwards, he moved his family to Clinton, OK to start a private practice in obstetrics and gynecology. Early in his career, he had his daughter in Clinton. He was president of the medical staff at Integris Clinton Regional Hospital multiple times.

Shortly after his wife died in 2001, he retired in 2002. He married Wen-Lin Hseih in 2014, and divorced in 2018.

He was an avid gardener and botanist. Promoting Chinese and Taiwanese culture and history was his passion. He was a loving father and a caring grandfather who will be missed greatly.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1945, his sister Helen Cheng-Yu Hwang-Chen in 1991, his wife in 2001, and mother in 2003.

He is survived by his sister Fang-Yu Wang-Chen of Kaohsiung, Taiwan; oldest son Dr. Don Chen, DDS of Beaverton, OR, second son Dr. Eddie Chen, DO of Fort Collins, CO; and daughter Dr. Eileen Chen-Mizuuchi DDS of Allen, TX.

Memorial Services with Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home will be held at a later date, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Memorial contributions to be made in lieu of flowers to Clinton Regional Hospital Service Volunteers Inc, 100 N. 30th, Clinton, OK 73601.

**Albert Peck**

One of the last great cowboys rode into Heaven Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021. There's no doubt he saddled a horse or two the very moment he arrived.



Albert Peck bought a saddle before he had a horse. After returning from his service in Korea where he was awarded the Bronze and Silver Star, Albert and his young bride Charleen became active in the Clinton Roundup Club. In the mid50s, Albert could be seen riding south on Hwy 183 to go to the Roundup Club Arena that was located near the fairgrounds.

Funeral services for Albert Peck, 88, Clinton farmer/rancher and retired postal employee, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 1 p.m., in the Center Point Cemetery, located two miles west of Aledo, Oklahoma. Doyle Kinney will officiate and the services will be under the direction of Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

Albert Ernest Peck was born Feb. 17, 1932, during a snow storm to A.M. (Pat) Peck and Opha (Addington) Peck near Rhea, Oklahoma, and passed away during a snow storm Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, in his rural home east of Clinton, Oklahoma.

Albert Peck was raised in the Aledo area and attended school at Center Point, Aledo and Leedeey before moving to Clinton where he graduated in 1950. While in school, he enjoyed basketball and riding horses. His junior and senior years he worked for C.R. Anthony stores.

Albert married Charleen Southerland on June 11, 1950. He sold his first horse to buy her engagement ring. Albert was soon called to the U.S. Army on Sept. 1, 1950, serving a duty in Korea and being Honorably Discharge with the rank of corporal on May 22, 1952.

He continued his education, attending Southwestern State College and receiving his business degree in May 1957.

Albert worked a short time at a bank then began his career with the U.S. Postal Service where he retired in 1987, all the while farming, ranching, raising horses and a loving family.

Albert was a member of the First Christian Church. He spent many years raising and breaking horses and serving as president of the Clinton Roundup Club.

Albert and Charleen enjoyed dancing on Friday nights and playing Rook with friends on Saturday nights. They were married for over 70 years.

Albert is preceded in death by his parents Pat and Opha (See OBIT, page 3)

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# OBIT

Continued from Page 2

as a sister Leta Mae Barr. He is survived by his wife Charleen of the home, daughter Leadell Baca and husband Bryan of Clinton, son Randal Peck and wife Arlea of Fay, son Larry Peck and wife Mary of Sentinel, a nephew they thought of as a son Perry Matz and wife Debbie of Clinton, sister-in-law Betty Peck of Shawnee, niece Bonnie Gilbert and husband David of Tulsa.

He is survived by seven grandchildren: Tayler Hartman and husband Matt, Briley Baca and wife Kaci, Sarah Foster and husband Bryan, Chizum Peck and Katie Ronke, Brandy Pool Litsch and husband Jimmie; Lori Morton and husband Tyson, and Tyler Peck.

Albert is survived by seven great-grandchildren: Timber Hartman; Jack, Ben and Sy Foster; Treylon, Trew and Spade Pool; McClayne Litsch; Trenton Morton; Shaelynn and Chase Peck.

When we remember Albert, an old Red Steagall quote comes to mind. "Son, a man's brand is his own special mark that says this is mine, leave it alone. You hire out to a man, ride for his brand and protect it like it was your own." Albert took tremendous pride in his brand, and we will all honor him by riding for his brand in our own way.

