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Bobcat Girls and Boys Sweep West Central Tournament



Courtesy Lia Hillman

The Hydro-Eakly Bobcats Girls' (pictured left) and Boy's (pictured right) Basketball teams both defeated the Calumet Chieftains in the West Central Basketball tournament championship games this past weekend.

Logan Moser
Staff Writer

The West Central Tournament wrapped up on Saturday and the day started with the Canute Trojanettes taking on the Sentinel Lady Bulldogs for the Girls Consolation Championship. The Trojanettes won a back and forth contest 49-44. Taylor Beutler had 13 for Canute. Rylie Pruitt had 18 for Sentinel.

Then it was the Thomas Terriers taking on the Trojans in the Boys Consolation Championship. It was a tight game for the boys in the first half but the Trojans found the outside shot in the second half to pull away and win it 55-40. Camden Billy had 16 points to lead the Terriers. For the Trojans Aiden Brown had 21.

Then it was the Girls Third Place Game with the Thomas Lady Terriers taking on the Arapaho-Butler Lady Indians who downed the Lady Terriers 37-30. Katie Edelen led Arapaho in scoring with 14 points and Berkley Wright led the way for Thomas with 12.

The next game of the day was the Arapaho Indians taking on the Burns Flat-Dill City Eagles for third place on the boys side. And the Arapaho Indians came out on top 43-34. Ryan Carlisle had 13 points for Arapaho and Josh Mooney led the way for Burns Flat with nine.

Then in the championship games it was the number one girls team in Class A Hydro-Eakley Lady Bobcats taking on the Calumet Lady Chieftains. The Lady Bobcats pressed held the Lady Chieftains to just 19 points in the first half and went on to win 55-37. Lilly Thomas had

13 points to lead Calumet. For the Lady Bobcats it was Kira Berkey leading the way with 17.

The final game on Saturday was the number one Bobcat boys taking on number six Calumet Chieftains. It was back and forth at the start with Calumet leading 12-11 at the end of the first quarter. Then in the second Calumet saw their lead grow to as much as 10, but the Bobcats fought back to make it just a two point deficit at the half 32-30. The Chieftains would again extend the lead after the half to make it 48-38 at the end of three. Hydro found the offense in the fourth and with under two minutes to play Nolan Gore hit a three pointer to cut the lead to two and kick-start a 9 point run as the Bobcats came back to win it 64-60. Matthew Snyder had 26 points for Calumet and Carson Propps had 18 for Hydro.



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The Lunch Box Deli to Open in Downtown Weatherford

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

An exciting, old-school lunch spot is coming to Weatherford on January 31st! The Lunch Box Deli will host their grand opening on 114 E. Main Street, next to the Shed. The deli aims to create a personal and genuine connection with each customer while offering hand-made, fresh, and ready-to-go meals and desserts. Similar to the experiences found in bistros and walk-in carry out stops in NYC and California, the Deli will post its daily lunch menu per week right here in the WestOK Weekly. Each daily meal is prepped the

day of and features a full entree and drink, all for \$10 (tax included). Each meal is only available for carry-out between 11 AM - 1 PM. Call-ins and orders can be placed anytime before 11 am. The Deli will also have fresh baked desserts available by the slice through lunch and until 2 PM. Full custom pies, wedding cakes, birthday cakes, and event desserts are available upon request with a 1 day notice.

Catering services are also available and groups of a variety of sizes, 10 - 300 people, can be accommodated. Catered meals can range from

finger foods to full meals! The Lunch Box Deli's main focus is to provide the best service and food available. No distractions, no exceptions. As part of that ideal to ensure food is fresh and service is fast, it will have no outside Social Media, accept no credit or debit cards, no change, and no artificial/pre-cooked foods. Meals per season - warm, filling lunches in the winter months and cool, refreshing meals/treats in the spring and summer. To order ahead, request desserts, or schedule catering services, call owner Rick Walker at (580) 890-1451.

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Anna Maria Benedict

Anna Maria Benedict was born November 26, 1965, in Tyler, TX to Albert and Cleo (Ochoa) Ainsworth and passed away Sunday, January 16, 2022, at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City, at the age of 56 years, 1 month and 20 days.



Anna was raised and attended school in Tyler and later moved to Cordell and attended Dill City High School. She received her registered nursing degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 2001. On May 24, 2000, Anna married Brian Benedict in Burns Flat and that's where they made their home. She worked at Clinton Regional Hospital and Great Plains Regional Medical Center as an OB nurse. She was devoted to her family, working several jobs to set her children up for success and go far in life. Anna enjoyed raising her family, attending her children's sporting events, fishing with her husband, dancing, and mother-daughter dates. Memorials may be made in her name to SWOSU Foundation - School of Nursing.

