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Clinton Football Falls in Quarterfinals to Ada Cougars, 9-21



Chad Gray / WW

The Clinton Red Tornadoes burst through their breakaway banner in the leadup to facing Ada.



Chad Gray / WW

The Clinton High School choir performs the National Anthem before the quarterfinal playoff game.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town for Elk City's "Christmas in the Park"

Elk City and The Elk City Chamber of Commerce are bringing back the Christmas cheer in a big way with their annual Christmas in The Park lineup of events at Ackley Park. For four weekends in November and December leading up to Christmas, Christmas in The Park guarantees fun and holiday themed activities for the whole family. Christmas in The Park officially begins on Friday, November 24th, and free activities will take place every following Friday and Saturday from 6pm to 9pm through December 16th. The list of weekly events that visitors can expect to enjoy at Christmas in the Park include: Christmas light tours through Ackley Park on the Mistletoe Express, Elk City's very own Double Decker Bus, photo opportunities with Santa at Santa's Park Place, miniature train rides on the Candy Cane Express, rides on the Centennial Carousel, Holly Jolly trolley Rides, hot chocolate from the Elk City Boy Scout Troop, holiday treats from local businesses, as well as a gift shop with limited edition ornaments and t-shirts that help fund the event.

"Everything is free in the park except for the gift shop and the donation boxes that we have sitting around. All that money goes back into Christmas in the Park," said Susie Cupp, Executive Director of the Elk City Chamber of Commerce. Regarding what people can expect to find in the gift shop, "we have a new ornament every year and then some other things in there and we actually have some t-shirts to sell with the ornament," said Cupp. This year's limited edition ornament will be a miniature version of the Pink Tractor which will also make some appearance at the event.

One of the main draws of the event is the Christmas light display in the park which will feature over 1 million Christmas lights. Interested visitors will be able to view the lights every night from November 24th through New Year's Eve. So that means if even you can't make it to one of the weekend night events you can still visit the park to see all of the spectacular lights.

Along with the regular scheduled Christmas events, Elk City will also feature several special events around

Elk City. The Untitled Pop Up Theatre is set to perform "Yes Virginia, There is A Santa Claus" at the Museum Opera House on November 24th and 25th at 7:30 pm and November, 26th at 2:30pm. A Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa Send off is planned at City Hall on November 25th beginning at 5:30pm. Musician and former Miss America Susan Powell along with her husband Richard White and select Elk City High School musicians will perform at the appropriately named Susan Powell auditorium for one night only. The concert is \$25.

The Elk City Chamber of Commerce along with participating businesses will also be doing drawings on December 13th and December 14th that will giveaway thousands of dollars in gifts and Chamber Bucks. Entrants will need to be present to win.

For more information you can visit the Elk City Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page by searching 'Elk City Chamber of Commerce' or you can visit their website at elkcitychamber.com.

Hometown Christmas

VISIT

ELK CITY'S

CHRISTMAS

in the PARK

November 24th - December 31st

\$2000

Limited Edition Christmas Ornaments

Make it a Tradition!

Ornaments can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce, Transportation Museum, City Hall and the Ginger Bread Gift Shop on Friday and Saturday Evenings at Christmas in the Park.

This fantastic holiday light display can be viewed nightly from 6-11 p.m. and concludes on New Year's Eve. With wonderful sponsors and donations merrily accepted from visitors, Christmas in the Park is a holiday tradition!

Free Activities Every Fri. & Sat. 6-9 PM • Nov. 24th - Dec. 16th

- Tour the Park on the Mistletoe Express, a Double Decker Bus
- Visit Santa at Santa's Park Place
- Candy Cane Express
- Miniature Train Rides
- Ride the Centennial Carousel
- Holly Jolly Trolley Rides
- Cub Scouts Serving Hot Chocolate

November 24-26

Untitled Pop Up Theatre

"Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus"

Nightly at 7:30 pm
Sunday at 2:30 pm
Museum Opera House

Hometown Christmas

Elk City

Shop to Win! \$100 GIFT

Thousands of dollars in Gifts and Chamber Dollars to be Given Away December 13th & 14th

