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## Weatherford Eagles Defeat Clinton Red Tornadoes in Districts



Chad Gray / WW

After three months of high school basketball for Clinton and Weatherford High students, the two schools squared off in the District Championships. Both the Weatherford Eagles and Lady Eagles emerged on top. The final score of the girls game was 87-24, and the boys game ending with 23-46 on the board. Both Weatherford teams have been granted a spot in the Regional playoffs Winners Bracket. The Clinton Red Tornadoes and Lady Reds will proceed to the Regional Consolation Bracket.



Chad Gray / WW

The Red Tornadoes Coach Lucian Bliss calls a time out after Weatherford starters C.J. Nickson and Tate Sage score 6 points within the first two minutes of the second quarter.



Chad Gray / WW

CJ Nickson, shown here practicing his free throws, racked up 23 points for his team throughout the boys' district game

## Elk City Hall Meeting Focuses on Federal Land Grab



Michelle Taylor / WW

Participants in Elk City's Meeting on the Biden Administration's 30 by 30 initiative which some fear may be a new Federal Land grab. Pictured from left to right: Linda Murphy, Angel Cushing, Sandy Dean and Andrea Hutchison

Chad Gray  
Staff Writer

Concerned residents from Beckham, Rogers, and Custer county gathered this past week to hear from Angel Cushing, a private property rights advocate from Kansas, fighting against the Biden administration's adoption of the "America the Beautiful Initiative" also known as the 30 by 30 initiative.

The 30 by 30 initiative is an international effort that seeks to conserve 30 percent of the world's land and water habitats by the year 2030, but opponents of the initiative fear that federal overreach may turn the initiative into a

modern land grab. Angel Cushing, who is a resident of Allen, Kansas, has been touring the nation to speak with concerned land owners, farmers, and ranchers about her battle against the concerted federal effort to turn conservation easements and other historically significant lands, such as the Chisholm and Great Western Trail, into national heritage areas. These national heritage areas come with stricter state and federal land management guidelines, that Cushing argues turns land owners into tenants on their own lands.

These newer land management guidelines have in some cases banned the use of barbed wire on private lands as well as led to stricter controls on how land owners can use their own land.

Some land owners fear that these national heritage areas, which seek to promote conservation as well as tourism, may also lead tourists to confuse private property for public land. The issue which is tangentially connected to private land owners fights against corner crossing, where citizens cross private land in order to access corner-locked public lands, has proven to be a contentious topic for rural areas and many states in the Great Plains regions where agriculture is a huge part of the local economies.

Angel's battle began in 2009 when the initiative came to here doorstep in Lyon county Kansas. Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area which seeks to memorialize and conserve sites linked to Bleeding Kansas as well as the American Civil War began moving westward into Lyon County. Land owners were unaware of the conservationist boundaries being drawn around their properties and fears about zoning regulations spurred Angel to begin informing the public about these efforts.

Angel and her colleagues efforts have since successfully motivated 45 counties to pass resolutions blocking National Heritage Area statuses in defense of private property rights, but these efforts are ongoing.

For more information regarding Angel's fight you can visit <https://westernregionpropertyrightscoalition.com/>. For additional information on the Biden administration's "America the Beautiful" initiative, you can visit the site <https://www.doi.gov/priorities/america-the-beautiful>

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**Joyce Birdwell**

Reta Joyce Birdwell was born August 19, 1935, in Clinton, to Elbert Howard "Jack" Hargues and Reta Grace (Shelby) Hargues and left this earth, Thursday, February 9, 2023, surrounded by her family, at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City, at the age of 87 years, 5 months and 20 days.



Joyce was the youngest of three, joining her siblings, Barbara and J.E. She grew up on the family farm and attended Butler Schools, graduating in 1953. Joyce earned her Bachelor Degree in Education from OU.

Joyce married Franky Eugene Birdwell January 26, 1957, in Butler. After their marriage, they resided in Ketchikan Island, Alaska for a couple of years, followed by three years in Hemet, California.

In 1961, they brought home the first of their "dopted dolls", Reta Renee' and in 1964, they moved back to Oklahoma. In August of 1964, they got the call that their second daughter had arrived, so they returned to California to pick up Lisa Beth.

They made their home in Weatherford running a boarding house for boys until they tore it down to build Campus South Apartments.

Joyce taught school for two years in Burns Flat and three years at Ramona Ochelata. They returned to Weatherford where she earned several degrees while simultaneously running the Sands Motel. Joyce received her Master's Degree in Education of Library Sciences from SWOSU in 1978. She worked for Weatherford Public Schools as the middle school librarian until her retirement in 2000.

Joyce enjoyed her "house on the hill" and made sure to surround herself with grandchildren and great-grandchildren as often as possible.

Left to cherish their memories are two daughters, Reta Renee' (Roger) Walker of Tulsa and Lisa Beth (Glenn) Zink of Weatherford; grandchildren, Amy (Ryan) Beck of Weatherford, Dakota (fiance', Carrie) Crase of Mansfield, Texas, Andrew (Erika) Walker of Tulsa, Brittany Crase of Owasso and Nathan Zink of Chickasha; great-grandchildren, Derek, Morgan, Cayden, Cooper, Addison, Alex, Nahliya, Brianna, Justin, Raylan and Carlie; numerous extended family, nieces, nephews and very dear friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Birdwell; parents, Jack and Reta Hargues; siblings, Barbara Harrington and J.E. Hargues; and great-grandson, Cameron McCarty.