Anna is survived by her husband of 21 years Brian Benedict of their home in Burns Flat; her mother Cleo Ainsworth of Burns Flat; one son Blake Mandrell of Burns Flat; two daughters Tori Aldaz and husband Alvin of Charleston, S.C. and Alexa Benedict of Weatherford; two brothers: Alan Ainsworth of Texas and James Ainsworth of Burns Flat; and one sister Nancy Harbuck and husband David of Dill City. She was preceded in death by her father.

Juan Jose Benavidez

Funeral services for Juan Jose Benavidez, 85 year-old Watonga resident, were held Saturday, January 22, 2022, 2:00 P.M. in the Chapel of Lockstone Funeral Home in Weatherford with Father Kelly Edward officiating. Burial followed in Greenwood Cemetery in Weatherford under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



Juan was born September 18, 1936, in Dilley, TX to Jose and Juanita (Esquera) Benavidez passed away Thursday, January 6, 2022 in Oklahoma City, OK. Juan was raised in Dilley, TX where he grew up farming. He later moved to Seminole, TX., from there he had moved to Colony in 1970 where he lived and helped his parents. Soon after their passing he moved to Dallas with his niece and then to Watonga in 2019. Juan enjoyed fishing, spending time with his family, tinkering with small engine repairs and working on the farm with all the animals.

Juan is survived by his brother Rudy Benavidez of Washington, DC; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.



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Anna Lois Richardson

Funeral Services for Anna Richardson, 79, Clinton resident were held 10:00 A.M., Friday, January 14, 2022, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel officiated by Norman Jones. Burial will follow in the Parkersburg Cemetery West of Clinton, OK under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



The family will greet guests 6:00 P.M. till 8:00 P.M., Thursday January 13, 2022, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel.

Anna Lois (Pittman) Williams-Richardson was born October 15, 1942, to Floyd Pittman and Euna Lee (Owens) Pittman in Hollis, OK and passed away Tuesday January 11, 2022, in the Oklahoma University Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Anna was raised in Vinson, OK where she graduated from high school in 1961. She attended beauty college and had a hair shop in Lone Wolf, OK.

She married Lester I. Williams June 7, 1963, in Hollis, OK and they made their home in Clinton. She was employed with Kellwood Factory for 13 years and she and Lester were in the Salvage Business for several years. She also worked at the Clinton Hospital for several years before retiring. Mr. Williams preceded in her in death in 2003. She married Jr. Richardson July 25, 2007, in Wheeler, TX.

She was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church, she loved to travel, she was a seamstress and enjoyed quilting and crocheting. She also enjoyed working "Seek A Word Puzzles" and listing to old music.

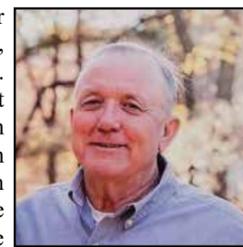
Anna was preceded in death by both husbands and seven brothers and sisters.

She is survived by two daughters, Sherry Morgan and husband Alan, Clinton, Kim Brickey and husband, Cris, Pottsboro, TX and son, Jerry Williams and wife Vonda, Duncan, OK; sisters, Mamie Ketron, Seven Points, TX, Mary Eshom, Capitan, NM, Clara Bunch, Lubbock, TX.

She is also survived by six grandchildren, Brittany Powers, and husband, Brandon, Clinton, OK, Dally Morgan, Clinton, OK, Bailey Thomas and husband, Sam, Arapaho, OK, Deekota Williams, Marlow, OK, Roper Morgan, OKC, OK and Maverick Williams, Marlow, OK and three great-grandchildren, Hensley, Ela, Riley and Sydnee on the way.

Allen Dean Russell

A Celebration of life for Allen Dean Russell, age 66, of Clinton was held 1:00 P.M. Friday, January 21, 2022, at the New Hope Church in Clinton, with Mike Holman and Richard Wagnon officiating, and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Allen Russell was born August 24, 1955 to Vernon Dean and Ozelma (Clark) Russell in Clinton, and passed away Sunday, January 16, 2022 at his home in Clinton.

Allen was raised in Clinton, and worked in the oil and gas industry until the late 1980s, then he started hauling cars cross country for over 30 years. The last two years he hauled hay for a local farmer.

Allen married the love of his life Debbie Snider on June 19, 1989, and they made their home here in Clinton. He was a member of the New Hope Fellowship Church in Clinton. Over the years Allen enjoyed many hobbies including swimming, exercising, riding his motorcycle,

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but could be found most often reading and studying his bible. He was attending Charis Bible College right up till his death.

He was preceded in death by both parents, two brothers in law Paul Erwin, and Kurt Garvey.

