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Celebration of Freedom Festival scheduled May 14th and 15th

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum is holding an on-line Auction May 12th through May 16th in addition to the traditional Silent Auction held at the historic Stanley Building as part of their 13th annual Celebration of Freedom event in Hobart. Visit celebrationoffreedom.com for auction information. The 2021 Celebration of Freedom will be held on May 14th and 15th at Hobart's downtown court house square. The on-line auction features many special items, including exclusive event tickets, vacation getaways, gift baskets, jewelry, art, memorabilia, and more. All proceeds from the on-line auction will benefit the museum and its educational programs: Inspired Leadership Challenge, Four Star Leadership with General Tommy Franks, Inspired Leadership Experience, and the Mobile Classroom & Roadshow. Information for the on-line auction and celebration events can be found through the museum's website.

The Celebration of Freedom is a fun mashup of events put on by the Hobart community. This year, you can order celebration t-shirts for \$15 – Youth and \$20 – Adults. Each order can be placed online or through the

Great Plains Youth and Family Services office in Hobart. Orders must be submitted by Friday, May 7th.

Events scheduled for this year include a Lil Mr. & Miss Pageant, Veteran Spotlight, Show-n-Shine, Car Show, Poker Run, and parade. The parade will feature the 77th Army Band, the Marching Band is known as "The Pride of Ft. Sill" Also the "The Half Section," a special ceremonial unit responsible for carrying on the traditions of horse-drawn artillery from the era of World War I that was established at Fort Sill in 1963. Throughout the celebration, there will be all kinds of vendors available, family-fun games & activities, and live entertainment.

Come join the festivities as they honor our armed forces and remember those who gave it all for the freedom we enjoy today. And make sure to swing by the world-class museum, open both days, to see items from around the world that focus on telling the story of the United States military. The museum has one of the only two Medal of Honor awards, given in the state of Oklahoma, and a huge collection of challenge coins. They also have one-of-a-kind historical photographs, videos, and military equipment.

If you're interested in learning about the leadership

and outreach programs the museum offers, they have detailed information on their website and on location. The programs and museum were started by Tommy Franks and his wife Cathryn as a way to never forget the sacrifices made by the families and members of the United States military and to offer future generations support as they pursue leadership roles.

They provide several educational and outreach programs, like The Mobile Classroom + Road Show, a mobile museum that travels directly to schools; The Inspired Leadership Challenge, a workshop that teaches the Four Stars of Leadership shown in the life of Tommy Franks – Character, Communication, Common Vision, and Caring; and The Four Star Leadership summer program, a program that takes 70 of the top high school students in the nation and gives them the opportunity to be face-to-face with national and international leaders.

All sign-ups and forms for Celebration events and museum programs can be done through their website.

"Leaders are not born; they are developed, and it is my passion to [create] a world-class facility to inspire the next generation of leaders." - General Tommy Franks.

All information courtesy of the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum.

Weatherford Fire Chief receives top honors

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin was the recipient of the J. Ray Pence Leadership award. He was awarded this honor during the Oklahoma Fire Chief Association annual conference April 22. The award was established to "recognize actions and activities of Fire Chiefs in Oklahoma that produce progressive improvements in safety, efficiency, and effectiveness in the areas of Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, and Fire Administration that are outstanding in their nature and impact." The chiefs also showcase leadership and guidance in their departments and communities. Karlin was nominated for the award by his peers across the state, "I am honored to represent our department and the individuals that protect our 12,000 plus citizens every day".



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Jake Wiebe Klassen

Funeral services for Jake Wiebe Klassen, 28 year-old Thomas resident, were held Friday, April 30, 2021, 2:00 P.M. at Freedom Worship Center with Jerry Yoder and T.C. Perkins officiating. Burial followed in Mound Valley Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home of Thomas.

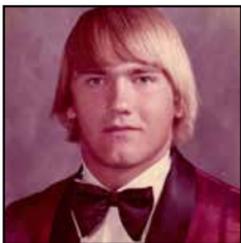


Jake was born October 12, 1992, in Weatherford to Frank and Helen (Wiebe) Klassen and passed away Monday, April 26, 2021, in Thomas. Jake was raised and attended school in Thomas, graduating from Thomas Fay Custer High School in 2011. Jake's dad Frank started him at the young age of 12 teaching him about vehicles. After graduation, he attended the vo-tech in Burns Flat and graduated with a degree in paint and body. Jake worked as a mechanic alongside his dad in the family garage. He later went to work in the oil field. On November 2, 2019, Jake married Rylan Giager in Greenfield and made their home in Thomas. He worked for Raw Crude as a pumper. Jake enjoyed cooking, camping, yard work, and spending time with family and friends.