**Chiquita Ellis**

Chiquita Rose Ellis was born August 17, 1947, to Lloyd Wesley Ellis, Sr. and Ida (Yellow Eagle) Ellis in Clinton, OK and passed away Thursday February 9, 2023, in the Weatherford Regional Hospital Emergency Room.



Chiquita was raised in the Weatherford and Clinton areas. She attended school at the Chilocco Indian School in New Kirk, OK and graduated from high school in 1965. She continued her education at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fa, NM. She soon enlisted in the U.S. Navy on November 2, 1972, and served at North Fork, VA and was honorably discharged in July 1974.

She returned to Clinton and attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, OK. She was a caregiver for her mother.

She was a proud member of the Cheyenne Tribes of Oklahoma, she enjoyed native events, going to pow wows, memorial dances, beading, making shawls and spending time at the Lucky Star Casino.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Lloyd Ellis, Sr. and Ida Yellow Eagle-Ellis-Burns, sister, Laquita Black Owl, four brothers, Lloyd Ellis, Robert Burns, James

Burns, Sr, Edmond Burns, Jr., Paternal grandparents, Leonard and Lena Abbie (Big Bear) Yellow Eagle and Paternal Grandparents, Ben and Phoebe (Hall) Ellis.

She is survived by two sisters, Sharon Ellis, Clinton and Roberta Burns, Lawton, two brothers, Emerson Ellis, and John Burns and wife Sheila Paddley, all of Clinton, she is also survived by several grandchildren including her oldest granddaughter that she helped raise, Kaylee Christine Turtle.

**Helen Marie Metheny**



Graveside services for Helen Marie Metheny, 94 year-old Hydro resident, will be held Monday, February 20, 2023, 11:00 A.M. at Graceland Cemetery, in Bridgeport, with Steve Entz officiating. Services are under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.

Helen was born December 24, 1928, in Bridgeport to Frank and Velma Beatrice (Manley) Leedom and passed away Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at Maple Lawn Manor in Hydro. Helen was raised south of Bridgeport on the Leedom homestead and attended Riverside Rural school in Bridgeport, Hydro and graduated from Hinton High School in 1946. On July 4, 1947, she married Alton Wayne Metheny in El Reno and made their home in Geary. Wayne taught and coached in many school districts and settled in Hydro and Helen was secretary for the high school. Helen enjoyed cross stitching, working crossword puzzles, reading, attending dances, growing flowers and spending time with family and friends. Memorials may be made to the Graceland Cemetery.

Helen is survived by two sons, Gary Metheny and wife, Kathy of Hinton and Mike Metheny and wife, Beverly of Hydro; one daughter, Nanette Owens and husband, Chuck of Hydro; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one brother, Pete; and one sister, Mae.

**Jessie Fay Booth**

Funeral Services for Jessie Fay Booth, 85, Custer County resident will be held 1:00 P.M., Monday, February 20, 2023, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel, officiated by Pastor Vann Leonard. Burial will follow in the Arapaho Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Jessie Fay (Killian) Booth was born December 19, 1937, to Jesse Warren Killian and Lila Frances (East) Killian, Clinton, OK and passed away early Wednesday, February 15, 2023, in the Corn Heritage Village in Weatherford, OK.

Jessie Fay was raised North of Clinton, OK and attended Arapaho Schools. She married Louis Booth August 15, 1954, in Clinton, OK. They made their first home in Edmond, OK but soon moved to Nicoma Park, OK in 1957. In 1970 they made Clinton and Arapaho their home.

She was employed for several years with Western Electric Company and at the same time she attended Beauty College. She received her Cosmetology License and owned and operated beauty shops for over 30 years in Clinton and Arapaho. Along with her husband, Louis, they bought and refurbished antique furniture and re-sold it and they operated an antique shop for a while. She assisted Louis in his Auctioneer business and was quite famous for her homemade hamburgers and pies that she sold during the auctions. She did home health care for about seven years.

In the later years Jessie Fay and Louis married life they moved to several different locations and experienced many adventures. Louis's failing health returned them back to Clinton and Louis preceded her in death in 2013. When Jessie Fay's health declined, she became a resident of the Angelwood Assisted Living Center in

Clinton and most recently the Corn Heritage Village in Weatherford, OK.

Her greatest desire was for all her family to know the Lord, for them to touch others' lives for the Lord. To always meet the needs of others with Love and willingness and to help others whatever the need may be. She loved the Lord and has been a faithful and longtime member of the Baptist Church wherever she lived.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jesse and Lila Killian, husband, Louis Booth, two sisters, Eva Jo Fansler and Gertrude Wilson.

She is survived by two daughters, LaDonna Coy, Clinton, OK and Rene G. Kehoe and husband, Kevin, Eufaula, OK, and brother, Jerry Killian and wife, Susan, Wardville, OK.