He is survived by his wife Debbie of the home, two sons David Russell of Clinton, Jeremy Fine and his wife Jessica of Morrilton, FL., four daughters Ginger Smith of Clinton, Candace and her husband Issac Hayden of Conroe, TX., Janet and her husband Neal Jones of Arapaho, Leanna and her husband Matt King of Clinton, three sisters, Debbie (Erwin) and her husband Jerry Lasater, of Elk City, Bonnie Garvey of Tarpon Springs, FL., Tonya and her husband Tony Swindell, of St. Petersburg FL., 21 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren, nieces, Nephews, Cousins and a host of friends.

Beulah Penn

Funeral Services for Beulah Penn, 86, Clinton resident were held 1 P.M., Wednesday, January 19, 2022, in the Cornerstone Church, Clinton, OK officiated by Rev. Alan Washington, Rev. Jay Mule. Burial will follow in the Greenwood Cemetery in Weatherford, OK under the direction of the Kiesau-Le Funeral Home.



A Traditional Wake service will be held Tuesday All night starting at 7:00 P.M.

Beulah Yellow Eagle Penn was born September 20, 1935, to John Leonard Yellow Eagle and Lena Abby (Big Bear) Yellow Eagle in Clinton, OK and passed away Friday, January 14, 2022, in her Clinton home.

Beulah was raised in Weatherford, OK where she attended school. She has been a resident of Clinton for the past 50 years

She was married to Lyman Penn July 15, 1995, in Clinton, OK. She worked as a nurse's aide in several of the local nursing homes, also stay at home grandma for many years. She attended schools in Concho, and loved shopping, going to POW WOWs, going out to eat, and spending time with family.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Lyman Penn and son, Robert Yellow Eagle; three brothers, Andrew, Rufus, Dee and four sisters, Ida, Rose, Flora and Minnie, Grand daughter Emily Gray.

She is survived by four daughters, Carmen Yellow Eagle-Gray, OKC, OK, Betsy Yellow Eagle-Noah, Broken Bow, OK, Sue Hulett and husband, John, Clinton, OK, Teresa and Kim Wall, Choctaw and son Leroy Chouteau, Granite, OK and Michael Yellow Eagle, Clinton, OK, brother, John Leonard Yelloweagle Jr. , of Clinton, and Ben Eagle of New York, 21 grandchildren, and 34 great grandchildren

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Weatherford Area Livestock Show to Celebrate 45th Anniversary

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The Weatherford Area Livestock show was organized in 1977 to offer 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors in the Weatherford trade area an opportunity to exhibit their projects while promoting the City of Weatherford and the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce. The event is sponsored by the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Committee Chairmen: Tim Lowry, Andy McPherson, and Radonna Sawatzky and is open to any school age child five years and older from the following communities: Arapaho-Butler, Binger, Carnegie, Clinton, Hinton, Hydro, Lookeba-Sickles, Mt. View, Thomas-Fay-Custer, and Weatherford.

The show takes place on January 28th and 29th at the newly built Weatherford Ag Expo Center in Dean Rader Park. Starting at 9:30 there will be a ribbon cutting to open up the new barn.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University will offer two \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors who have participated in the livestock show during any show between 2020-2022 and will attend SWOSU in the fall. Applications for the scholarship must be submitted to Andy McPherson by Monday, Jan. 24 at 5 PM. Submissions can be sent to: andym@legacybank.com.

The livestock show is a great way for folks to come out and show their support for the FFA and 4-H local kids. The show does a stupendous amount of good for the city of Weatherford by bringing in a large amount of business to the Weatherford Community through the sheer number of attendees. Every year, the show grows and continues to introduce more students into the business world of Agriculture.

For questions and additional information, please contact Andy McPherson 580-302-1045, Dr. Tim Lowry 774-1186, or Weatherford Ag Teachers Randy Henderson or Dina Falasco.

Friday January 28th, 2022
7:00 AM: Barns Open
9:30 AM: Ribbon Cutting
10:00 AM: Cattle Cards Due
10:00 AM: Weatherford Area Livestock Show Stoppers
12:30 PM: Cattle Show: heifers, prospect steers, market steers, showmanship
2:00 PM: Goat and sheep cards are due
3:30 PM: Goat show (does then wethers), sheep show (ewes followed by wethers).

Saturday January 29th, 2022
8:00 AM: Barns open
 • must submit copy of pseudo papers & Premise ID with cards (NO EXCEPTIONS).
9:30 AM: Hogs must be in the barn and Swine cards due.
10:30 AM: Purebred gilts, cross gilts, and barrows.