Participating Businesses:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 580 Threads | Elk City News | Merrifield Office Supply | The Depot Trading Co. |
| Barber-Dyson | Elk City Pick-A-Part | Mostly Mail | The Everett Blake Society |
| Ford-Lincoln | Elk City Pools & Spas | Mountain Man's Axe | The Mix Boutique |
| Bella Vita | Fat Cat Designs | Throwing & Grub | The Natural Way Dispensary |
| Brown Ales & Liquor | Galleria Furniture Outlet | Oak Creek Floral & Gifts | The Tool Box |
| BTB's Records & Rarities | Grandview Pharmacy | Page Jewelers | The Vogue Boutique |
| Buffalo Creek Boutique | Hylton's Flowers & Gifts | Paul Jones Drug | The Zoo 101.7 |
| Carroll's Shoe Corner | KECO/KOOL 94 | Pizza Hut | Windy Nissan |
| Circle A Western Wear | Keith's Butcher Shop | Play on Main | |
| Currell's Do It Center | Kilhoffer Flooring Center | R&K Superette | |
| Dameron Jewelers | LaDonna's Wine & Spirits | Roger's Meat Market | |
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| Dr.'s Bintz and Ellis | L&RTire & Truck Service | The Attic Door | |
| Dragonfly Interiors & Design | Main Street Coffee & Café | The Candy Shack | |

> Need not be present to win Dec. 13th drawing <

CHRISTMAS

with SUSAN POWELL

Saturday, Nov. 25 at City Hall

Christmas Tree Lighting

and Santa Send off to Ackley Park at 5:30 pm

Homestead of Elk City serving Popcorn, Apple Cider and Coffee

All 4 Weekends • 6-9pm

Christmas in the Park

BLACK FRIDAY

STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

Special Holiday Drawing

Dec. 14th @ 8 p.m.

MAIN STREET COFFEE & CAFE

> MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN <

Activities Start @ 5 pm

Retail District

- Santa & Mrs. Claus 5-7 pm
- Sailer & Sage
- Ponce Productions
- Music
- Cookie Decorating Contest

Elk City

Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau

580.225.0207 • elkcitychamber.com

PLEASE GIVE TO A LOCAL CHARITY



Krystal Blackwell / WW

Weatherford's two "Students of the Month" for November, awarded by the Weatherford Rotary Club. Pictured (from left): Heston Wright, Addison Elwick, Carter Denton, and Garrett Smith.

"Christmas in Corn"

Everyone is Invited!

Saturday

Nov. 25th

5pm - 8:00pm

Have Fun with Friends and Family!

All activities will take place in

Downtown Corn

- Carriage Rides
- Soup Meal - \$5 at Café
- Kid's Korner - Pictures with Santa
- Craft Sale, Bake Sale, Schnetka
- Nativity Display
- Merry-Go-Round Pony Rides
- Gingerbread Cookie Decorating

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Charles Belter

Charles Leroy Belter was born April 21, 1939, to Samuel and Emilie (Weil) Belter in Clinton, OK and passed away early Friday, November 3, 2023, in his Clinton home.



Charles was raised in Clinton where he graduated from high school in 1957. While in high school he was active in Future Farmers of America.

He was married to Carol Ann Jones on September 29, 1957, in Wheeler, TX. To this union three daughters were born, Brenda, Darcy and Carla. He farmed with his father for several years while working for Kellwood Factory. He later married Treasa "Dempy" Ervin on April 22, 1982, in Las Vegas, NV. He worked for R. A. Griffith where he first started selling cars. He loved the business of selling cars and soon owned and operated his own dealership which became Belters Used Cars, and he has served this area for over 50 years.

He was a member of the Arapaho Baptist Church; his passion was cars, and he has always enjoyed fast cars, building and racing them. He enjoyed watching sports, following the Clinton Red Tornadoes, Oklahoma University, and the Thunder and Dallas Cowboys.

He is preceded in death by his wife, "Dempy" and his parents, daughter, Brenda Belter, two brothers, William Belter and Harvey Belter and a special nephew, Gary Belter.

He is survived by his daughters, Darcy Dawson and husband, Daniel, Yukon, ok and Carla Howe and husband David, Clinton, OK and his life partner, Donna Williamson, of Clinton, OK.

He is also survived by six grandchildren, Katie Stewart and husband, Michael, Clinton, OK, Kenna Ringo-Spencer and husband, Cole, Mustang, OK, Chris Maley and wife, Katrina, Emily Hicks and husband, Bryan, Ashley Cummins and husband, Wade, and Jacob Pankratz, all of Clinton, OK and 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

Fern Stephenson

Fern Nadine Stephenson was born February 6, 1925, to Alfred Reber and Jessie Longnecker Reber in Putnam, OK and passed away Monday, November 6, 2023, in the OU Medical Center.