Jake is survived by his mother Helen Klassen of Meade, Kansas; his father Frank Klassen of Thomas; his wife Rylan Klassen of their home in Thomas; two sons: Rhiett Klassen and Rhyder Klassen of the home in Thomas; one daughter Kynleigh Klassen of the home in Thomas; and two sisters Anna Peters and husband Frank of Cimarron, Kansas, and their children Natalie and Gabriel Peters and Lisa Klassen of Dodge City, Kansas. He was preceded in death by his brother Peter; grandparents: John and Anna Klassen; grandpa Jake Wiebe; and Uncle Abe Wiebe.

Albert Frank Walz

Albert Frank Walz was born November 2nd, 1957 in Fontainebleau, France to Albert P. and Iole Walz and passed away April 24th, 2021 in Weatherford, Oklahoma.



Albert grew up in Lawton, Oklahoma and graduated from Lawton High School, where he excelled at football and baseball, earning Oklahoma All-State honors. Following graduation, Albert attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Albert played football for the Bulldogs and was an integral part of the 1977 Apple Bowl team, and graduated with a BS in Education.

Albert enjoyed his years playing softball, fishing, and spending time with family and friends. Albert is survived by his daughter, Megan Bushong and husband, Justin, of Weatherford; and his newest granddaughter, Gwendolynn.

Albert is preceded in death by his parents.

Della Ve'ho'a e' (Youngbear) French

Funeral Services for Della (Youngbear) French, 65, Weatherford resident were held 1:00 P.M., Friday, April 30, 2021, in the Clinton Indian Community Building, officiated by Pastor Gerald Panana. Burial will conclude in the Mound Valley Cemetery in Thomas, OK under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



There was a Traditional All Night wake service, starting 7:00 P.M., Thursday, April 29, 2021, in the Clinton Indian Baptist Church.

Della Ruth (Youngbear) French (Ve'ho'a e') was born November 8, 1956, to Herman W. Youngbear and Jessie (All Runner) Youngbear in Clinton, OK and passed away Sunday, April 25, 2021, in the St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK.

Della was raised in Thomas, OK. She started her schooling in Thomas and later attended the Fort Sill Indian School where she participated in basketball and cheerleading. In 1975 she moved to Oceanside, CA and married Louis French, who was serving in the U.S. Marine Corp. They made their home back in Thomas where she was employed, as a nurse's aide and housekeeping, with the Thomas Nursing Home. She moved to the Oklahoma City area where she was well known at the Crazy Horse Bar where she worked as bar tender for 12 years in the 80's and 90's.

She was a proud member of the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes and Oklahoma and enjoyed many of their traditions. She loved to Southern Buckskin Dance, to bead work, make breast plates and chokers. She loved music and attending Pow Wows. She was an avid sports fan and enjoyed supporting the Thunder Basketball and Oklahoma University Football.

She is preceded in death by her parents, son Daniel Wilson; grandson Joseph Angel; sister Michelle Young Bear and brother Herman Young Bear, Jr.

She is survived by daughters: Angela French, Clinton and Robyn French, Weatherford; sisters Sharon All Runner, Clinton, Delores Howlingwater and husband Charlie, Thomas, OK, Barbara Benally, Clinton, Eleanor Jo Youngbear, Clinton and Monica Youngbear, Clinton; brother Don All Runner, Thomas, OK.

She is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren and adopted sisters: Una Penn, Oklahoma City, Ok, LaQuita Lonebear and Kim Lonebear, both of Clinton, Ramona Welch, and Rosie Fanman, both of Weatherford.

Michael Harris

Funeral Services for Michael Harris, 70, Custer City resident were held 10:00 A.M., Saturday May 1, 2021, in the First Baptist Church in Clinton, officiated by Dan Day and Mike Bryant. Burial concluded in the Mount Hope Cemetery South East of Custer City under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Michael Eugene Harris was born November 12, 1950, to Raymond Eugene Harris and Minnie Oleta (Harbuck) Harris in Weatherford, OK, and passed away Monday, April 26, 2021, in his rural Custer City home.