ENTRY AND CONTEST RULES:

GENERAL:

- ALL ANIMALS MUST BE OWNED AND FED BY THE EXHIBITORS FOR A MINIMUM OF 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SHOW.
- THERE ARE NO ENTRY FEES FOR THIS EVENT, HOWEVER IF YOU WIN A TROPHY OR AWARD, IT IS ASKED THAT YOU SEND A 'THANK-YOU' TO THE SPONSOR.
- THE GILTS WILL BE SHOWN BY BREED. ALL PUREBRED GILTS MUST BE SHOWN BY AGE ACCORDING TO THEIR REGISTRATION PAPERS.
- ALL NON-REGISTERED GILTS WILL SHOW BY WEIGHT IN EITHER LIGHT CROSS OR DARK CROSS CLASSES.
- ALL PUREBRED GILTS WILL NEED REGISTRATION PAPERS OR NEED TO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR VIEWING LIKE THE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT GILT SHOW.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES:
 EACH EXHIBITOR IS ALLOWED TO SHOW NO MORE THAN A TOTAL OF 2 MARKET STEERS, 2 PROSPECT STEERS, 3 HEIFERS, 3 BARROWS, 3 GILTS, 3 MARKET LAMBS, 3 EWES, 3 DOE GOATS, AND 3 MARKET GOATS.

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS WILL BE AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH SPECIES:
 PEEWEE DIVISION UNDER 9
 JUNIOR DIVISION 9-11 YEARS OLD
 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 12-14 YEARS OLD
 SENIOR DIVISION 15YRS AND UP

CATTLE SHOW (BLOW AND SHOW ONLY):
 JUDGE: DON MITCHELL: CANTON OK

ALL STEERS WILL BE SHOW BY WEIGHT. HEIFERS WILL SHOWN BY AGE ACCORDING TO REGISTRATION PAPERS. IF HEIFERS DO NOT HAVE REGISTRATION PAPERS THEN THEY WILL BE SHOWN IN THE COMMERCIAL CLASS BY WEIGHT. ALL REGISTERED HEIFERS MUST HAVE REGISTRATION PAPERS AND WILL BE DIVIDED BY BREED, THEN EACH BREED CHAMPION WILL SHOW FOR GRAND CHAMPION.
 *PLEASE WEIGH YOUR ANIMALS BEFORE COMING

PROSPECT STEERS WEIGHT UP TO 1,000 LBS.: ALL PROSPECTS WILL SHOW TOGETHER BY WEIGHT
 MARKET SEERS MUST WEIGH OVER 1,000 LBS.: ALL MARKET STEERS WILL SHOW TOGETHER BY WEIGHT

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GOAT AND SHEEP SHOW (BLOW AND SHOW ONLY):
 JUDGE: DEREK PEARSON, EL RENO, OK

ALL ANIMALS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO BREEDING AND MARKET CLASSES AND SEPARATED BY WEIGHT. WETHER GOATS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SLICK SHEARED THIS YEAR.

HOGS:
 JUDGE: RICKY WILKINSON: ENID, OK

ALL ANIMALS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO BREEDING AND MARKET CLASSES AND SEPARATED BY WEIGHT. ALL ENTRIES MUST HAVE A COPY OF THE NEGATIVE PSEUDO PAPERS AND PREMISE ID TURNED IN WITH CARDS.

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Jim Morrison

HIGHER GROUND

"Psalms for Life"

When I was a youngster my Sunday school teacher offered a prize. Anyone who memorized the Ten Commandments or Psalm 23 (I've forgotten which one) would receive a pocket New Testament including Psalms and Proverbs. I accomplished that feat and was rewarded with that little New Testament that I carried for many years. I fell in love with the Psalms and Proverbs. They were easy to understand, and I still read them often; finding wisdom, comfort, and encouragement.

Today, let me browse through the longest of the Psalms, 119, finding diamonds that will touch the heart. Many of you are familiar with vs. 9-11. It reads as follows: "How can a young man keep his way pure; by living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

It begins with a simple question with which we all can identify. Left to ourselves we are helpless sinners, prone to wander. The answer begins with a seeking heart. First of all, God is seeking us and places in our hearts a desire to find and know Him. He concludes with the truth that when we hide his word in our heart we are strengthened to see truth and follow in obedience. The Scriptures are not to be read hurriedly to get to those things that are more important. Meditation and memorization are the keys to hiding His word in our hearts. Bible reading is important but Bible study is the key to purity of life. Verse 15 says, I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways."

Verse 18 asks, "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." The Psalmist knows that we are often dull of hearing and understanding. He prays for eyes to see the wonderful things found in his word. The Apostle Paul prays for the Ephesian church that, "the eyes of their heart would be enlightened." We would do well to pray that prayer as we study.

In verse 37 the Psalmist requests clear focus as he prays, "Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word." How much of my time is spent on worthless things. I need a clear and sharpened focus to see and act according to the truths of His Word.

Verse 105 "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." This familiar Psalm has been sung and proclaimed through the years. How true it is. Our relationships, our moral laws, our work ethic, and many other issues of life find their origin the teachings of Scripture.

