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Weatherford Police Department and Weatherford Public Schools Unveil New D.A.R.E. Themed Challenger Vehicle



The Weatherford Police Department in cooperation with Weatherford Public Schools unveiled their brand new D.A.R.E. and Student Resource Officer vehicle this past week. The vehicle purchase was funded through proceeds garnered by the Heartland Cruise Car Show organized by Weatherford Rotary Club members as a means to fundraise for the local D.A.R.E. program.

Weatherford Public Schools's student resource officers, Justin Bushong and Troy Freeborn were present for the unveiling as well as other members of the Weatherford Police Department including Chief Angelo Orefice, organizers for the Heartland Cruise Car Show, and Administrators from Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford Elementary.

In an interview during the unveiling, Student Resource Officer Justin Bushong commented on why the Weatherford D.A.R.E. program is especially relevant today and how this new vehicle will help the program.

"We think back on D.A.R.E., we think about its "Just Say No" campaign...there's more to it than that. It's about being a good person and making

good decisions, and how we can be good people in our community.

Officer Bushong also added his thanks to the organizations responsible for funding acquiring and outfitting the new vehicle, including the City of Weatherford, Weatherford Public Schools, Cummins Automotive, Dana Safety Supply in Edmond, and Jasmine Graphics in Weatherford.

"As we go through the fifth-grade curriculum or middle school curriculum and now our high school curriculum, we try to get them to be good people in their communities. Community is a part of it. We're part of a town, we're part of schools. We want to be good people in everything we do. And that's the message I strive to push to the kids to be awesome. And to be awesome, you need tools that help you be awesome, so D.A.R.E. gives us those tools to make better decisions and think things through a little bit better."

"It's been a good team effort to get this all put together and I can't be more proud to be a part of it and thank everybody for helping out with it," said Officer Bushong.

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Country Christmas Festivities to Begin in Thomas December 6th



Country Christmas is without a doubt a holiday tradition in Thomas, Oklahoma and the Thomas Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 2023 edition line-up of events that are set to take place all day Wednesday, December 6th around The City of Thomas.

Starting at 10 am and running until 11 am, Country Christmas kicks off with the Taste of Christmas Candy Competition at the Senior Citizens Building near Downtown Thomas. The person with the best Christmas Candy concoction will be awarded \$75 in Thomas Chamber Bucks. The fun continues with the Christmas Bazaar which will run from 1 pm to 7 pm. An assortment of local vendors and artisans will be set up in the old Kids Therapy Connection building located at 104 N. Main Street in Thomas, but stores all around Thomas will be open and offering holiday deals for interested shoppers.

From 4 pm to 5 pm, The Gingerbread House Competition will be taking entries at the Hazel Cross Library located at 111 W Broadway Ave in Thomas. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded to the best Gingerbread Houses later in the evening with the prizes awarded being \$25, \$20, and \$15 respectively.

Later on from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm, Hortons Studio will be selling photos with Santa Claus at Thomas City Hall located at 122 W. Broadway Ave in downtown Thomas.

Country Christmas will also be offering free hay rides for the public to view the city's Christmas light displays from 5 pm to 6:15 pm. Attendees can hop on the hay ride in the Bank of the West parking lot located at 101 S. Main Street.

The Thomas Jr High and Varsity choirs will be presenting a holiday-themed performance in downtown Thomas from 5 pm to 5:30 pm.

One of the other highlights of the event will be the free drawings which will be open to the public. Submissions for the giveaway are scheduled to take place at the current Kids Therapy Connection building located at 118 E. Broadway Ave in Thomas from 5 pm to 6 pm with winners being drawn after the Christmas Parade in Sewell Park. Winners must be present at the drawing in Sewell Park to claim their prize. A variety of prizes for guests of all ages will be given away.

At 7 pm, the Christmas Parade will run through Downtown Thomas featuring themed floats, decorated off-road vehicles, and of course, Santa Claus riding on a Thomas firetruck. Prizes for the 3 best floats, the 3 best off-road vehicles, and the 3 best golf carts will be awarded at Sewell Park following the parade along with the giveaway drawings. For more information about Country Christmas, you can call Thomas Chamber of Commerce Executive Jennifer Billy at 580-661-3685.

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Velma Heinrichs

Velma Jean Heinrichs (Sawatzky) passed away peacefully on November 26, 2023, at Corn Heritage Village, at the age of 88 years, 2 months and 13 days. She was a member of the Corn Mennonite Brethren Church. Velma was born September 13, 1935, to Isaac and Lena Sawatzky near Weatherford Oklahoma. Velma was raised on the farm and attended school in Corn.