Michael aka "Big Mike" started his early years in the Cooperton and Roosevelt areas. His family did dairy farm work, and they moved to Clinton and worked at the Travis Dairy. He continued his schooling in Clinton. He married Connie Koch August 11, 1970, in Arapaho. He was employed with Merrill and Koch Construction Company until becoming self employed and owned and operated Harris Backhoe Service for the next ten years. He then began a 26 year career as the manager of Custer County Rural Water District #3. He has also farmed and ranched, and took pride in raising quality Angus seedstock, wheat and hay for several years.

They had made their homes in Arapaho, Custer City, and most recently purchased a farm north and west of Custer City.

He enjoyed running dogs to hunt coyotes, and he enjoyed deer hunting as well as fishing. He liked music and he enjoyed dancing.

He is preceded in death by his dad and brother Albert Harris.

He is survived by his wife Connie, of the home; son Michael Harris, II and wife Erin, Guthrie, OK; two daughters: Laura Schimmel and husband Tony, Custer

City, OK, Tammy Kline and husband Seth, Chandler, OK; mother Minnie Harris, Hugo, OK; two sisters: Carolyn Pence and husband Hugh, Hugo, OK and Oleta Bryant and husband Mike, Hugo, OK; brothers: Steve Harris and wife Cindy, Atlanta, Texas and Eddie Harris, Hugo, OK, and grandchildren.

He is also survived by grandchildren: Terry Don Anderson, III, Cherokee Nickhol Moss, Garrett Lane Kline and Jayjay Robinson, Laney Elizabeth Harris, Cooper Shane Kline, Lydia June Harris, Leah Michael Harris, Lexie Michelle Harris and a great-grandson Easton Dewayne Moss.

William (Buz) Bennett Bell, Jr.

William (Buz) Bennett Bell, Jr. of Oklahoma City was born October 15, 1955, at Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, California, to William (Bill) and Mary Elizabeth (Crouch, Bell) Lantz and passed away Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in Oklahoma City at the age of 65 years, 6 months and 5 days.



Buz' passion in life outside of his boys and grandkids, was sports. He followed Weatherford High School sports with his nieces and nephews after his boys were no longer playing sports. But baseball was his Love! Buz was most proud of the State Championship baseball team of WHS Class of '73 where he was the catcher. He considered them his second family and always told stories about the team and Coach Bergner. After high school he continued his love for baseball following the Texas Rangers which you could find him still to date doing score cards of Ranger games. His greatest love of the game was when he coached his boys in baseball passing on what he had learned and umpiring little league games on the side.

Buz, like many other '70's kids, had a passion for the music of the era mainly the Beatles. In his later years he learned to play the guitar, focusing on Beatles songs.

He was a creative child and carried that into his adult life. He loved to just pickup and travel the country, exploring new adventures. He often liked to say he was as "free as a bird." But to family and friends, they always knew that he had their back and would be there for them anytime, any place, and anywhere.

He is survived by three sons: William (Trey) Bennett Bell III and wife Stefanie of Austin, Texas, Travis Walter Bell and wife Leean of Latta, Oklahoma, and Jason Short and wife Laura of Midlothian, Texas; one brother Brent Bell and wife Lezley of Weatherford; two grandsons: Bennett and Mason Bell of Latta, Oklahoma; step-mother Cathy Bell-Robison and husband Levi of Weatherford; nephews and nieces: Brandon Bell and wife, Saira of Weatherford, Bryce Brodersen and wife, Kalyn of Edmond, Bailey Thaxton and husband Kale of Blanchard, Brock Bell and wife, Maranda of Clinton, Breanne and Brooklyn Bell both of Weatherford; an aunt Wahnta Crouch Boozer of Arlington, Texas and an uncle Paul Bell and wife Karla of Yukon. He was preceded in death by his father, mother, and brother Robert Brian Bell.

Bernardo Villanueva

A Mass of Christian Burial for Bernardo Villanueva, 58, Clinton resident was held 10:00 A.M., Friday, April 30, 2021 in St. Mary's Catholic Church, officiated by Father Mandagiri Balaswamy. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



A Rosary will be held 6:00 P.M., Thursday, April 29, 2021, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel.

Bernardo Villanueva was born August 20, 1962, to Nestor Villanueva and Victoria (Tierrablanca) Villanueva in San Miguel Octopan, GTO Mexico, and passed away Monday, April 26, 2021, in the Clinton Alliance Health Emergency Room in Clinton.