The title "Cowboy" can't be bought down at the local store. "Cowboy" is earned. It's the way you live and what you stand for. No matter who you ask, they will tell you Albert was without a doubt "Cowboy."

Most cowboys just ride off into the sunset. Albert's sunset days found him on his favorite horse Ghost, gathering wheat pasture cattle. There's no doubt that this "Cowboy" was spurrin', ropin' and ridin' hard as he entered the gates of Heaven.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Albert's honor to the Clinton Roundup Club, P.O. Box 1553, Clinton, OK 73601.



Provided

The Weatherford Fire Department recently celebrated the retirement of Jay Moore. Jay had 20+ years of service and dedication to the WFD. Pictured with Jay is wife Kelly and daughter Jaylee.



## Disaster Assistance Now Available for Oklahoma Ranchers Experiencing Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provided by the USDA Farm Service Agency provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2021 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation, ie. pictures with dates
- Proof of beginning inventory
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- Copy of grower's contracts, if applicable

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow= 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2022.

For questions or more information, contact the Oklahoma FSA office by calling 405.742.1130.

## Weatherford Police Department officers attend advance training

The Weatherford Police Department recently sent Det. Joe Cox and Sgt. Kenny Johnson to Taser Instructor School. These officers learned from the training the proper use and how to instruct other officers how to use the Taser 7. They also learned that 80 percent of incidents are resolved without Taser Probes ever being deployed. This is due to several features that the Taser 7 offers. This past week officers with the Weatherford Police Department went through De-Escalation Training that included using the Taser 7 as a tool to de-escalate a situation. Once the training was completed, the officers were certified to carry them. As part of the Certification, officers were exposed to being Tased to make officers aware of the capabilities of the Taser 7. The Taser will serve as a resource to help de-escalate situations and will help to protect the citizens of Weatherford and members of the Weatherford Police Department.



Taser 7

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## AUTOMOBILES & AUTO MISC.

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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. \$4,700 OBO. 580-330-3489

**09' Volkswagon Station Wagon-** 80k miles, heated seats, very nice and clean. \$4500 OBO. 580-330-3489

**'16 3/4 ton Dodge pick-up bed-** Brand new. \$1650.00 (405) 639-9667

**'87 Cadillac Brougham-** great condition. \$3,000. (405) 639-9667

**60' CT Chevy Pick-up-** 350 engine with 350 automatic transmission. Very little rust, needs body work and paint. Used daily. \$5,500. (405) 545-0579

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

**84' Harley XLX-** 61 cubic inches, sportster, S&S carb., dual straights, low miles, \$3,500. (405) 637-8137

**For sale or trade:** 2002 Suzuki Savage 5500 miles. \$4,000 firm. Excellent condition. Sonata Motorcycle, and Honda Dream motorcycle. 405-639-9667

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**For Sale-** Couch with hide-a-bed. \$100. More lamps and more furniture. Blue recliner. \$30. Love seat, cream colored, \$30. Wood rocker, excellent condition, \$65. Call 580-613-0108.

## FARM, LAWN & GARDEN

**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.

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

**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

**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

**For Sale-** Pick-up toolbox \$35. Weedeater attachments, blower, edger. \$25. Huskee 21" mower, excellent condition. \$100. (580) 302-2496 or (580) 772-7530

**For Sale-** Queen box springs and mattress, good shap. \$125. (580) 772-7530 or (580) 302-2496

**Winter Special-** For Sale 2 rototillers and 3 riding mowers. \$500 for all OBO willing to trade. (405) 639-9667

## PETS & ANIMALS

**ADOPTABLE ANIMALS-** at the Friends For Life Animal Society. Kittens, cats, puppies and dogs available. You can browse adoptable animals at www.okflfas.org

**For Sale-** Schnauzers, all our babies are raised in our home, very socialized, happy, healthy, loving, lots of colors, registered, 5 yr health guaranteed, new babies are ready to go now, Facebook, Rhinestone Schnauzers. Taking deposits. Lorie (580) 210-9127

**Rescue dogs-** \$50 rehoming fee. (580) 291-3875

**For adoption:** 1 Loving, caring, brindle Razorback dog, Razorback puppies, 1 Great Pyrenees dog, 1 Maltese dog. Accepting donations for purchasing winter items for the Christian Store in Thomas. 580-291-3875

**Free-** Kittens (1) yellow male, (1) fluffy gray female with white markings, appx 2 months. (580) 302-2351

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## MISC.