She is also survived by seven grandchildren, Chad Weil, Latasha Aston and husband, Johnathan, Cody, Weil and wife, Kim, Kolt Booth and wife, Lexie, Keisha Booth, Stacey Carr and husband, Derek, Jerica Rolens and husband, Danny, 18 great-grandchildren, Dylan, Garrett, Lexi, Brook, Cadence, Wyatt, Wesley, Lance, LaChelle, Ayra, Keeton, Kash, Riggs, Emberly, Kannon, Dayton, Kayler, Divya.

**Bryan Pete Sawatzky**

A Celebration of Life for Pete Sawatzky, 55, will be held 2:00 P.M., Friday, February 17, 2023, in the Cornerstone Church officiated by Pastor Roy Dobbs. A Private burial will be held prior to the Celebration of Life Service in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Bryan Pete Sawatzky was born November 8, 1967, to Ray Pete Sawatzky and Janet (Horrocks) Sawatzky in Clinton, OK and passed away Monday, February 13, 2023, in the Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK.

Pete was raised in Clinton and like most children, he had dreams of what he wanted to do when he grew up and that was to be a police officer. He loved the outdoors, going to the lake, fishing, camping, and riding his scooter. He worked for the Clinton Daily News, first as a paper boy delivery and later he worked as a pressman during his high school years. He attended Clinton High School and while attending he enjoyed sports and played on the Clinton Red Tornado Football Team and graduated in 1987.

After high school he moved to Tulsa, OK and worked for a large Press Company. He soon returned to Clinton and again worked for Clinton Daily News for a short time. He also worked with his father with the farming operation before going into the oilfield and worked for the Western Company. He also worked for the Nicholson Monument Company for several years, cutting, setting dates, and setting monuments. He later became self-employed and worked all over Western OK.

He married Tammy Wolsey-Terry on January 22, 2022, in his Clinton home. He recently bought and resold vehicles. He and Tammy teamed up and he would buy items and Tammy would restore them and they were planning on working flea markets with their goods.

He is preceded in death by his father and his paternal and maternal grandparents.

He is survived by his wife, Tammy, of the home, his mother, Janet Sawatzky, daughter, Hope Miller and husband, Chandler, son, Wyatt Sawatzky, all of Clinton, two sisters, Lavon Overton and husband, Pat, Weatherford, and Casey Sawatzky both of Weatherford.

He is also survived by nieces and Nephews.

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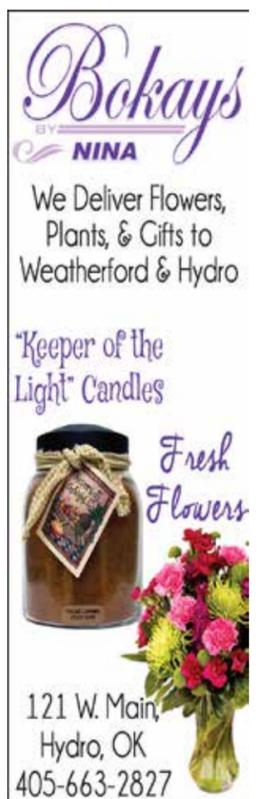
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## SNAP Emergency Benefits Expire Nationwide at the End of February

Oklahoma Human Services announced today that emergency payments intended to increase households' monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in response to the pandemic are coming to an end in February. These additional benefits launched with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act in 2020, but are being brought to an end with the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.

Oklahomans should plan for a return to pre-pandemic SNAP benefits beginning March 1.

For the past nearly three years, Oklahomans receiving SNAP benefits have been receiving an increased benefit allotment above the amount for which they would have been traditionally financially eligible due to the pandemic. Financial eligibility is based upon a variety of individualized factors including household size, income, countable household expenses and other details.

These additional benefits, called "emergency allotments," arrive in the latter half of the month, while customers' regular SNAP benefits are loaded onto their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards the first through the tenth of the month.

"The agency knows these additional benefits have been critical to meeting the needs of Oklahomans during such difficult times," said Deb Smith, Director of Adult and Family Services. "We want

to give families as much time as we can to plan to ease the transition into the end of the emergency allotments. We can also make connections to a host of wonderful community partners who stand in the gaps for our customers to offer help."

SNAP food benefits are 100 percent federally funded and help low-income families supplement their food budgets. In fiscal year 2022 (FY22), more than 408,000 Oklahoma families, including over 855,000 individuals, received SNAP benefits. In FY22, the average benefit was \$7.07 per person, per day or \$2.36 per meal. Most recipients are children, older adults and individuals with disabilities, including disabled military veterans.

"We know that these increased benefits have been important to so many Oklahomans over the last three years and that this change will impact some SNAP users harder than others, particularly our senior and disabled neighbors," said Chris Bernard, President/CEO of Hunger Free Oklahoma. "Undoubtedly, this will create an increased demand on our charitable organizations across the state and an increased need for Oklahomans to support their local food pantries and food banks. Hunger Free Oklahoma also stands ready to assist people and organizations to connect to more federal food resources and make sure that they are up to date in their information to receive the benefits to which they are entitled."