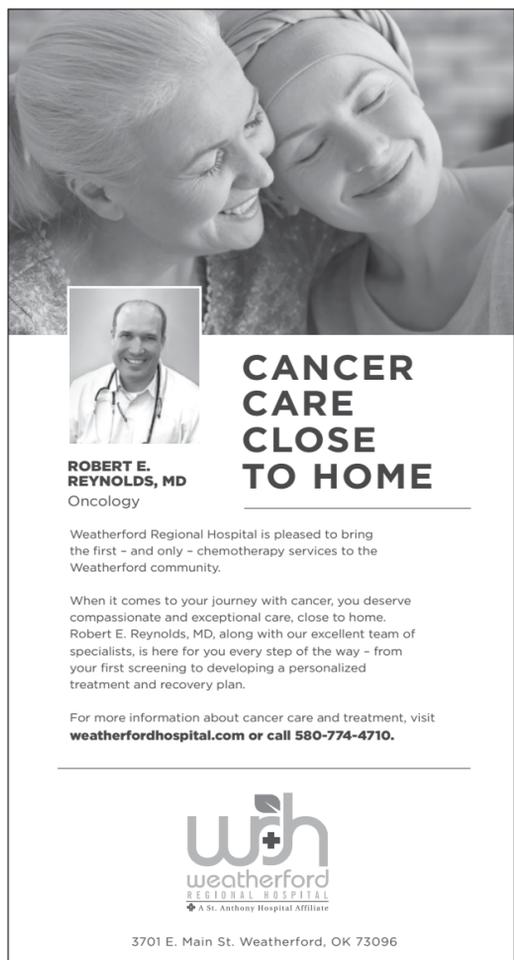
Bernardo was raised in Mexico and came to the United States of America as a teenager. He married Sylvia Martinez on December 18, 1981, in Arapaho, OK. He later married Veronica Santana on May 11, 1995, in Mexico.

He has been employed with Bar-S-Foods; he worked as a driller in the oilfields for a seismograph crew; he has worked farm labor, hauling hay, chopping and pulling cotton; and for the past 21 years, he was employed at the Custer City Co-op.

He was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church; he loved to dance, ride bikes, practice karate and, most importantly, he wanted to be with family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Lourdes Villanueva and brother Nestor Villanueva.

He is survived by his wife Veronica of the home, daughters Bernarda Maria Villanueva-Aguinaga and husband, Jose, OKC, OK, Sylvia Ann Villanueva, Isabel Rene Villanueva, OKC, OK, Daniela Jonven Villanueva, Victoria Jacelyn Villanueva, and Chaille Villanueva, and a son Bernardo Villanueva, all of Clinton.



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LOCAL & AREA NEWS



BECKHAM COUNTY ACCIDENT- A Shamrock, Texas, man was last listed in critical condition at OU medical center in Oklahoma City, following an accident on westbound Interstate-40, about 3miles west of Erick, in Beckham County. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said 36-year old Joshua Alvey was hospitalized after his vehicle struck a semi that was traveling on I-40 in the same direction. Authorities said Alvey entered the same lane as the semi, struck the semi, and lost control, striking a traffic sign and rolled over. Troopers say the driver of the semi left the scene. Alvey was ejected some fifteen feet from the vehicle.

CUSTER COUNTY DISTRICT COURT- A Weatherford man has been found guilty of first degree manslaughter during a bench trial that concluded last week in Custer County district court. Twenty-two year old Cole Isaac Phillips had been charged with first degree murder in the April 2020 shooting death of 20-year old Josh Price. Phillips told police that Price came to his house, angry, and was trying to fight him and that Phillips defended himself. Prosecutors said the two men were bickering after Phillips had accused Price of poisoning his marijuana plants. The judge ruled the shooting occurred in the heat of passion. Sentencing will be held at a later date.

WATONGA ODOT PROJECT- East and west-bound lanes of State Highway 33, east of Watonga in Blaine County will be narrowed and shifted, beginning this week and continuing through this winter as part of a widening and resurfacing project. Oklahoma Department of Transportation officials said drivers should use caution and watch for workers and moving equipment along the corridor. As the project continues, drivers should be alert to lane shifts and intermittent lane closures to allow for construction activities. The \$11.5 million contract was awarded to Cornell Construction company of Clinton.

WEATHERFORD SENIOR CENTER TO RE-OPEN- The Pioneer Senior Center in Weatherford reopened for inside meals, beginning May 3rd. Spokesperson Cheryl Burleigh said the center has been closed for inside meals during the COVID-19

pandemic. However, she said seniors were still able to receive meals during the pandemic. Hours of operation for senior nutrition will be from 11-1. The center will be open 8-5 Monday-Friday.