**For Sale-** BEEF! Natural grass fed longhorn beef, 95% lean, no hormones, non-GMO. Can sell a few pounds or up to a whole beef, Fay, OK, 580-445-8223.

**FOR SALE-** Horse quality bermuda hay. Small square bales, second cutting, wire tied, barn kept, no stickers, 55-60lbs each. Ask about delivery options. Located north of Weatherford. \$8/bale. (405) 545-0651

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used, no GMO feeds given, 95% lean. Can sell 1lb. up to a whole beef. First come, first serve. (580) 309-0135

**Trail Rides by Horseback-** horses provided, hayrides, hayride & cookout, riding lessons, lunch/dinner rides, bring your horse too and more! Like us on Facebook. Old Caldwell Trail Stables. 2 mi. SE of Fay, OK. www.oldcaldwelltrail.com. (580) 309-0135.

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**For Sale-** Large heavy black motorcycle jacket with pockets and zippers. \$75. Aviator goggles, \$25. Long black motorcycle gloves, \$25. Skirt and shirt dressy black leath, \$25/each. Cash only. (405) 848-5096 or (405) 885-2750

**For Sale-** nice has; panama hat; outback wool hat, \$10/each. Riggidy old dark hat, \$5, cash only. (405) 848-5096

**For Sale-** 1.5"x50 discharge fire hose, heavy duty, bright yellow, great for back flushing your swimming pool, almost new. \$65. (580) 819-1399

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# LOCAL & AREA NEWS



**Mike Smith**  
News Director

**BINGER AREA FIRE-** Legacy Bank officials said a tragedy trust was set up recently by friends and family of Lance and Kaitlyn Scales at Legacy Bank of Binger. The Scales family lost everything in a house fire recently. Checks can be made payable to the Scales Family Tragedy Trust. Checks can be deposited at any Legacy Location or can be mailed to Legacy Bank, P.O. Box B, Binger, Oklahoma 73009.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING-** The Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce awarded a \$1.76 million cares act recovery assistance grant to Southwestern Intermediary Finance team in Weatherford to capitalize and administer a revolving loan fund to provide critical gap financing to businesses adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic across twenty-four counties. The EDA grant will be matched with \$440,000 in local investment. The revolving loan fund will serve businesses in the area counties of Custer, Beckham, Caddo, Dewey, Roger Mills and Washita.

**WEATHERFORD/EXIT 82 PHASE 3-** Phase 3 of the Exit-82 Project at Weatherford continues to

make progress. Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell said the work is projected to be complete around April. The work will allow traffic to have easier access to the access road south of Interstate-40.

**CLINTON EXIT 65-** During a recent Clinton City Council meeting, Oklahoma Department of Transportation says it has selected plan 2d for the interstate-40 exit 65 and 65a interchange. Division 5 engineer Brent Almquist says the project will be let for bid in 2024.

**WEATHERFORD SCHOOLS/ELEMENTARY PROJECTS-** Weatherford Public Schools interim superintendent Steve Callen provided an update to the board of education during a meeting that the elementary school building projects remain on schedule. Construction of the two new elementary schools is being funded through the passage of bond issues.

**WEATHERFORD PD/RAPE REPORTS-** Weatherford Police are investigating two rape reports. Detective Matt Bartel said one rape was re-

ported in the 700 block of north Broadway. He said officers continue to follow up on leads and no arrests have been made. Bartel said there was also a reported rape in the 500 block of east Main over the weekend. He said the suspect has not yet been interviewed and officers are following up on any leads.

**CLINTON FRIENDS ON FRISCO-** The President of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce Julie Caldwell said the Friends on Frisco event will return this year beginning April 23rd. Friends on Frisco is a once a month event through October.

**WRH COVID TESTING-** The Chief Executive Officer of Weatherford Regional Hospital said there is good news surrounding the number of COVID-19 cases. Brian Denton said it appears to be on a downward trend. Denton said the trend is finally going down and said there have been several days of no positive cases and a lack of cases that have required hospitalization.