Verse 133 makes the request, "Direct my footsteps according to your Word, let no sin rule over me." Our daily walk allows us to put Christ on display. If we are held captive to sin we show forth a distorted view of the character and reality of a Holy God. Psalm 25:4,5 says, "Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me for you are God my Savior and my hope is in you all day long." May the Psalms enrich your day and guide your life. To comment jhm82@outlook.com or 580-302-1142

SPORTS *Presented by:* DAVIS PROPERTIES LLC

Kirkland Builds Football Staff For 2022; SWOSU Alum Ruzell McCoy Named Defensive Coordinator

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

Newly hired SWOSU head football coach Josh Kirkland has announced three new additions to his staff and an exciting promotion for SWOSU alum, and former All-American linebacker, Ruzell McCoy who was appointed new defensive coordinator for the Bulldogs.

All newly hired names are familiar to Kirkland, having been a part of his previous staff at New Mexico Highlands. In the first season of competition at NMHU, Kirkland and company finished 5-6 – the most wins the program had seen since 2012.

Joining Kirkland on the coaching staff from New Mexico Highlands will be Armani Lonardo, Roy Asuega, and David May.

"Being able to bring over a group of guys that know the system I want to run, and that I trust was huge," Kirkland said. "This allows us to hit the ground running on the new systems we will implement. Systems that I am confident will be effective at SWOSU and will bring a lot of success. Outside of just football, all of these men hold high character and will represent the university and the town of Weatherford well."

McCoy's appointment to defensive coordinator comes after three years as SWOSU's defensive line coach. Though the position is new to him in Weatherford, he is no stranger to the role itself with defensive coordinator experience in the NAIA and junior college ranks.

"I'm more than happy for Coach McCoy. His love for Weatherford and his All-American status makes him truly invested in this program and we can't wait to see his defense and the product he puts out on the field."

Armani Lonardo will be the Offensive Coordinator for the Bulldogs. He coached quarterbacks and oversaw recruiting at New Mexico Highlands.

"Coach Lo is a huge addition to our staff and one of the best recruiters I've ever been around. His knowledge coaching quarterbacks and his ability to put players in



the best position possible to succeed is going to be huge for the offense."

Roy Asuega will assist Ruzell McCoy as Co-Defensive Coordinator and Defensive Line Coach. For the past two years, he coached defensive line at New Mexico Highlands and was elevated to associate head coach in 2020.

"Coach Asuega is a relationship-driven person who does a great job in the community along with the recruits and the players he interacts with. I'm excited to have him with me."

David May will be Special Teams Coordinator as well as coach wide receivers and tight ends. He was New Mexico Highland's Run Game Coordinator and coached running backs previously.

"Coach May was one of the first hires I made at New Mexico Highlands. He's a great worker and recruiter and does a phenomenal job in the film room. He will do phenomenal things here."

Kirkland plans on adding at least one more member to his staff for the 2022 campaign.

Late Run Lifts SWOSU Men Past Harding

SWOSU utilized a 13-0 run against Harding late in the second half to erase a nine-point deficit and pick up their third consecutive conference victory in the process, 75-72.

Fresh off an overtime victory at Arkansas Tech two days prior – the first road victory over Tech since 2003 – the Bulldogs found a way to get the job done again.

The Dawgs trailed by as many as 12 points in the second half and by nine points with five minutes remaining in the game but found a way to claw their way back.

They have now won three-straight games, all in conference, and have not lost since January 8th. They move to an even 5-5 in GAC play and find themselves right in the thick of the conference standings with 11 games left to play in the regular season.

Things looked grim to start the second half, with Harding jumping out in control first. Tied 34-34 at the break, the Bisons outscored SWOSU 22-10 through the second half's first eight minutes of play. Also battling foul trouble with Damion Thornton and Chris Braggs, Jr., the Bulldogs had to dig deep and find a way.

(See VICTORY on next page)



SWOSU's Jaylan Williams (pictured above) had a stand-out performance against Arkansas Tech in the Bulldog's 75-72 victory.

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LOCAL & AREA NEWS



The West Central Basketball Tournament Boys' All Tournament Team. Pictured from Left to Right: Matthew Snyder, Calumet; Brett Griffith, Arapaho-Butler; Dalton Davis, Burns Flat-Dill City; MVP Carson Propps, Hydro-Eakly; Nolan Gore, Hydro-Eakly.

Chad Gray/WW

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The West Central Basketball Tournament Girls' All Tournament Team. Pictured from Left to Right: MVP Rees Berkey, Hydro-Eakly; Kira Berkey, Hydro-Eakly; Brie Meyers, Calumet; Kattie Edelend, Arapaho-Butler; Kylee Smith, Canute; Berkley Wright, Thomas.