Fern graduated from Putnam High in 1943. She started farming at an early age and she raised and sold cattle before she was 16 years old. She married Leon Stephenson on March 26, 1946, in Arapaho, OK. They moved to California for a short time and moved back home. She had a 22-year career at the Clinton Regional Hospital as the Dietary Supervisor, retiring in 1989.

She was a collector of many things, especially Elvis Presley Memorabilia, salt and pepper shakers, ducks and she loved to work Word Search Puzzles and spend time with family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son, Larry Stephenson, granddaughter, Suzie Melton and brother Keith (Sonny) Reber.

She is survived by son, Terry Stephenson and wife, Rebecca, Clinton, daughters in law, Linda Stephenson, Clinton and Margaret Richardson, Yukon, OK, six grandchildren, Greg Stephenson and wife, Amy, Cordell, OK, Tara Cenami, OKC, OK, Scott Stephenson and wife, Elizabeth, Cordell, OK, Amiee Stephenson, Edmond, OK, Angiee Nelson and husband, Greg, Edmond, OK and Brian Melton and wife, Mika, Yukon, OK and Kaci Richardson, Yukon, OK, Suzie's partner Brian Brown 14 great grandchildren, Jessica Cenami, Clinton, OK, Leslee Johsens and husband, Parker, of CA, Ariel Messerli, Edmond, OK, Keeli Cartwright of CA, Ethan Stephenson, Cordell, OK, Zoe Stephenson, Cordell, OK, Sebastian Messerli, Edmond, OK Malorie Cartwright, OKC, OK, Diesel Nelson, Edmond, OK, Kinadee Melton and Kindell Melton, Yukon, OK, Katelyn Melton, Thomas, OK, Nikki Melton, Weatherford, OK, Gabriel Brown, Thomas, OK, three great-great grandchildren, Wyatt Johsens, Kayla Johsens, both of CA and Grayson Stephenson, Cordell, OK and a baby boy on the way.

Ronald Colvin

Ronald Dee Colvin was born on April 19, 1947, in Carnegie, OK, the son of Otto and Effie (Ellis) Colvin. He passed away on November 8, 2023, in the Great Plains Medical Center in Elk City, OK, with his wife by his side.



Ronald grew up on a farm near Cowden, Oklahoma, where he attended Cowden School through the 8th grade. Ronald later attended Mountain View High School where he earned his high school diploma in 1965.

He was united in marriage to Patricia Ann Dorrell on June 10, 1967.

Ronald attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in May of 1969.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War from September 25, 1969, until he was honorable discharge on June 24, 1971.

Upon returning home, he worked at the Oklahoma Employment Office for a short period of time before driving a truck for his father-in-law.

That adventure began his lifelong love driving a Peterbilt truck as a self-employed owner/operator for the next 48 years.

Ronald was preceded in death by his brother Richard Dale Colvin, father, Otto Colvin, mother, Effie Colvin, sister, Leta Tate, niece Cheryl Tate-Rogers and brother-in-Law, Joe Tate.

He is survived by his wife, of 56 years, Patricia Colvin, of the home, son Greg Colvin, Clinton, OK, daughter, Stacy Clothier and her husband, Kevin, Altus, OK.

He is also survived by three grandchildren: Luke Clothier of Altus, OK; Savannah Clothier of Altus, OK; and Lily Clothier of Altus, OK; and one niece: Tammy Hardaker, her husband Guy, and their children.

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce Small Business Society Presents:

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in Gift Certificates and Chamber Bucks at participating stores below
NOV. 24TH - DEC. 8TH
*Cut off to register is 12pm Dec. 8th

WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN
\$5,000 MONDAY, DEC. 4TH
\$5,000 MONDAY, DEC. 11TH
LIVE ON FACEBOOK AT 10AM
on Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page!
Participants can only win 1 time. Winners have 24 hours to pick up prizes or they forfeit prize. No purchase necessary.