## School Funding Reform Passes Budget Committee



A bill that would reform the school funding formula, ensuring funding follows the student, passed with a vote of 25-7 in the House Appropriations and Budget Committee today.

“This bill is as common sense as it gets. The money goes where the student goes,” said Rep. Kyle Hilbert, R-Bristow. “It makes school funding work how it should and how most Oklahomans believe it already does: With money following students.”

House Bill 2078, authored by Hilbert, revises the school funding formula to curb the number of non-existing – or ghost – students currently allowed in the system.

“Oklahoma will spend nearly \$200 million on over 55,000 students that do not exist in the current academic year because of the way our school funding formula is structured,” Hilbert said. “Students are being double or triple counted as they move between districts because schools are allowed to use whichever count is highest from the past three years.”

Hilbert explained that if a student moves from District A, which uses the 2018-19 average daily membership (ADM) count, to District B, which uses the 2019-20 count, and then to District C, which uses the 2020-21 count, they could be triple counted.

The bill gives school districts greater flexibility over how much they are allowed to carry forward from one fiscal year to the next. The measure would allow districts to waive carry forward limits altogether for two years and then increase the carry forward cap by 20% for all districts moving forward. This gives school districts greater control over their own financial stability instead of depending upon the state funding formula for it.

“As a result of distributing state aid based on high counts from a three-year period, schools can receive continued funding for students who transferred to other districts, graduated or even moved out of state,” Hilbert said. “And with COVID-19, a number of students moved to virtual charter schools. As these students return to brick-and-mortar schools, the virtual charters will still be able to continue to receive funding for students they no longer serve if this issue is not addressed in state statute.”

HB 2078 now is eligible to be considered by the House.

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**Alcohol causing problems?** Alcoholics Anonymous meets daily at 928 W. Main, Weatherford. Call (580) 819-0727 for more information... **Christian Free Store** – Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK Community Center** “Bible Study,” Every Monday Night from 7:00-8:00 Hwy 58. (5 miles) South of Hwy 152. For Information contact 405-643-9211 **Free and Open to the Public.**

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**Happy Birthday Wishes for February 24th** - Harrison Cornell, Kristen Kelley, Britton Linstead, Mizie Mol, Monica Smith, Claude Snider; **February 25th** -Annie Ellis, Brianna Farrow, Dordinda Hart, Mike Hill, Heather Livingston, Kimberly Meltz, Ann Seals, Gary Severn, Larry Joe Taylor, Zan Warde; **February 26th** - Van Cheadle, James Davis, Melissa Godwin, Sue Harper, Terry Harris, Lonnie Isch, Maria Jacobs, Danielle Shaw, Candace Slagell, Margaret Starr, Amber Whitt; **February 27th** - Eddie Berrong, Tonja Challis, Glenda Creech, Riley Gossen, Rylee Suzanne Gossen, Peyton Johnston, Martha Miller, Margaret Reed, Wayne Reimer, Dale Rogers, Angie Schmidt, Jerri Schwartz, Gary Schwartz, Dennis and Candace Slagell, Brooklyn Stewart, Laramie Taylor, Anita Woods; **February 28th** - Shelby Carpenter, Steve Corbin, Yasmine Garcia, Grady Gaunt, Carter Mackey, Mark Payne, Steven Shankles, Cheri Thomason, Rick Thompson, Lisa Turney; **March 1st**- Jason Bengs, Jance Benson, Jeree Burnett, Lee Gregory, John Minnix, Tracy Mullins-Courtney, Tia Sauer, Mary Spencer, Callie Waldrop, Tommy Willis; **March 2nd** - Bob Balzer, Tiffany Bennett, Laramie Campbell, Virginia Cole, Jeremy Flaming, Tera Gosson, Riley Ingram, David Peterson, Brooks Pond, Marilyn Prophot, Ravin Ralston, Lee Rivera, Stacie Sawatzky, Michael Sewell, Chad Skinner, Tammy Wolsey.

# SPORTS *Presented by:*



## Lady Bulldogs Sweep Southeastern, Clinch Top Spot in GAC Western Division

**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The SWOSU Lady Bulldogs defeated Southeastern Oklahoma State 73-66 on Saturday afternoon, completing a four-game season sweep of the Savage Storm while also securing first place in the Great American Conference's Western Division for the season.