## RFBO Expects Rise in Demand as COVID-19 SNAP Allotments End

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma expects a rise in demand for food assistance as Oklahomans receive their final Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotments in February.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, more than 855,000 Oklahomans received SNAP benefits in 2022. SNAP is a federal nutrition program that supplements food budgets of low-income household so they can purchase the food they need. It is the nation's largest program working to fight hunger in the United States. Monthly SNAP benefits depend upon a household's income and family size.

The emergency allotments began in March 2020 to help address temporary food needs and ease economic stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the allotments, all SNAP households received an additional \$95 in benefits or an additional benefit valued up to the maximum benefit for their household size, whichever value was greater. With the emergency allotments ending, SNAP participants will see their benefits decrease anywhere between \$55 to \$255 per person per month, depending upon income and household size based upon standard SNAP eligibility criteria.

"The amount of money may seem insignificant to some, but to Oklahomans living with hunger it could mean they are no longer able to provide

important nutrition for their families," said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank. "The Regional Food Bank is ready assist our neighbors who find themselves in need of more food assistance following this change in federal policy."

Recent cost of living adjustments to both SNAP and Social Security programs could lead to further reductions or even the loss of SNAP benefits based upon income adjustments.

The Regional Food Bank's partner network offers food assistance in 53 counties in central and western Oklahoma. Through the organization's website, Oklahomans can enter their address or zip code and find all Regional Food Bank partners in their area.

"We encourage Oklahomans enrolled in SNAP to find a Regional Food Bank partner in your area," Dykstra said. "If the change in SNAP benefits does not provide enough food for your family, food assistance is always available at our partners."

Oklahomans impacted by the ending of emergency allotments may contact the Regional Food Bank's SNAP outreach specialists to help answer any questions they may have about their SNAP benefits. Visit [rfbo.org/SNAP](http://rfbo.org/SNAP) or call 405-600-3168 to learn more. Any case specific questions should be directed to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services at 405-522-5050.

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## HIGHER GROUND



Jim Morrison

God is more interested in our character than our activity. We can be heavily involved in many religious activities and yet not demonstrate the character of Christ in our relationships. In Paul's prayers for the churches he places more emphasis on their being rather than their doing. In Ephesians 3:14-21, he shares his heart for those new Christians. I share this from the New Living Translation. "When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of

God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages! Amen."

Paul is so overwhelmed by the grandeur of God's plan for the redemption of the world that he cannot help but fall on his knees in behalf of his Christian friends. This may point out a weakness in our prayer life. Sometimes we neglect praying for our friends, centering only on those problem areas or negative circumstances we see about us. I read recently of the achievements of a local young lady while in an Ivy League school. Not only is she extremely gifted, but she has a solid Biblical faith and a bright future, with the potential to make a great

contribution to society and the Kingdom. If she were on drugs many people would be praying for her. But we tend to forget that Satan is going to be attacking people like her, in an attempt to weaken her faith or divert her attention.

With Paul, we should pray that she would have "mighty inner strength through the Holy Spirit" and that Her growing trust in the power of God would allow Christ to "be more and more at home in her heart," that is, that He might have the freedom to move and deepen her convictions, producing a more obedient lifestyle.

Paul's prayer continues as he they will understand the depth of God's love. It has been accurately said that the more we comprehend the depth of God's love for us the more we can trust him. The more we trust him, the more we will obey him.

He goes on to give glory to God because he has given us a power within us (the Holy Spirit) that enables Him to accomplish more in and through us than we could ever dream about. This is resurrection power—available to all who will trust and obey.

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# LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



## "The Coin Guy"

### Silver Trimes



Trent Boesen

From 1851 to 1873 the United States Mints in Philadelphia (no mint mark) and New Orleans (O) produced a three-cent coin in silver. During the production run were three different designs or types.

The obverse of the coin is a 6-pointed star with a Union shield in the center. The motto "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

around the obverse. The date is centered below the star. The letter "C" (ten cents) is on the reverse using the Roman numeral "III". The letter "O" is to the right of "C". Around the rim are 13-stars. The nick-name for these coins are also called "Trimes".

Trimes were minted in sufficient quantities so collecting them is an easy task. Of course, depending on the condition of the Trime will determine the cost of acquiring them for your collection.

Should one need advice call The Coin Guy 580-890-8076. We can meet at the Downtown diner in Weatherford, Ok. Thanks for your patronage.

## Teqball Now Available at Wellness Center



Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) is proud to announce the addition of Teqball, a fast-paced, innovative sport, to its Wellness Center facilities. Teqball is a unique sport that combines elements of table tennis and soccer, providing a fun and engaging workout experience.

The sport is played on a specially designed table, the Teq Table, that incorporates a curved surface, allowing players to use their feet, knees, chest, and head to control the ball. No physical contact is allowed between the players or between the players and the table, which helps eliminate the risk of injury.

Teqball, a sport first developed in Hungary in 2012, has quickly gained popularity, with 2,000 clubs worldwide. Its growing popularity has not gone unnoticed, with acknowledgments by three Continental Olympic Associations including the Olympic Council of Asia, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, and the Oceania National Olympic Committees. Three Teqball World Championships have also been organized from 2017-2019.