WEATHERFORD TOURISM WEEK- To celebrate national tourism week, the Chamber of Commerce will represent the City of Weatherford at the Erick Tourism information center on May 5th. The chamber will be handing out approximately 100 bags, filled with items from local businesses to I-40 travelers who stop by the information center. The chamber is still accepting items from businesses to put into the goodie bags that will encourage travelers to stop in Weatherford.

WRH COVID TESTING & RESULTS- Weatherford Regional Hospital Chief Executive Officer Brian Denton gave the hospital board an update on the number of COVID- 19 tests and results over the last few weeks. Denton said the hospital is also currently working on a reopening plan.

WRH IT CONTRACTS-The Weatherford hospital board approved multiple contracts for technology upgrades at the hospital. Dr. Blake Badgett explained how physicians and patients can benefit from one of the upgrades. Cost of the total project is \$1.7 million. Weatherford Regional Hospital will pay for \$1 million of the project, \$750,000 will come in the form of a loan from the Southwest Intermediary finance team and \$250,000 will come from hospital operations. Meanwhile SSM, the operations management partner for Weatherford Regional Hospital, will kick in \$740,000 for the upgrades.

WFRC FILL THE TRUCK- Fill The Truck at Deer Creek Market on Saturday, May 8th. Weatherford Food & Resource Center staff and volunteers will be set up at Deer Creek Market from 10am-6pm. As you fill your grocery cart for your family, will you purchase a few extra items for our hungry neighbors? We'll provide grocery wish lists as you enter Deer Creek's doors. Thank you for fighting hunger and feeding hope with us!

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WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

Have a birthday, anniversary, or other special event? Email us at sales@westokweekly.com to announce it here for FREE!

Happy Birthday Wishes for May 5th- Larissa Adams, Kayla Christensen, Jack Crawford, Jesse Fleming, Brandon Grove, Bodhi Hines, Kinzie Kardokus, Alasha Lehman, Jacob Pankratz, Ronald Pebley, Nelson Perkins, Whitney Roper, Andrewa Stobbe, Sonora White; **May 6th-** Samantha Altland, Preston Bragg, Kyla Brooks, Jill Coykendall, Christine Hart, Jim Johnson, Jeanne McRae, Scott Miller, James Moore, Jeff Nickel, Emily Steffwa, William Steffes, Esther Taylor, Daron Worrell; **May 7th-** Ruth Bearshield, Brett Bonha, Tory Haynes, Sherry Manke, Virginia McCarthey, Kaylenn Music; **May 8th-** Ginger Emmons, Michelle Huckabay, Mike Richardson, Marc Whittington **May 9th-** Landon Little, Susan Pierce, Donald Settles, Emily Spradlin; **May 10th-** Jennifer Bass, Denise Richardson, Rhonda Ridgeway, Courtney Ringler; **May 11th-** Rosella Adler, Dana Brunner, Bryce Conway, Silas Dodgen, Kristi Fleece, Theresa Harms, Ridge Parsons, Ron Russ, Darrell Stinson, Betty Taylor, Theresa Vargo, Ann Weaver.

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Bulldog Baseball Bounces Back to Win Series Finale at Harding

Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director

After dropping both ends of a doubleheader on Sunday at Harding, the SWOSU Baseball team responded with a 7-5 victory over the Bisons in the series finale on Monday at Jerry Moore Field in Searcy.

SWOSU fell behind 5-0 early in both games on Sunday, but would attempt to come from behind before falling by scores of 9-5 and 7-4. They would flip the script on Monday as they never trailed in a game that featured three ties, but no lead changes as SWOSU would not trail in the game.

The Bulldogs got on the board in the top of the first as Drew White took home on a wild pitch by the Bisons starting pitcher, but the Bisons answered with a leadoff home run in the bottom half of the frame. Harding would hit a solo shot in each of the first three innings, but SWOSU maintained the lead on the strength of a two-run RBI single from White in the second, part of a three-run inning that had the Dawgs on top 4-1 at the time.

Harding would tie the score at 4-4 with a sac fly in the fourth, but Ryan Dos Santos broke that tie with an RBI double in the fifth that brought Zach Baxley home to make it 5-4. Harding again responded and evened the score at 5-5 with an RBI groundout in the bottom half of the frame.