SWOSU shot 35.7% (25-70) from the field and knocked down nine three-pointers while also forcing 25 Southeastern turnovers and turning those into 20 points. The Lady Bulldogs outscored the Savage Storm in each of the first two quarters, building a 41-29 lead at the break that was their largest advantage of the game. Southeastern outscoring SWOSU by three points in the third quarter and two in the fourth, but it was not enough to overcome the Lady Dawgs halftime advantage.

Taber Beer and Karly Gore led the way for the Lady Bulldogs with 16 points apiece while Beer filled out her stat sheet with seven assists, four steals and two rebounds and Gore added four rebounds and one assist. Makyla Tramble secured a double-double with 10 points and 15 rebounds and Lauren Ramey stepped up with 15 points and a career-high eight rebounds.

"I thought we did a good job of forcing turnovers today, but I don't think we did a good enough job of turning those opportunities into points," SWOSU Head Coach Kelsi



Musick said following the game. "I do think we showed great poise in the second half and any time they made a run at us, we had an answer. I thought Taber Beer did a great job for us, her defensive presence was strong and it

created some buckets for her and her teammates." SWOSU, now 13-2 on the year, has secured their spot atop the Western Division standings, but they still have three games remaining in the regular season.

## SWOSU Falls in Final Second at Southeastern

**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

SWOSU overcame a nine-point deficit with 2:01 to play in overtime and took an 82-81 lead with 11 seconds to play, but Southeastern Oklahoma State's Kellen Manek drilled a three-pointer with 0.2 seconds remaining to allow the Savage Storm to escape with an 84-82 win over the Bulldogs on Saturday.

Southeastern controlled the game throughout, leading for 87.0% of the action in a game that featured four ties and four lead changes. SWOSU also trailed by nine points with two minutes to play in regulation, but rallied to outscore SE 14-5 and force overtime on a basket by Kamden Gipson with just over two seconds to play in regulation.

In overtime, Manek hit a three-pointer with 2:01 to put SE up 81-72, but SWOSU scored the next 10 points, the final two coming on a driving bucket from Damion Thornton that put the Dawgs up 82-81 with 11 seconds remaining. On Southeastern's final possession, Manek missed his first attempt before teammate Bobby Johnson grabbed the rebound despite his foot appearing to be on the sideline. No call was made, allowing the Savage Storm to work the ball around to Manek, who fired from left of the circle and hit the game-winner with less than a second on the clock.

"It's a tough loss, no doubt about it. Our guys came out and played extremely hard and they never quit, I'm so proud of them for that," SWOSU Head Coach Terry Evans said following the game. "We didn't shoot particularly well early, but our defense kept us in the game and gave us a chance, but we didn't quite play well enough to get the win."

SWOSU was led by Kamden Gipson with 20 points to go along with six rebounds and two assists while



Damion Thornton added 16 points and eight rebounds. Jaylan Williams had 11 points and three rebounds off the bench while Bralyn James and Tauriawn Knight

each scored nine points for the Dawgs. This is the fourth consecutive setback for the Bulldogs, who fall to 6-8 on the year with the loss.

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# New Bulldogs of the Week are Jaylan Williams and Maddy North



**Doug Self**  
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The newest Bulldog of the Week awards were announced on Monday morning, with a pair of SWOSU Basketball players – Jaylan Williams and Maddy North – claiming the honors.

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.'

Williams (Oklahoma City, Okla.) provided a spark off the bench for the Bulldogs on Saturday in their last-second defeat at Southeastern Oklahoma State.

He scored 11 points – his second-highest output of the year – on 4-of-8 shooting, 2-of-4 from three-point range, and also grabbed three rebounds and two steals in 26 minutes of action.

North (Newcastle, Okla.) had one of her best games of the season on Saturday as she helped the Lady Bulldogs pick up a 73-66 victory at Southeastern Oklahoma State, a win which secured SWOSU to top spot in the GAC's Western Division. North hit 2-of-3 three-point attempts and was 3-for-6 from the field overall as she scored eight points and also grabbed two rebounds.