A sport for experienced athletes and amateur enthusiasts alike, TeqBall has something to offer for anyone whose goal is to develop their concentration, technical skills and stamina. The sport is easy to learn

but difficult to master, making it perfect for players of all skill levels.

"There is definitely a learning curve to Teqball, but it is a blast to play for both beginners and professionals alike," said Levi Melendy, Wellness Center Coordinator. "It is even more fun to play with teammates, so bring your friends to the Wellness Center to try it out and learn the sport together!"

The SWOSU Wellness Center is open to all students, faculty, and staff, offering various fitness equipment and programs to promote health and wellness on campus. With a free-standing rock wall, three basketball courts, an indoor running/walking track, cardio equipment, and strength training equipment, the center is committed to promoting health and wellness on campus. The addition of Teqball is a testament to this commitment, providing players with an exciting new way to stay active and healthy.

For more information about Teqball at the SWOSU Wellness Center, please contact Susan Ellis, Wellness Center Director at [susan.ellis@swosu.edu](mailto:susan.ellis@swosu.edu); Levi Melendy at [levi.melendy@swosu.edu](mailto:levi.melendy@swosu.edu); or follow @SWOSUWellnessCenter on Instagram.

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**CUSTER CO / MCNABB / OSTINE** - Two people have been arrested by Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers in Custer County after a February 10th incident in Clinton. as a result of the traffic violation, 32-year-old Martez McNabb of Athens, Alabama, and Benedict Ostine of Madison, Tennessee, was found in possession of 26 kilo sized bricks of suspected cocaine weighing 72.5 pounds. authorities also discovered rubber gloves and approximately one pound of a pink powder. Both suspects face charges of aggravated trafficking of illegal drugs in Custer County District Court.

**WEATHERFORD / FIRE** - Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin says a hoverboard malfunctioned while charging, sparking a fire in the 1300 block of crimson in eagle heights yesterday. Karlin says fire crews were able to contain the fire to the garage and attic space of the home. Karlin says one vehicle did catch fire. He says there were no injuries as a result of the blaze.

**WEST OK / ELECTION RESULTS** - A smattering of propositions and board of education elections were held around western Oklahoma. Voters in the Elk City School District approved a \$1.5 million bond for transportation needs, getting 66% support. Blaine county voters overwhelmingly supported a quarter-cent sales renewal for Blaine County Fire Departments for apparatus and equipment upgrades. Town of butler voters unanimously approved the franchise renewal for Public Service Company of Oklahoma. Brad Hohnke won the seat 3 board of education election for the Canute school district by getting 53% of the vote over two challengers. Meanwhile, the seat 3 board of education race in the Hammon School District will go to a runoff as Aubrey Christian and Robin D. Lamb were the top two vote-getters in a three-way race.

**ELK CITY / POOL** - Elk City Mayor Cory Spieker says construction of the new swimming pool in Elk City is making a lot of progress. Spieker says pool construction is expected to be complete in May or June and is expected to open later this summer.

**WEATHERFORD SB / CONTRACTOR** - The Weatherford School Board of Education last night approved the hiring of Joe D. Hall as general contractor for roof repairs to the district. Superintendent Jill Henderson says the roof repairs could total \$6-\$7 million. The work will be funded from damage claims made by the district.

**WEATHERFORD / AIRPORT RD** - Weatherford Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell provides an update on the airport road project. Creswell says the northeast Frontage Rd./ Main St. is closed to traffic from the airport road to Chevrolet Dr. on Frontage Rd. The closure is part of the planned work and is in the suggested construction sequence. Traffic should use Wilson Rd. to detour around that portion of work. The duration of the closure is currently unknown.

**WEATHERFORD/PSO LIGHTS** - Weather permitting, the Public Service Company of Oklahoma will begin converting its Weatherford streetlights to new technology this week that will brighten roadways, street corners, and public space for homeowners. The new lighting will improve visibility for drivers and pedestrians and provide greater appeal and safety. PSO is funding the installation and upkeep of the lights.

**WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!**

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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. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more Information contact (405) 643-9211. **Free and Open to the Public. Oklahoma Parkinson's Alliance,** monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford's Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. **Questions? Contact OK Parkinson's Alliance (405) 810-0695 or [info@oklahomapa.org](mailto:info@oklahomapa.org).** **Iron sharpens Iron** is a Christ centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