Alex Bedard jumpstarted a two-out rally in the sixth with a single before moving into scoring position on a wild pitch, which allowed him to score on a double by Miguel Soto that put SWOSU back on top 6-5. That's where the score would remain into the seventh inning, when Harding got a single and a walk to have two base runners with no outs. Haden Branch was brought on in relief and promptly picked off the runner at first before allowing a single that gave HU runners at the corners



with one out. Branch then made a great defensive play, coming off the mound and catching the runner in between third and home for the second out of the inning while the other runners moved into scoring position. With runners at second and third, Branch recorded his first strikeout of the day to end the threat and maintain the one-run lead.

SWOSU would get an insurance run in the eighth as Griffin Larsen scored on a wild pitch, making it 7-5, which was more than enough of a cushion for Branch, who worked around one hit and a walk in the final two innings but never allowed a baserunner past first.

Branch (1-1) earned the decision with three innings of

action, holding Harding to two hits while striking out two and retiring nine of the 11 batters he faced.

The win is the 20th of the season for the Bulldogs, who improve to 20-12 on the year and 16-11 in conference play despite dropping two-of-three for the weekend. With two weekends remaining in the regular season, SWOSU is in fifth place in the league standings, one game behind Northwestern in fourth and one game ahead of Henderson State and Arkansas-Monticello in sixth. The Bulldogs will head to Chickasha on Tuesday to face USAO before hitting the road to Alva this weekend for a three-game set at Northwestern.

Lady Bulldogs Selected to Return to NCAA Regional Championships

Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The NCAA Division II Women's Golf Committee has selected the teams and individuals that will compete in the 2021 NCAA Division II Women's Golf Championships, with SWOSU earning a spot in the field for the eighth consecutive season.

SWOSU claimed the No. 7 seed in the Central Regional, where they will be joined by Arkansas Tech, Henderson State and Harding of the Great American Conference, Central Oklahoma, Northeastern State, Central Missouri and Rogers State of the MIAA and Augustana from the Northern Sun. The Central Regional will be hosted by Missouri Western, taking place on May 3-5 at St. Joseph Country Club in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Each regional tournament will consist of both team and individual competition conducted concurrently with nine teams and four individuals from non-qualifying teams at each site. All participants will compete through 54 holes of competition over three days. The top three teams along with the top three individuals not with a team will advance from each super regional to the NCAA Division II National Championships, which will be held on May 11-15 at TPC Michigan in Dearborn, Michigan.

SWOSU Women's Golf will be competing in the Central Regional for the eighth consecutive season and



the Lady Bulldogs are the reigning regional champions after winning their first regional crown in 2019. SWOSU

has advanced to the NCAA Division II National Championship on two occasions, 2014 and 2019.

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Klemson Lancaster & Jacob Cope Named Bulldogs of the Week



Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The final Bulldog of the Week awards for the 2020-21 athletic year have been chosen, with media relations staff members Klemson Lancaster and Jacob Cope receiving the recognition.

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.'

Lancaster (Waco, Texas) has been the graduate assistant in the Sports Information department for the past two years and she recently completed her time as a Bulldog after earning a master's degree in Art Education. She played volleyball at SWOSU from 2014-18, was a member of the 2015 Great American Conference Tournament Championship team and was twice named a GAC Distinguished Scholar. Her background in photography and graphic design has been a valuable asset to the SWOSU Athletic Department for several years as she helped shape the visual identity of SWOSU Athletics on social media. This is the first time Lancaster has been named the Bulldog of the Week, a fact she has reminded her boss of repeatedly for the past two years.

Cope (Altus, Okla.) is completing his third year as a part of the Media Relations team after joining the staff as the Digital Media Contributor in August of 2018. His role is producing the majority of video content featured on the SWOSU Athletic social media accounts, which has also expanded this year to include promotional content for all areas of campus. Cope recently walked across the stage at graduation for earning a degree in Health Science from SWOSU in 2020 and he is now self-employed as the owner/operator of Cope Films. Among his award-winning credits is the 2019 Oklahoma College Public Relations Association (OCPRA) 'Best in Show' honor for his Lady Bulldog Basketball Senior Day video entitled 'Letter to my Freshman Self.'

"The Coin Guy" Rare \$20 Gold Coin Appears in Europe



Trent Boesen

During the War of Yankee Aggression tons of U.S. gold coins were moved to Europe. Discoveries of American gold coins heightens anticipation among collectors.