TO ENTER PARADE!
PARTICIPANTS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO:

- Photos with Santa after parade
- Music by WHS Jazz Band
- Walk in parade

Parade Sponsored by:
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**Christmas Tree Lighting
Nov. 30th @ 5:30
in McPhetridge Park**

Tree Lighting Sponsored by: XpressWellness URGENT CARE

FLYER DESIGNED BY: *Shawna*

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SCAN ME

SWOSU Professor Earns National Research Award



Dr. Daniel Kavish, Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) was awarded with the 2023 Outstanding Article or Book Chapter Award from the American Society of Criminology's Division of Convict Criminology (DCC).

The American Society of Criminology (ASC) is an international organization dedicated to pursuing extensive knowledge on the intricacies of crime and delinquency. Members of ASC's DCC engage in mentorship, advocacy, and critical carceral scholarship focused on the experiences of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. The DCC's Outstanding Article or Book Chapter Award recognizes outstanding scholarship in Convict Criminology in the form of a peer-reviewed journal article or book chapter.

The award-winning article titled, "Let the Convicts Speak: A Critical Conversation of the Ongoing Language Debate in Convict Criminology" is published in Criminal Justice Studies and is authored by Dr. Jennifer Ortiz of The College of New Jersey, Dr. Alison Cox of East Carolina University, Dr. Daniel Kavish of SWOSU, and Dr. Grant Tietjen of the University of Washington Tacoma.

"Let the Convicts Speak" challenges conventional wisdom and highlights critical issues surrounding language, inviting readers to confront preconceived notions about incarcerated people and the impact of language on their lives. The article emphasizes the importance of incorporating the perspectives and experiences of incarcerated individuals in

academic discourse to provide nuanced insight into the struggles, aspirations, and impact of language on formerly incarcerated people as they integrate into society.

Their research highlights the socio-linguistic challenges faced by formerly incarcerated people, examining how language barriers can exacerbate their isolation and hinder their chances of successful reentry into the community. This insight is crucial for policymakers, educators, and advocates working toward improving criminal justice outcomes. Through compelling narratives and firsthand accounts, the study encourages readers to cultivate empathy and understanding for formerly incarcerated people and promotes a more compassionate approach to criminal justice by advocating for programs and policies that facilitate education, skill development, and employment. These policy implications are designed to enhance communication, promote rehabilitation, and ultimately reduce recidivism rates.

Kavish's dedication to rigorous academic inquiry and his ability to bridge theory and practice have not only helped earn him this prestigious award but have also had a lasting influence on the discipline. He has a proven record of participation in professional conferences and scholarly publications.

His research has been featured in a host of academic journals, including Crime & Delinquency, Criminal Justice Studies, and the Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology. He has also recently authored chapters for the books "Routledge Handbook of Street Culture," "Convict Criminology for the Future," and "Power and Pain in the Modern Prison: The Society of Captives Revisited."

A native of Springfield, Ill., Kavish began teaching at SWOSU in the fall of 2018. Kavish earned his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from the University of Illinois at Springfield and earned his masters and doctorate degrees in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University. Kavish enjoys working at SWOSU because the university is passionate about teaching and mentoring students, fostering community partnerships, and supporting academic scholarship. Kavish's dedication to advancing criminological research, paired with his profound impact on the academic community, exemplifies the values and commitment to excellence that SWOSU upholds.

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HIGHER GROUND

You Can't Outgive God



Jim Morrison

"You may know the date of your birth, but do you know why you were born." This statement from a speaker at a leadership conference set in motion a chain of thoughts and events that caused a well-to-do family to invest their lives in the middle of a Moslem culture in Southeast Asia, where rats and mosquitoes thrived, and electricity and running water were considered a luxury.

I've just finished reading a book entitled, Sent by Hilary Alan. She tells an amazing story of her family's pilgrimage from North Carolina where they were living the American dream of indulgence, financial success, and church involvement, to go to Southeast Asia, to minister to many thousands displaced by the tsunami that killed 230,000 people.

While they and their two children experienced great culture shock for several months, they emerged from that emotional turmoil to grow to love the people and their culture to the point that when their three-year assignment was up, they despaired of leaving to go back to America.

It is an amazing picture of the power of God who takes our obedience, no matter how hesitant it may be and turns it into joy in spite of the challenging circumstances. Their pastor, J.D. Greear had told them that "You can't outgive God." Hilary found that in her words, "we gave Him our house...so He could give us a home. We gave Him our jobs. . .so He could give us a calling. We gave him our financial security . . . so He could teach us that real security is found only in Him. We gave Him our comfort zone so He could show us that lasting comfort comes from living in the center of His will, not ours. We gave Him our activities so He could give us his passions."