**Happy Birthday Wishes for February 22** - Chris Arganbright, Bill Bendure, Rick Freeman, Bob Huddleston, Kyle Jeffers, Maralea Kliewer, Jessica Martin, Jace Martin, Marcia Matz, Ralph May, Collin McQuillen, Chuck Megli, Steven Mejia, Ferrel Roles, Joshua Salinas, Rhonda Weil; **February 23** - Carl Baily, Paige Bradley, Marti Brooks, Aubrey Crowder, Mervine Kock, Diego Martinez, Brad Meadrum, Camden Mendez, Michaela Pullum, Kristin Sweeney, Yatina Wreath, Jessica Zibell; **February 24** - Harrison Cornell, Ronnie Henson, Kristen Kelley, Britton Linstead, Mizie Mol, Monica Smith, Claude Snider, **February 25** - Annie Ellis, Brianna Farrow, Dorinda Hart, Mike Hill, Brianna Jefferson, Deana Lamar, Heather Livingston, Kimberly Meltz, Ann Seals, Gary Severn, Larry Joe Taylor, Zan Warde; **February 26** - Van Cheadle, James Davis, Melissa Godwin, Sue Harper, Terry Harris, Lonnie Isch, Maria Jacobs, Danielle Shaw, Candace Gossell, Margaret Starr, Amber Whitt; **February 27** - Eddie Berrong, Tonja Challis, Glenda Creech, Rylee Gossen, Peyton Johnston, Martha Miller, Shaylee Nailon, Margaret Reed, Wayne Reimer, Dale Rogers, Angie Schmidt, Jerri Schwartz, Gary Schwartz, Brooklyn Stewart, Laramie Taylor, Anita Woods; **February 28** - Shelby Carpenter, Steve Corbin, Yasmine Garcia, Grady Gaunt, Carter Mackey, Mark Payne, Steven Shankles, Cheri Thomason, Rick Thompson, Lisa Turney.

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**73** Southwestern Okla. 8-17,8-12 GAC

**65** Arkansas Tech 13-11,11-9 GAC

	1	2	3	4	F
Southwestern Okla.	15	21	16	21	73
Arkansas Tech	19	15	14	17	65

## Lady Bulldogs Get Back to Winning Ways

**Grant Kopycinski**  
 SWOSU Sports Assistant

The SWOSU women's basketball team got a much-needed win against Arkansas Tech in Russellville this weekend, 73-65. This was a hard-fought contest that should give SWOSU confidence late in close games through the end of the season.

SWOSU gets back in the win column with this one and moves to 8-17 and 8-12 in the conference. This win keeps them tied at seventh with Southern Arkansas and in position to earn their way into the GAC Tournament. Up next is a must win game on the road versus the East Central Tigers at 5:30 pm on Thursday night.

It was turnovers that won SWOSU this game. Macy Gore and Averi Zinn both totaled four steals while Shamica Smith collected three. The Lady Bulldogs shot almost 10% worse than the Golden Suns today, but caused 21 ATU turnovers. They scored 19 points off those mistakes from Arkansas Tech which proved to be the major difference.

Morgan Smith led the way in the first half, scoring 16 points and shooting 4-7 from three in the opening quarters. SWOSU played their usual pressure

defense, getting some steals and giving some open looks from this. The Golden Suns shot well, but they were only scoring two points every possession. SWOSU made seven three pointers in the first half to ATU's zero.

SWOSU won the third with some solid defense, holding the opposition to 14 points and 26% shooting in the quarter. Arkansas Tech opened the quarter on an 8-0 run which the Lady Dawgs stood tall through. They went on a little run of their own and ended the quarter up four points.

The fourth quarter was tightly contested with the two teams trading scores, but SWOSU never relinquished the lead. They answered every ATU basket with one of their own down the stretch. They ended the game on a 7-0 run over the last 1:12 to secure the victory.

Morgan Smith ended with a team high 24 points and six made threes. Shamica Smith had a big double-double with a career high 19 points and 13 rebounds. Averi Zinn added in 11 points, four rebounds, and four steals.



**64** Southwestern Okla. 12-14,8-12 GAC

**78** Arkansas Tech 14-12,12-8 GAC

	1	2	F
Southwestern Okla.	25	39	64
Arkansas Tech	37	41	78

## Bulldogs Can't Make Up First Half Deficit in Russellville

**Grant Kopycinski**  
 SWOSU Sports Assistant

SWOSU men's basketball suffered a 78-64 loss at the hands of Arkansas Tech on Saturday afternoon. A hot start from Arkansas Tech saw them push the lead to 16 points in the first half. The Bulldogs ultimately could not put together a big enough run in the second half to overcome the early hole.

SWOSU drops to 12-14 on the year and 8-12 in conference play. This ranks them at tied for eighth with Ouachita Baptist. With two games remaining, they will need to win out to have a chance at claiming a spot in the GAC Tournament.

ATU jumped out to a 20-9 lead halfway through the first half, thanks to three three-pointers in a minute span. Breakdowns in SWOSU's half-court defense when dropping back from their full-court pressure caused this and the extension of the lead throughout the first half. The Dawgs' shooting was also to blame, shooting 25% through the first 20 minutes. Arkansas

Tech held a 12-point lead going into the half.

SWOSU never truly thought the game was over, even when the Wonder Boys took a 57-37 lead with 11:07 remaining in the game. They fought and clawed to get back to ten points, but never got it down to single digits. They went on a 23-13 run to make it 70-60 with 3:51. SWOSU had momentum and looked to make the game interesting down the stretch.

ATU held SWOSU to no field goals after that point, excluding an uncontested layup by Chris Braggs, Jr. with eight seconds left. The defense that usually keeps SWOSU in games came up short at the beginning and didn't have enough to climb back from the 20-point second half difference.

Chris Braggs, Jr. scored 21 points and grabbed five rebounds. Ben Smith totaled 11 points and six rebounds. GAC steals leader Nate Goodlow collected five steals to go along with seven points and five rebounds.