In the Paris, France, at the office of the Professional Coin Grading Company (PCGS) an 1859-O (New Orleans mint) \$20 gold coin was submitted to be certified. It is a rare issue with a mintage of only 9,100 pieces. The surviving examples are few.

It was certified as an Almost Uncirculated (AU) 53. It is the 11th example certified by PCGS. It is valued at \$70,000.

Do you have questions concerning collecting gold coins? Call "The Coin Guy" at 580-890-8076 so we can meet at Jerry's and talk about them. Thanks for reading.

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HIGHER GROUND

The Battle is Not Ours



Jim Morrison

Jehoshaphat was one of the good Kings of Judah. He reigned for twenty-five years. In 2nd Chronicles 19:4 it reads that he went through the land and "turned them back to the Lord, the God of their fathers." In this chapter he gave them orders, "You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the Lord...you are to warn them not to sin against the Lord otherwise his wrath will come on you and your brothers...Act with courage, and may the Lord be with those who do well." But he was to face a great test in which God showed his power and faithfulness during a time of great alarm.

When things seemed to be going well, some leading men came to him reporting that a vast army was coming against Judah. Alarmed, Jehoshaphat did what we need to do today. He called the people together from all parts of the land, and proclaimed a time of fasting and prayer. Verse 8-12 records one of the great prayers of supplication in the Bible. He ends it with these words. "O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do but our eyes are upon you."

We are facing similar conditions today. There is a vast army approaching us today. They come not with spears or military might but with ideas and an ideology that is attempting to displace the faith of our fathers with secularism and an anti-God philosophy thinly veiled behind half-truths and outright deception. Jehoshaphat got it right. He admitted he didn't know what to do as

far as the human element was involved. But he didn't throw up his arms in defeat, but as the KJV puts it, "Our eyes are fixed on you." He recognized that the sovereign God of the universe was not in hiding. He had not turned his back on His people.

God was not silent. Speaking through a prophet, the Lord said, "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's." Then he gave them some instructions that would sound absurd today. He sent the choir out at the head of the troops. They were to sing praises to God for the splendor of his holiness. The enemy was so confused that they turned on one another so ferociously that the next morning all the army of Judah could see was dead bodies of the enemy. The plunder left behind was so great that it took three days to collect it!

This is not intended to be a strategy for modern warfare but it does present some points to consider. Ultimately, the battle is not ours but God's. This next Thursday, May 6, is the National Day of Prayer. As the Apostle Paul says in 2nd Cor. 10:3b-5, ... "We do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

I challenge every believer to gather in homes with friends of like mind this next week, to praise God, plead for His guidance, and call for repentance. Truly, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are fixed on the only One who has the power to overcome. To comment jhm82@outlook.com or 1-580-2311

Oklahoma History: OKC History

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Oklahoma City (OKC) has had quite a history over the course of its lifetime: from feuding over the capital seat, to becoming an integral part of the international highway, to leading the state in oil production, to innovating the way we forecast weather, to being the main target in the nation for a potential Soviet nuclear attack, to leading the country in non-violent protests for desegregation, to innovating radio and television broadcasts, to surviving the largest domestic terrorist attack on American soil. Let's take a look at some of these key moments of our capital city.

The Beginning – During 1889, would-be settlers flocked throughout central Oklahoma Territory to snag their own section of land. At the time, the territories were not officially opened for settling and many of these early birds got forcibly removed from the land. However, on April 22, 1889 a land run that gave legality to these settled lands allowed the already set-up camps from “Boomer” settlers to form provisional governments and stake their claims. With its central location to fertile grassland, rivers, and trade, OKC's settlement grew exponentially overnight reaching a population over 10,000 within hours. It was officially incorporated as one of the county seats and tensions rose between OKC and the city of Guthrie, capital at the time. Eventually, with the help of high-profile politicians and leaders, a popular vote set OKC as the new state capital.

Oil Is Discovered – over the next 60 years the city grew steadily, gaining new infrastructure and leadership. Then, around 1928, oil was found in the city and wells became springing up everywhere. Prior to statehood, Oklahoma had been going back and forth with California as the nation's number one producer of oil since 1907. When oil was found under OKC, things changed drastically. OKC became one of the world's biggest petroleum fields which bolstered the city's growth. The discovery of oil in OKC helped a few lucky Oklahoman's escape the effects of the Great Depression.