Hilary found that "One of the hardest days of my life was the day we boarded the plane to leave Southeast Asia. We had lost nothing by leaving behind our old life and living for three years in

Southeast Asia. In fact, we had gained it all by doing only three things: 1. Trusting in the Lord with all our hearts 2. Not leaning on our own understanding 3. Acknowledging Him in all our ways (see Proverbs 3:5,6.)

The children, 11 and 14 when they left the USA, came back as young adults, with a whole new perspective on what it means to follow Christ. Jordan, the oldest, said; "I learned, saw, and lived out what it means to be a true follower of Jesus Christ and not just a cultural Christian." Molly, said, speaking of the Islamic faith, "After seeing their works-based religion lived in from of me, it made me thankful for the freedom I have as a follower of Christ."

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas season let us be thankful for the opportunities and conveniences we have. But we must be careful not to hold onto them too tightly. For these are gifts from God and He might have another calling for us, or our family if we are willing to humbly trust him and live a life of obedience.

To comment: 580-302-1142, jhm82@outlook.com

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10AM - 2PM



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Holiday Festivals Promise Family Fun in Clinton



The City of Clinton and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce are celebrating the holidays in a big way with The 10th Annual Chocolate Festival and the Festival of Lights happening on Tuesday, November 28th.

The 10th Annual Chocolate Festival is the first event planned for the festive day. Beginning at 11am and running through 8pm 250 lucky chocoholics can visit 16 participating retailers in Clinton to taste the best chocolate treats the City of Clinton has to offer. Tickets are already on sale for \$5 at participating retailers and with a limited amount of tickets interested tasters should purchase their tickets soon. The lucky tasters will then be able to cast their votes for the best chocolate treat at the Pepsi Event Center.

"We have a traveling trophy that the winner gets every year," said Julie Caldwell, Executive Director of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce. "We've had fudge, we've had coffee, we've had hot chocolate. I mean it just has to be something homemade with chocolate," added Caldwell regarding what type of treats participants can expect.

At 4pm Santa Claus will be coming to town to make an appearance at the Pepsi Event Center for photo opportunities for interested families and their kiddos. That will also kick-off the Santa Silent auction being held at the Pepsi Event Center. The silent auction helps fund Clinton Chamber of Commerce events throughout the year and this year's is filled with a bevy of gift baskets and holiday themed goodies.

"We have a lot of gift baskets that are full of Christmas stuff, like mugs and hot chocolate and sugar cookie mix. And we've got a lot of swag bags from different businesses in it. We've got some tools, we have some dog stuff. There's lots of good stuff," said Caldwell.

At 6pm in Engleman Park, The Clinton Chamber of Commerce will also bring back the Hairy Christmas Beard competition for its second year. The Clinton version of No-Shave-November will feature awards for best decorated beard, weirdest beard and an award for the beard that looks most like Santa's.

Then at 6:30pm the festival of lights begins with the light parade that will run through downtown Clinton. Several community organizations, businesses, churches, and schools will compete for prizes and honors in several categories. Cash Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd best overall floats and trophies will be awarded to floats for best civic organization, best school, best church, best business as well as the Mayor's choice.

Finally at 7:30pm at the Pepsi Event Center, winners will be announced for all of the day's competitions as well as the Santa Silent auction.

"It's a really fun night. The stores are open late, so there's lots of great Christmas shopping and Christmas things going on. It's just a really great night in Clinton. It's a lot of fun," said Caldwell.

For more information about these events and more you can visit the Clinton Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page by searching "Clinton Chamber of Commerce" or you can visit www.clintonok.org.

ELECTION RESULTS - There will be a new member of Clinton City Council after challenger Stormie Hill defeated incumbent Patch McComas by getting 76% of the vote. In one other area issue, voters in the Hinton School District defeated a \$32.3 million bond for various district upgrades. The issue needed a supermajority of 60% for passage but got only a little over 50% of the vote.

ARAPAHO-BUTLER / AGREEMENT - Custer County Commissioners approved an agreement between the Sheriff's Office and Arapaho-Butler Schools for a presence on the school campus. Undersheriff David Crabtree says officers will perform walkthroughs on campus for 10 hours a week max.