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Miss Oklahoma Ashleigh Robinson to Perform at Miss SWOSU Competition

Ashleigh Robinson, Miss Oklahoma 2021, will perform at the Miss SWOSU Competition on Saturday, January 29, on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus in Weatherford.

The competition is at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Tickets are on sale and available from any of the candidates as well as the SWOSU Public Relations/Marketing Office in Administration Building 205. Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$5 for individuals with an SWOSU I.D. card. All tickets at the door will be \$15.

Robinson will also be spending extra time in western Oklahoma on Monday and Tuesday, January 24-25. She is scheduled to talk with several SWOSU organizations and then speak at Weatherford Kiwanis Club on Tuesday. On Saturday, she will also attend a "meet and greet" with all the candidates as well as the Miss SWOSU Little Stars.

Robinson, a seventh grade English/Language Arts teacher at F.D. Moon Middle School in Oklahoma City

Public Schools (OKCPS), was introduced to the school through volunteering with the Freedom City mentoring and reading buddy program. She fell in love with the students. After a year of volunteering once a week, she accepted a teaching position there. The pandemic kept her classroom virtual until February '21. She was named OKCPS District Rookie Teacher of the Month in March '21.

Her social impact initiative and life passions are on a platform of inclusion. Robinson and her siblings are biracial. Her youngest sister, Danielle, has Down Syndrome. Danielle is a vibrant young woman with dreams and capabilities of her own. The Miss Oklahoma advocates for a culture shift in our communities to include those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in opportunities for education, employment and social engagement. She hopes to create better communities through advocating for inclusion in every corner of Oklahoma.

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Western Oklahoma Christian School to Host Chili Dinner Febuary 5th

Western Oklahoma Christian Schools is hosting their 5th annual Stew and Chili Dinner fundraiser for the Weatherford Campus on February 5th from 4-8pm at Lucille's Roadhouse in Weatherford. The fundraiser aims to assist WOCS with the building expansion project. The expansion project aims to increase the school's grade level to the 6th grade and provide a headquarters to support those students. Currently, the Weatherford school operates out of Life Fellowship Church's gym building off of Lyle Road. The project will assist WOCS as it continues to grow and serve more students. Proceeds will go towards the new campus.

Dinner entry is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12-years-old and under. There will also be a Silent Auction with proceeds going to the building fund. The building fund began in October of 2019 and WOCS is on track to have a building up by 2024.

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Happy Birthday Wishes for January 26th- Amanda Anders, Verla Barber, Matthew Bird, John Creswell, Kim davis, Mike Ferguson, Dont Groth, Heather Hawkins, Jevin Jefferson, Kari Jones, Bill Kern, Autumn Lettkeman, Alexander Mack, Rick Oliver, Tyler Vassar, Abby Wright; **January 27th-** Brent Avery, Eddie Bird, Vickie Clonce, Josiame Garrison, Warren Kliever, Kelly Pease, Noelle Price, John Radke, Billie Ann Rodriguez, Elisa McCurley, Angie Schmidt, John Smith "Poe", Amy Thornburg, Chris Thurman, Cylina Weatherly; **January 28th-** Todd Boyd, Tina Goucher, Stacie Henderson, Johnetta Lindsey, Lara Menke, Zainia Moorhead, Tara Pruitt, Pedro Rodriguez, Collin Shaw, Jenna Sheffield, Jamie Steffenson; **January 29th-** Levi Feltman, Corey Fuller, Chelsea Hughes, Farrah Humphreys, Que Jefferson, Krystal Kargis, Jacob Klassen, Donnie LaFever, Rebecca Merchant, Racheal Merchand, Liz O'Neill, Betty Prentice, Bob Smith, Duane Steinly, Kristen Stephenson, D'Lese Travis, Clarie Whiteskunk; **January 30th-** Hilda Bent, Mary Foster, Jessica Holt, Pat Reimer, Shone Stermer, Rachel Uranek, Val yoder, George Zatarain; **January 31st-** Nocona Cook, Wayne Davis, Kimberly Hacker, Vernila Hamar, Evelou Ledford, Tiffany Lightfoot, Sheila Meinhardt, Bruce Potter, Keagen Smith, Delores Thieseen, Ryan Vandersee, Edie Visnieski; **February 1st-** Brandon Bell, Dennis Caler, Malorie Cartwright, Madge Cartwright, Addie Dueksen, Sheryl Franco, Blaine Gee, AJ Hamlin, Emily Jones, Jared Jones, Cheryl Lockstone, Elaine Lockstone, Mary Miller, Lisa Pebley, Cameron Purintun, Gary Seifried, Betty Woody.

Smith & Williams Named Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester

SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

20-point scoring efforts from Morgan Smith and Jaylan Williams has earned them Bulldogs of the Week. The award is brought to you by Wright Wradio, the home of SWOSU Athletics on both 95.5 'The Coyote' and 100.3 'Coyote Classic.'