WWII and The Cold War – when WWII broke out, Oklahoma, like much of the country, saw a sudden rise in production and recovery. With its central location, OKC became one of the major hubs for the Interstate Highway System's intersecting plans. Post construction,

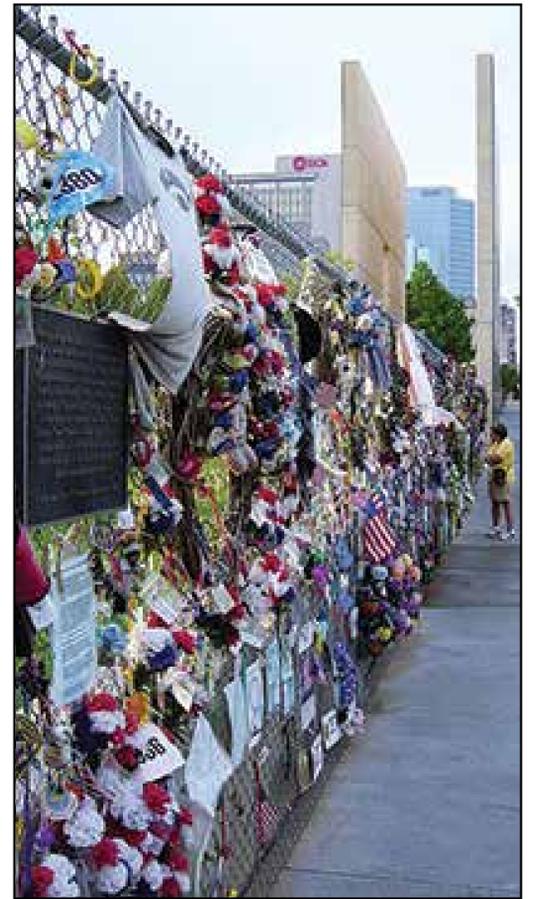
OKC was now a major interchange with interstates I-35, I-40, and I-44 intersecting. Additionally, the United States military needed a location for one of their Air Force bases. So, they got some land next to OKC and established the Midwest Air Depot, which would later become Tinker Air Force Base. The base became the country's largest air depot which led officials to believe it would be the primary target of a potential Soviet nuclear strike. The base began taking on more responsibility for managing aircraft, missiles, software, and other components, and it got its own impressive resume over the years - the base produced half of the military C-47 Skytrain transport aircraft (one of the most used aircraft by the Allies in WWII), the first tornado forecast was issued from Tinker, and it was able to host the Space Shuttle Columbia when it returned from its first mission (Weatherford's own Apollo 10 Commander Tom Stafford was there to greet the crew).

Civil Rights – During the early years of the American Civil Rights Movement, Clara Shepard Luper, a history teacher at Douglas High School, was part of the leadership group that pioneered the nonviolent protest method referred to as “the sit-in”. A sit-in is defined as a protest of action that involves people occupying an area to promote change. One of her first targets for desegregation was the Katz Drug Store in OKC and its segregated lunch counters. With her students and Youth Council members, they gathered on August 19th, 1958 and refused to leave the counters until they were served. Ignoring the increasing levels of hostility, the group stayed from the stores opening to its close, and two days later, the management team desegregated their lunch counters at all sites across 3 states. The success of their sit-in spurred similar actions across the nation.

A Tragic Day – a timeline of Oklahoma City's history cannot be completed without going over one of the most heinous crimes ever committed in American history: The Oklahoma City Bombing. To truly understand the impact it had on the families, the people, the city, and on the nation, and to give them the respect they deserve, this section needs to be more than just a snippet of information. So, we will cover the darkest day in Oklahoma history in its entirety in another piece. Please never forget the victims and survivors of the tragedy on April 19th, 1995. The Oklahoma City National Memorial honoring all who were affected by the bombing is located in downtown OKC at the

former site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The bombing “took the lives of at least 168 people, injured over 680 others, and destroyed or damaged 324 other buildings within a 16-block radius”.

A Bright Future – Oklahoma City has had its highs and lows, but one thing remains the same – the people always overcome. With downtown renovations, contemporary civic centers, updated museums, and new businesses, OKC will continue to grow, develop, and pave the way for future generations to lead the world in innovation and creation.



The memorial fence and east gate at the Oklahoma City National Memorial



SWOSU inducted seven new alumni into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Pictured left to right is David Beck accepting the honor for the late Edward Beck, Gary Gackstatter, Earl Greene Jr., E. Vann Greer Andrews, Harold Wright, Harvey Minton, and Debbie Blackburn.

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