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# DeAngelo Adkins and Abby Hepper Take Bulldogs of the Week

**Grant Kopycinski**  
SWOSU Sports Assistant

DeAngelo Adkins (men's basketball) and Abby Hepper

(rodeo) have been selected as the Bulldogs of the Week. This award is brought to you by Wright Wradio, the official partner of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Adkins (Edmond, OK.) showed up in a big-time game for the Bulldogs last weekend. He put up a season high 16 points and grabbed five rebounds against Harding in a 75-67 win over the Bisons. This win kept them in the hunt for a GAC Tournament bid. It was the third time in as many games that Adkins had scored in double digits.

Hepper (Keene, N.D.) won the Barrel Racing average at Kansas State this weekend, finishing third in the long round with a 12.42 second ride and clocking the fastest short go time of 12.44 seconds. She was part of a one-two SWOSU punch in Barrel Racing that saw her win the event and teammate Sadie Wolaver finish second. Hepper has now placed first in her event in two separate rodeos – first at Oklahoma State this fall and now Kansas State to open up the spring.



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## SWOSU Launches Piano Fundraiser

The Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Department of Music has announced a major fundraising effort toward the purchase of new pianos.

The SWOSU Department of Music is a quality program offering a variety of undergraduate and graduate disciplines including instrumental music, vocal music, and music therapy. Students from around the globe come to SWOSU specifically to study music.

"High quality pianos are essential to the success of any music department and are played day in and day out in performances and rehearsals," said Dr. Shelley Martinson, Chair of the SWOSU Music Department. "This investment in new instruments will benefit the department as well as the community we serve and will further our institution's established tradition of excellence and artistry for generations to come."

The SWOSU Piano Campaign aims to raise enough

funds to purchase three new Steinway concert pianos as well as eleven new Boston pianos.

"One of my joys (maybe even the best one) as a student at SWOSU was ducking into a practice room and spending blissful hours improvising at the piano. I'd take time to find the best instrument available, knowing that there would usually be a good one tuned and ready," wrote Dave Hanson, an arranger, composer, pianist, and SWOSU alum. "Going into one of the large halls and playing concert grand instruments was invaluable to me. The pianos at SWOSU were a huge part of my music education, and would have to be a necessary part of anyone's music education worth of the name!"

To learn or to make a charitable contribution towards this cause, visit the campaign website at [SWOSUPIANOS.COM](http://SWOSUPIANOS.COM) or contact Alumni Coordinator Taylor Adler at [taylor.adler@swosu.edu](mailto:taylor.adler@swosu.edu), or call 580.774.6331.

## Weekend Custer County Livestock Show Scheduled

**CUSTER COUNTY EXTENSION**

The Custer County Livestock Show will start a three-day run beginning Sunday, February 26th. The show will conclude on February 28th with the Premium Auction Sale.

Events at the show will include beef, sheep, goats, broilers, and swine.

The Donor Reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. on the evening of the February 28th. The Awards Presentation and Premium Auction Sale will follow. We would encourage everyone to come to the Livestock Show and Premium Auction to support the 4-H and FFA youth of the county.

### Custer County Livestock Show Three-Day Schedule

- Sunday, February 26th**
- 9:00 a.m. - Barns will Open
  - 2:00 p.m. - Weigh Sheep and Goats Mouth Ewes
  - Broiler Chickens in Place
  - 3:00 p.m. - **Sheep Judging**
    - Ewes - Market Lambs
  - Goat Judging**
    - Does - Weather
  - Broiler Judging**
- Monday, February 27th**
- 7:30 a.m. - Swine/Cards entered and weighed
  - 8:30 a.m. - **Swine Judging**
    - Gilts - Barrows
  - 11:30 a.m. - Beef Cards Due
  - Check Heifer Papers
  - Weigh-ins
  - 1:30 p.m. - **Beef Judging**
    - Heifers, Prospect & Market Steers
- Tuesday, February 28th**
- 9:00 a.m. - **Livestock Judging Contest**
    - Redlands Community College
  - 6:00 p.m. - **Buyer's Meal**
    - Clinton Frisco Center
    - Jigg's Smokehouse Catering
  - 6:30 p.m. - **Awards Presentation**
    - Oklahoma Bank & Trust
    - Barton Award
  - Premium Auction**

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# Oklahoma History: NASCAR in Tulsa



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**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

What do you get when you combine 200 mp/h, 750 horsepower, and 500 miles of concrete and blacktop? The all-American powerhouse of the racing scene, NASCAR. Today, there are 92 races, including 32 Cup Series races, and throughout its robust history, races have fallen on rough weather, historic moments, and culture shifts, but throughout each, they've only been postponed to be completed at a later date. Until one day, on August 4th, 1956, a NASCAR race in Tulsa, OK was stopped partway through and abandoned completely, never to be complete.

At that time, NASCAR was accepting races at any time and at any place, as the organization sought to build its community and avoid dying out. This wasn't the first

time, they'd been in Oklahoma. Shortly before, in June they had held a race for their convertible series in Tulsa of that same year, but this would be the first Grand National race in Tulsa.