Smith (Plano, Texas) notched a career high against

Arkansas Tech last Thursday in SWOSU's 105-71 victory. She tallied 20 points on 7-of-12 shooting including 5-of-9 from beyond the arc. This was all done in an efficient 21 minutes of floor time coming off the bench for the Lady Bulldogs. Smith also scored seven points against Harding on Saturday.

Williams (Oklahoma City) was SWOSU men's

basketball's leading scorer against Harding after finishing with a season high 20 points. 15 of those came in the first half when the Bulldogs needed the lift in scoring. He finished 6-of-13 from three-point land and added three rebounds as well. The Bulldogs won both games last week and are now on a three-game win streak headed into a three-game homestand through the start of February.

VICTORY

Continued from Page 6

Down nine (68-59) at the 5:00 mark, SWOSU made the push. While not allowing a Harding score, three pointers from Ben Smith and Jaylan Williams and foul shots from Kamden Gipson and Mason Hart knotted things back up at 68-68 with 2:48 left to go. The Dawgs did not stop there though and got buckets from Thornton and Gipson to close out the 13-0 run with 48 seconds remaining in the game, now leading 72-68.

Foul shots were exchanged the rest of the way by both teams, but the Dawgs knocked down enough to ice the game away.

For the game, SWOSU shot 47% and Harding finished at 39%. SWOSU did struggle at the foul line throughout and finished just 12-of-22 (55%) from the charity stripe. They got a lift from the three-point line though by knocking down 11-of-28 (39%) deep balls with six of those coming from Williams.

Williams led the way for SWOSU with a team best 20 points thanks to 6-of-13 from beyond the arc. Damion Thornton was right behind him with 19 points, and Ben Smith added 12.

Point Guard Kamden Gipson was everywhere on Saturday, and it showed on the stat sheet. He finished with 11 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

SWOSU returns home to the friendly confines of the Pioneer Cellular Event Center next week to host Southern Arkansas on Thursday, January 27th at 7:30pm.

Lady Dawgs Tripped up at Harding

Jon Chidester

SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

The Lady Bulldogs lost for the second time in three games after a 77-69 defeat at the hands of Harding on Saturday.

The Lady Bisons currently sit second in the conference standings, now with an 8-4 league record following their win. SWOSU still sits atop the standings even after today's loss, now with a 9-2 record.

In a game where both teams looked similar on the final stat sheet, it appeared free throws proved to be one of the difference makers. SWOSU shot just 7-of-17 (41%) from the charity stripe, while Harding finished at 21-of-31 (68%).

Makyla Tramble scored 29 points in the game, tying her second highest total of the season. She gave the Dawgs a lift offensively, after the other four starters combined to shoot just 35% collectively. Lauren Ramey was SWOSU's other double-digit scorer, finishing with 13.

After being down three points at halftime, SWOSU trailed 47-37 with 6:31 left to play in the third quarter before digging in and starting a run of their own. Multiple baskets by Tramble, Ramey, and Morgan Smith had created a 12-0 run for the Dawgs, and with 1:24 remaining in the quarter SWOSU had a lead.

Harding quickly regained control though and led by one point at the end of the third quarter.



Provided

Makyla Tramble, above, scored 29, but the Lady Dawgs couldn't close it out against Harding.

Tramble scored the first points to start the fourth quarter, giving SWOSU back the lead, but it would end up being the final time the Dawgs would be ahead. Harding rattled off an 8-0 spurt immediately after and SWOSU could never climb all the way back from there. Any burst by the Lady Bulldogs was always eventually answered by the Lady Bisons to kill any momentum.

SWOSU returns home next week after being on the road for the past two weeks. They will take on Southern Arkansas on Thursday and Arkansas Monticello on Saturday.

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Stitt Releases Statement on Supreme Court Vaccine Mandate Decision

Governor Kevin Stitt released the following statement after the U.S. Supreme Court issued rulings blocking President Biden's vaccine mandate for businesses and upholding the mandate for health care workers:

"The Supreme Court's decision to strike down President Biden's unlawful vaccine mandates for businesses is an important victory for the individual freedom of Oklahomans and every citizen of this great nation. I applaud Attorney General John O'Connor who has been tirelessly fighting back against the Biden administration's dangerous federal overreach. I am also grateful to my Republican colleagues in the



Legislature who have been allies in this fight. Our alignment is critical, and I am grateful for their efforts.

"From the beginning I have maintained that the vaccine should be a personal choice. While I am pleased with the Court's decision regarding businesses, I am disappointed in its decision to even temporarily uphold the CMS vaccine mandate.