## House A&B Committee Approves Bill to Increase Income Qualifier for Additional Homestead Exemption

The Oklahoma House of Representatives Appropriations & Budget Committee passed legislation by Rep. Lonnie Sims, R-Jenks, to update the statutory income qualifier to claim an additional homestead exemption. The qualifier has not been raised since 1997.

House Bill 1009 increases the statutory income qualifier to claim an additional homestead exemption from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The additional homestead exemption reduces, by \$1,000, the assessed valuation on the homestead of a homeowner whose gross household income is below the income qualifier limit.

Sims explained that current statute outlines that Oklahomans aged 65 and older who previously qualified for the exemption are no longer required to file annually, but many retired Oklahomans still do. This puts local tax assessors in a position of having to take away the exemption when informed that the homeowner's income has increased above the current qualifier of \$20,000.

"Many Oklahomans are losing their homestead exemption because of the cost-of-living adjustments that have affected their Social Security income throughout the past 24 years," Sims said. "Unfortunately, this has pushed many of their incomes beyond the current qualifier. While this tax savings is not much, it can help an individual who is living month-to-month. It's time

we address this so they can keep this benefit."

On average, the double homestead exemption results in a savings ranging from \$87 to \$137 annually.

Sims is developing a floor amendment to the bill with Rep. Meloyde Blancett, D-Tulsa, to restrict any one-time federal disbursements, such as CARES funding, from being included in the income calculation for this exemption.

Blancett told the committee a constituent contacted her to say that with her federal COVID-19 relief funds this year, she did not qualify for the homestead exemption this year.

"Many seniors who rely on their additional homestead exemption status were bumped off of their eligibility by receiving CARES stimulus, and that was not the intent of this assistance," Blancett said. "I am honored to work with Representative Sims on this important issue to ensure our seniors are not unintentionally harmed."

HB 1009 is authored in the Senate by Sen. John Michael Montgomery, R-Lawton. After passing the House A&B Committee 31-0, the bill is now available to be considered on the House floor.

HB 1009 is modeled after legislation Sims authored in the 57th Legislature, House Bill 3653, which passed the House unanimously in March 2020 but was not heard in the Senate due to the pandemic.

## "The Coin Guy" World's Smallest Billboards



Trent Boesen

Jacob Houck was merchant in Baltimore, Maryland about 1830. Jacob had the bright idea to advertise his goods on circulating coins. He put advertising counterstamps on 125 Capped Bust half dollars to show what he was selling. As these coins

circulated people could see his products.

The 1795 Silver Dollar pictured above shows a product known as a "cure all" concocted from vegetables and sold for \$1.60 a bottle. This is the only silver dollar Jacob Houck used to advertise his product.

The silver dollar is from the collection of Donald G. Patrick who specializes in counterstamp coins.

The above silver dollar sold on Jan. 3, 2021 during an online auction for \$9,600.

Do you have questions about collecting coins but did 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.

# Oklahoma History: Apollo-Soyuz

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

In celebration of NASA's successful Mars landing of the Perseverance Rover on February 18th, 2021, let's take a look back at one of our own western Oklahoma astronauts General Thomas P. Stafford and one of his historic space missions. On July 15th, 1975, Oklahoma pilot and astronaut Thomas Patten Stafford acted as commander of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project mission. Mission prepping began in 1973, shortly after Stafford's promotion to the rank of Brigadier General at the end of 1972. The mission, dubbed ASTP, was a joint operation between American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts, the first international space mission. A milestone that millions of people around the world watched unfold as the U.S. Apollo docked with the Soviet Union Soyuz capsule. The success of the mission, and the famous handshake in space between the teams, is generally considered the cap on the end of the Space Race that began in 1957. A feat possible by the progress made between the superpowers and the teams performing the mission.

The United States 3-man team was comprised of Director of Flight Crew Operations astronaut Donald K. "Deke" Slayton, Commander of ASTP Thomas P. Stafford, and Vance D. Brand. A rigorous training program had the team going back and forth between Russia and the United States.

The work paid off as the teams launched on July 15th, 1975. Soyuz 19, with crew members Alexei Leonov and Valery Kubasov, departed at 12:20 UTC, and the Apollo spacecraft and crew departed at 19:50 UTC. After two days in space, they docked on July 17th.