ELK CITY / ACADEMICS - The Elk City School Board of Education recently had a discussion surrounding improved academic scores in the District, says Superintendent Mike Sparks. Sparks says the board also approved a \$550 bonus for district staff.

CLINTON SB / PROPERTY - Last week, The Clinton School Board of Education approved the purchase of property across from Washington Elementary from the Lions Club, says District Superintendent Tyler Bridges. Bridges says the property was purchased for any potential future expansion. He says the purchase price of the property totaled \$30,000.

BECKHAM CO / HARRIS - A motion hearing is planned for January 30th in Beckham County District Court for an Elk City man after authorities filed a motion to revoke his suspended sentence. 55-year-old Kevin Scott Harris pleaded no contest in April 2021 to the charge of first-degree manslaughter. Harris was sentenced to serve one year of a ten-year prison term with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in connection with the August 2019 shooting death of Robert Turnbow in the 1000 block of North Adams in Elk City. Court records show that Harris allegedly violated the Mary Rippe Violent Crime Registration Act, which is required of those who are convicted of specific violent crimes.

WPS / SUPERINTENDENT - Weatherford starts the search for a new Superintendent. Interim Superintendent Richard Brownen says he hopes the process will take two months, starting with the closing of application submissions on January 5 and finishing with the final interviews by the end of February. Brownman was named interim Superintendent after the departure of former Superintendent Dr. Jill Henderson earlier this year.

WEATHERFORD / AG BUILDING - The Weatherford School District recently approved bids for the construction of a new ag building for the district. The board also approved a bid for the paving of a high school parking lot east of the track facility.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

OR **HAPPY DAY TO YOU!**



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Jones and Permenter Pick Up the Bulldogs of the Week Honor

Grant Kopycinski
Sports Information Graduate Asst.

Mason Jones and Jada Permenter have been named the newest Bulldogs of the Week. The weekly recognition is brought to you by Wright Wradio, home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Jones (Panhandle, Texas) averaged double figure scoring last week for SWOSU Women's Basketball, averaging 10.0 points and over 3.5 rebounds in three games. She was 8-for-15 from three-point range, 53%, and had two games with three makes apiece. Her 12 points against UTPB on Saturday matched her season high just five games into the season.

Permenter (Amarillo, Texas) became SWOSU Volleyball's third Great American Conference Freshman of the Year, announced last Wednesday at the league's awards banquet preceding the GAC Tournament.

The Bulldog libero finished off the season by leading the team with 38 digs (4.75/set) in two matches over the weekend.



Photos from Weatherford Pioneer Center's 33rd Annual Stew Dinner



Chad Gray / WW

Attendees at the Pioneer Stew Dinner check out the many gift baskets on display for the event's Silent Auction.



Chad Gray / WW

Attendees at the Pioneer Center Stew Dinner enjoy all-you-can-eat stew and cornbread.

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Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society
Allen "Kiliahote" Wright, the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Republic from 1866-1870.

Oklahoma History: Where Does the Word "Oklahoma" Come From?

Chase Wright
 Staff Writer

On November 16th, 1907, Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory merged into an official part of the United States, the State of Oklahoma.

It became the 46th state to enter the union. Its namesake was based on two Choctaw words, "okla" and "humma".

Most English translations and the Chahta Anumpa Aikhvna school of Choctaw Language refer to the translated words by their baseline translation meaning "people" and "red," or "nation" who is "red-skinned."

However, the Choctaw language, like all languages, takes root in culture, and many of its words and phrases lose their connotation when defined literally.

Some scholars point out that in the 19th and early 20th centuries, most of the Native American tribes didn't refer to themselves as "Indian" and instead had words or phrases that took on multiple definitions.

Humma ("red") is a prime example. Humma, or Homma, in the New Choctaw Dictionary published in 2016, can refer to the color "red," but it is also used to refer to their people as a group.

According to the Choctaw Dictionary, Hattak Upi Homma translates to "The Native Americans". This is a significant distinction. When taken at their baseline translations and paired with disgust, racial slurs like "Red Skin" become coined phrases that twist the meaning of names.

When considering the translation, we must also consider the time and place of its use. Humma, with its various spellings and verbiage, can fit and describe a myriad of things:

- It can be a noun: "Crimson"
- an adjective: "inflamed"
- a state-change: "to flush"
- a descriptor: "an addition to a man's name, which gives distinction; Courage; Honor."