No American should lose their job over a vaccine, especially our brave health care workers who have been on the front lines of this pandemic. Today's ruling will not only affect them, but it will also hurt our hospitals' ability to care for patients during a nationwide staffing shortage. Nevertheless, my administration will continue to stand up for individual freedom for all

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Kids Therapy Connection In Thomas Helps Kids Realize Their Potential

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Kids Therapy Connection out of Thomas, Oklahoma is a clinic offering individualized speech, occupational, physical, and speech therapy for children from birth to 18 years of age. As the “only clinic in western Oklahoma to specialize in pediatric care”, KT Connection is on a mission to help their patients realize their potential.

Each qualifying patient goes through an initial assessment evaluation that aims to build a personalized care strategy that can evolve and expand over their care term. Beside top-of-the-line physical and speech therapy, KT Connection also targets the often overlooked or forgotten aspects of development. Their occupational therapy uses sensory processing and fine motor skills strategies to targets areas often associated with daily living: getting dressed, brushing teeth, tying shoes, etc.



Kids Therapy Connection operates out of their main office in Thomas and out of Elk City on Mondays and Fridays. A new building is in the works in Thomas that will allow them to expand services to parent classes and play groups. Referrals can be done through your Primary Care Physician or by parents calling: (580) 661-3517 for initial evaluations. Additional information is available on their website ktconnection.com




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Oklahoma History: Prohibition

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Alcohol – a common drink seen in many households, bars, and restaurants around the world today – has had a push/pull relationship with governments and regulations over its lifetime. Oklahoma is no exception. The most well-known era of alcohol’s woes came during the early 20th century when states signed prohibition laws against the drinks. This period, commonly referred to as “Prohibition” in the US, went into effect on Friday, January 16th, 1920. However, alcohol’s prohibition began much earlier.

Discussions regarding the consumption of alcohol have been going on since the beginning of its general consumption, but the arguments are not nearly as black and white as they appear. Proponents of alcohol have listed benefits such as: de-elevated stress, pain relief, and commodity revenue; meanwhile, opponents cite incidents of violence, irresponsibility, and health complications. However, examples regarding these pros and cons often fall towards the middle of the spectrum.

For example, pain relief while beneficial was short-lived (often dampening symptoms instead of healing the problem). “Incidents of violence” tended to fall along the more milder saloon/bar disagreement. Because of the constant, most people did not have strong feelings either way which led to long, drawn-out discussions regarding the sale, tax, distribution, and consumption of alcohol throughout history.

Oklahoma’s alcohol afflictions began early in its statehood when territorial laws sought to set up stricter alcohol enforcements in Indian Territories. From there, the state piggybacked off of the anti-saloon mindset adopted by many Americans and got prohibition accepted as part of the new state’s constitution. However, the medical field (who had been using alcohol for medicinal relief) demanded access to it. So, a compromise was set where Oklahomans in need could apply through dispensaries for a “prescription”. It wasn’t long until more Oklahomans became “ill” enough to qualify.

Many of the lawmakers who had established prohibition in the state were appalled by the corruption of the dispensaries and sought to get them closed down. They did not have to push too hard. The dispensaries fell upon their own hard times as their industry began failing due to



Oklahoma Governor Charles N. Haskell signing prohibition into law surrounded by Oklahoma legislators. The Great Depression would later force Oklahoma lawmakers to reconsider this decision.

Provided

customer hardship, financial failures, and bootleg liquor. Before long, Oklahoma lawmakers had passed legislation labeling the dispensaries as a moneymaking scheme and shutting them down.

Now, those in search of alcohol had nowhere legally to turn. Around this time, the nationwide prohibition on alcohol began which led to back-alley deals, speakeasies, moonshine, and bootlegging. As the demand for alcohol rose, so too did the number of illegal acts. Which, in turn, led to more arrests, jailtime, police funding, and fighting. Those against alcohol remained steadfast in their beliefs while others began pushing leaders to look at rising rates of crime across the nation. This unhappy limbo continued for years until a sharp economic impact swept through the Midwest – the Great Depression.

In the 1930’s, Oklahoma legislature began considering the idea of legalizing alcohol due to

the potential profit margin the state could receive. Many anti-prohibition organizations were pushing agendas that showed how much potential revenue there was to gain. In 1933, Oklahoma legislature created a referendum for alcohol and out of the 77 counties, only 27 were in the dry column. While this did not completely abolish the ban on liquor, it served the purpose of showing lawmakers exactly what the people wanted.

Through the next decade, Oklahoma went through many votes, propositions, and representatives on the road to ending prohibition. By the mid-1950’s, the general attitude toward Prohibition had shifted in the state. Almost 50% of the state was seeing industrial progress, urbanization, and commercial activity. Younger representatives began challenging outdated social views and it seemed the state was ready to revisit liquor laws with a new perspective.

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The 1942 half dollar mistake sold for \$18,000.

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