The crews met and performed the "first major joint scientific experiment(s) in the history of mankind" – Leonid Brezhnev (Soviet leader). These experiments included an arranged eclipse of the Sun by the Apollo module that would allow the Soyuz crew to take photographs of the solar corona. The corona is the outer aura projected by the sun which was, and still is, only visible during an eclipse. By using the Apollo to create a manmade eclipse, the teams were able to study the corona at length. Future studies of the corona utilize similar



Photo Provided

**The crew of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project included Apollo commander Thomas P. Stafford (standing, left), docking module pilot Donald K. "Deke" Slayton (seated, left) and command module pilot Vance D. Brand (seated, center), and Soyuz commander Alexei A. Leonov (standing, right) and flight engineer Valery N. Kubasov (seated, right).**

techniques and have revealed that Earth's temperature has a bigger relationship to the changes of the corona than previously thought. The work done between the two units set a precedent for future American-Russian flights.

After docking for 44 hours, the two crafts undocked on July 19th. Soyuz returned on July 21st and Apollo returned on July 24th. During its decent, the Apollo command module began filling with nitrogen tetroxide, a common propellant for rockets. The crew quickly put on their oxygen masks but Brand lost consciousness. Stafford assisted him, and the crew safely landed and were recovered by the USS New Orleans. Upon recovery, the crew were taken to a hospital in Hawaii and treated for edema from the fuel inhalation. Both crews landed safely; ASTP was a success.

The mission was the first of its kind and the last of the dawning of the space age. The two teams used complex new designs, machines, and training to prove that the world is "big enough for everyone to live peacefully [and] too small to be threatened by nuclear war." USSR and the



Photo Provided

**General Stafford and Alexei Leonov eating Russian food in space.**



Photo Provided

**General Stafford and Donald Slayton eating Russian food in space.**

US recognized the mission as an act of peace and respect.

The current landing of the Perseverance Rover seeks to explore and test samples taken from the Jezero Crater on Mars; a crater that used to be a river delta and giant lake. The goal is to collect more data that may point to past life on Mars. High hopes are on the Perseverance and its mission. After all, the Curiosity rover is still uncovering the secrets of the Gale Crater on the Red Planet.

## HIGHER GROUND

**Ain't I a Woman?**



Jim Morrison

This being Black History month, I will again highlight some historical figures that many will not recognize. You may question as to why this is important. It is important because it is a part of our history. Any history that does not include impactful people, because of their color is flawed history. As I grew up in the late 40's and 50's, our history books contained little information about events that shamed our past. I don't remember ever hearing about the Tulsa race Massacre, or the thousands of blacks that were lynched during the reconstruction period and even into the 50's. In 1900, a book was published declaring that blacks were descendants of apes and whites were from Adam and Eve. The Scriptures are honest to portray the flaws of the heroes along with their strengths. So should our history, even if it shames us.

One significant figure you may know little about is Sojourner Truth. She was born into slavery in 1797. She

was bought and sold four times, subjected to hard labor and violent punishment. Falling in love with a slave from another owner, she was forced to have children with a fellow slave by her current owner. Finally, she escaped. In her words, she didn't run away, feeling that would be disrespectful, she walked away. She found refuge in a Dutch abolitionist home. When her owner found her, her new master was willing to buy her freedom for \$20.

She was strong physically—standing six feet tall—but also courageous and devoted to the civil rights of her race and of women's rights. After converting to Christianity she became an evangelist, speaking nationally both for the cause of Christ and as an advocate for women's rights, and the temperance movement as well as the abolishment of slavery. She helped slaves to escape and recruited many black men to fight for the Union army. Her new faith sustained her. Once after hearing Frederick Douglas express the feeling that Whites would never give equality to the Black race, she stood and said, "Is God Dead?"

In one speech she said, "Children, who made your skin white? Was it not God? Who made mine black? Was it not the same God? Am I to blame, therefore, because my skin is black...does not God love colored

children as well as white children? And does not the same Savior die to save the one as well as the other." She is best known for a speech she gave extemporaneously at the 1851 Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio. I share a portion of that speech, known as "Ain't I a Woman."

"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, or helped over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, not but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?"

The epitaph on her tombstone reads, "Is God Dead?" In our day of doubt and fear, we would do well to ask that question. He can take the dark night of the soul and turn it into dancing.

"You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy." Psalm 30:11

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