Certain Choctaw language scholars have pointed out that some of the forefronts of Native American culture and beliefs were the preservation of land, the honor with which they carried themselves, and the example they set of the people they represented.

So, regarding the words okla and humma, when you consider alternative uses, time, and culture, a new picture begins to form. When signing the Reconstruction Treaty of 1866 that would consolidate all of the Indian Territory's tribes under a council, Chief of the Choctaw Republic Rev. Allen Wright suggested the term Oklahumma for the name of the new territory. While literal definitions report his idea was to call it the "Territory of the Red People," there is a secondary idea, "Honorable Nation." Both are potentially accurate representations of what Chief Wright meant when he suggested the name. However, one thing is for sure: time has changed the landscape and culture of Oklahoma, yet the people still encompass the second definition.

Stafford Air & Space Museum "Shooting Star Park" Officially Opens



Krystal Blackwell / WW

Shooting Star Park, located at the Stafford Air and Space Museum in Weatherford, is officially open. Chase Turney, age 4, explores the unique playground equipment, including a mock Control Panel (left), a planetary Tic-Tac-Toe board (center), and a climbable rocketship (right).



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Second Half Success Not Enough for Bulldogs at Dallas Baptist



Jon Chidester
Sports Asst. AD

SWOSU Men's Basketball

outscored No. 13 Dallas Baptist in the second half of Saturday night's non-conference road matchup but faced too large of a deficit at halftime to overcome the Patriots in an 88-69 loss.

It's the third straight ranked opponent SWOSU (0-3) has faced to start the 2023-24 season in a stout non-conference schedule. That streak finally comes to an end this Tuesday, November 21, when Cameron University visits Weatherford for the home opener.

In a tale of two halves, SWOSU trailed 50-27 at halftime after committing 12 first half turnovers and shooting 36% from the field and 29% from beyond the arc. Riding momentum from the Homecoming crowd, DBU used its full court pressure to keep SWOSU uncomfortable. The Patriots took 11 more shots than the Bulldogs and scored 15 points off the turnovers to build their lead.

Solid adjustments were made after halftime as the Bulldogs went on to outscore DBU 42-38. The Dawgs reduced the turnovers down to just five and shot 50% from the field. SWOSU also had success

getting to the free throw line after going 16-of-18 (89%) in the half and 23-of-29 (79%) for the game.

SWOSU ended at 43% shooting overall on the night and 29% from deep. Eli Al-Debaran, 15, Denali Alexander, 13, and Mason Hart, 8, all posted season high point totals. Ben Smith and Mark Berry combined for another 26 after both finishing in double figures.

DBU shot 48% from the field and 43% from three-point range. They knocked down 12 treys and finished 16-of-19 from the free throw line.

SWOSU got the edge in rebounding, 32-31.

Lady Bulldogs Drop Matchup with University of Texas Permian Basin



Jon Chidester
Sports Asst. AD

SWOSU Women's Basketball

fell 72-65 to Texas Permian Basin on Saturday night to conclude action at the Food King Classic in Lubbock.

In a similar game flow as Friday's matchup with

Lubbock Christian, SWOSU trailed UTPB nearly all evening before mounting a fourth quarter comeback that saw a 17-point deficit shrink to four with 2:49 remaining. From there, the Lady Bulldogs scored just once the rest of the way and lost for a

second consecutive night.

The defeat moves SWOSU to 2-3 on the season. They'll get well over a week off before battling Oklahoma Baptist in Shawnee on Thursday, November 30 to begin GAC play.

SWOSU shot 33% in the game overall and 29% from the three-point line, despite knocking down a season high 12 deep balls.

UTPB matched SWOSU in three-point makes but did so at a 50% clip on 12-for-24 shooting. They finished at 44% overall from the field in the game.

It's the first time in five games the Lady Bulldogs did not force their opponent into having at least 20 turnovers. UTPB turned the ball over 18 times after committing six in the fourth quarter which helped aid the SWOSU comeback attempt.

The Lady Dawgs trailed 36-30 at halftime but got outscored 20-12 in the third quarter which created the fourth quarter hole that proved too big to dig out of.

Four finished with double figure scoring led by Averi Zinn with 15 points and six assists and Reese Berkey and Mason Jones who both added 12. Chloe Cantrell had 11 including 3-of-5 from beyond the arc.

SWOSU lost the rebounding battle 45-35. Lanie Gooch led the team with six of those.

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