The day before the race, August 3rd, NASCAR held a Grand National race in Oklahoma City, it would become the only completed GN race in Oklahoma. Held at the state fair-grounds, prominent racer Lee Petty, who would go on to the NASCAR Hall of Fame, led for 168 laps of the 200-lap-race in OKC, until a differential broke in his car near the end. So, when he joined the others on the journey to Tulsa for the next days race, he was already annoyed.

Upon arrival at the Tulsa fairgrounds "track", the

racers discovered that it was little more than a circuit of dry, hard clay with traffic cones to signal the turning lanes. The only lights were on the grandstands and with windy conditions, dust and dirt were flowing around making visibility difficult. The racers began to argue with promoters about the conditions and safety, but with 6,000 people in attendance and weather clearing, they ultimately decided to try.

As soon as the green flag dropped, the tires of the 13 cars kicked up an unruly amount of dust, starting a small storm and showering the grandstands in red clay. As they were underway and circling back into the initial dust storm, they could hardly see past a yard in front of the car. With the sun setting and poor visibility, 2 cars wrecked within the first 17 laps, and the others fell in line for self-preservation.

Reports state that by lap 32, Lee Petty had had enough of the frustrations. He pulled his Dodge into the infield, ran across the track to the flag stand, wrestled the flag from the starter and waved the red flag to stop the race. NASCAR officials, promoters, and drivers began a heated shouting match while fans who just sat through being covered in muck, were fuming.

Authorities were called in to restore order, the race was eventually declared over, refunds were given, and NASCAR abandoned the site. The race was wiped from the official record books, prize money and circuit points never given, and the event was collectively agreed to be forgotten about. Petty was never in trouble, likely for the hindsight of saving possibly disastrous wrecks.

Lee Petty would go on to have a prolific career, winning the inaugural Daytona 500 and 3 championships. He established Petty Enterprises, which according to NASCAR's Hall of Fame, is one of the winningest organizations competing. Lee was listed among the top 50 drivers of all time in 1998 and inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011.

## SWOSU Celebrating Music Therapy Awareness Week

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Music Therapy Awareness Week 2023, hosted and organized by the SWOSU Music Therapy Student Association (SWOSU-MTSA), will be celebrated from Monday, Feb. 20 through Friday, Feb. 24 on the Weatherford campus. With a week full of fun and educational activities, the highlights will be an experiential, interactive music recital on Wednesday, Feb. 22 and a Music Therapy Entrepreneurship Keynote Speech on Thursday, Feb. 23.

Held in the Berrong Music Hall in Room 101 on Feb. 22 from 4-5 p.m., the Annual Music Therapy Interactive Music Recital will address questions, misconceptions, and clinical examples to target selected therapeutic areas that the music majors are interested in based on a recent survey. This recital is free to the public.

Currently, over 30 students enrolled at SWOSU are part of the music therapy programs. The new SWOSU Music Therapy Center is located in the north wing of the Berrong Music Hall. It features spaces for individual and group music therapy service as well as training workshops provided by three music therapy faculty members and two graduate assistants who are national board-certified and state-licensed music therapists.

### Music Therapy Awareness Week 2023 events:

Book display at the Al Harris Library through the month of March.

**Monday, Feb. 20:** T-shirt preorder and sticker sale for Music Therapy awareness and fundraising for music therapy students' upcoming regional conference attendance.

**Wednesday, Feb. 22:** Music Therapy students featured in "Conversation Corner" on FM 95.5 The Coyote KWEY KCLI at 8 a.m.; Music Therapy Interactive Recital, 4-5 p.m. in the Berrong Music Hall Room 101/Recital Hall; Faculty Karaoke Showdown, 7-9 p.m. in the Berrong Music Hall Room 101/Recital Hall.

**Thursday, Feb. 23:** Music Therapy Entrepreneurship Keynote Speech, 5-7:30 p.m. at Berrong Music Hall Room 132 featuring Morgan Taylor, who is an Oklahoma Licensed Professional Music Therapist, Music Therapist-Board Certified of the National Certification Board for Music Therapists, and 2019 SWOSU alum; open to the public.

**Friday, Feb. 24:** Safe-Spaced Self-Care Workshop for Music Therapists-in-Training, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Berrong Music Hall Rm. 137 (Zoom link may be requested).

SWOSU's undergraduate and equivalency/certification programs were approved by the former National Association for Music Therapy in 1981, making this program the longest standing in the state of Oklahoma.

These programs were also accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the American Music Therapy Association.

The Master of Music in Music Therapy received accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music in 2016 and approval from the American Music Therapy Association in 2019.

This played a significant role in advancing Oklahoma as the 8th state in the U.S. for Licensed Professional Music Therapists since 2016.

The accreditation also continuously serves as the major force in music therapy education as well as clinical practice both locally and globally.

For additional information about the Music Therapy Awareness Events and music therapy degree plans, contact Dr. ChihChen Sophia Lee, Professor and Director of Music Therapy at 580.774.3218 or Sophia.lee@swosu.edu.

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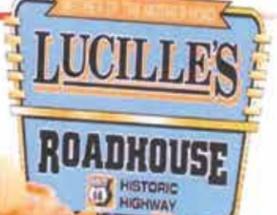
**When:** Saturday - February 25th 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Lucille's Roadhouse, I-40 & Airport Rd., Weatherford

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