Velma married the love of her life Willard on June 3, 1955. Together, they farmed and did custom wheat harvesting. They raised three children: Douglas, Roxane and Karla.

In retirement they enjoyed many years of traveling and going to watch their grandson play basketball. Velma was involved in volunteering at church and the Et Cetra shop for many years. She touched many with her caregiving spirit and joy of cooking and baking.

Velma is survived by one son Douglas Heinrichs and wife Marlene of Cordell; two daughters: Roxane Paone and husband Tommy of Corn and Karla Heinrichs of Concord, CA; one brother Jerry Sawatzky and wife Joyce of Amarillo, TX; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Willard Heinrichs; and one brother Lloyd Sawatzky.

Trey Lawson

Ernest "Trey" Albert Lawson, III was born September 19, 1962, to Ernest Albert Lawson, Jr., and Floy Norene Scoggins in Enid, OK and passed away Friday, November 23, 2023, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK.



Trey was raised in Watonga, OK and graduated from Watonga High School in 1980. He was active in baseball and basketball. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

He was a truck driver by trade, and he recently was driving a truck for a carnival company. He was driving between Oklahoma and Texas.

He enjoyed playing golf, spending time with his children and supporting them in their sporting activities, trying to never miss a game or activity.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father and his former father-in-law and mother-in-law Roy and Shirley Burkeen.

He is survived by his two children: Brooklyn and Austin Burkeen, both of Weatherford, sister Wendy Rogers, of Clinton and brother Spencer Lawson and wife Amy, Bela Vista Arkansas.

Larry Crist

Larry Ray Crist was born February 11, 1950, to Carl Crist and Vada (Weese) Crist in Clayton, NM and passed away in his Arapaho home on November 21, 2023.



Larry was raised in Clayton, NM where he attended school. He was married to Lue Anne Wiley on November 28, 1988, in Fort Sumner, NM. He was a rancher and cowboy and bought and sold horses and cows. He moved to Oklahoma in 2015, settling in Arapaho. He was employed at the Custer City Co-op as manager. He is a member of the Edge Church; he enjoyed anything to do with horses, training and raising horses team roping. He also enjoyed fishing. He had a special and soft spot in his heart for children and he was loved by all.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and infant son Chester, son-in-law Leland Williams and a brother Clay and sister Kimmy.

He is survived by his wife Lue Anne, of the home, daughters: Rena Brown and husband Daryl, Coweta, OK, and Dixie Williams, Arapaho, OK and Kimberly Crist, Enid, OK; 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren and one on the way.

Patricia Ramos

Patricia Ann Ramos was born July 25, 1960, to Minnie Yellow Eagle in Clinton, OK and passed away early Thanksgiving morning, November 23, 2023, in the Baptist Integris Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK.



Patricia was raised and attended school in Weatherford. She was employed at the Collins and Aikman Plant in Clinton before working for the Lucky Star Casino in the Smoke Shop and as cashier at the Lucky Star Casino.

She was married to Eusebio R. Ramos on December 27, 1978, in Clinton, OK, and they made their homes in Clinton and Weatherford.

She was a member of the Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and the Native American Church. She loved to cook, collect nick-nacks and especially hummingbirds.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a granddaughter Adriana two sisters: Norma Bearshield and Iris Yellow Eagle.

She is survived by her husband Eusebio, of the home; daughters: Minnie Ramos, OKC, OK and Esperansa, Clinton, OK and four sons, John Yellow Eagle, Clinton, Philip Yellow Eagle, Anadarko, Eusebio Ramos, Jr. and wife Amy, Weatherford, OK and Armando Ramos, Clinton, sister Yolando Yellow Eagle, Weatherford, OK.

She is also survived by 29 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Maria Harper

Maria Josefa (Elizondo) Harper was born on January 21, 1957, in O'Donnel, Texas, to Gabriel and Maria (Benevidas) Elizondo and passed away on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at Clinton Regional Hospital in Clinton.



Maria was raised and attended school in the Colony area. She married Wendell Harper in 1986, and in 1988 they made their home in Weatherford. She worked for 3M and then Imation for 28 years and at SWOSU for 9 years before retiring due to health reasons. She enjoyed time with her children and grandchildren, family time, going out to eat, and going to the casino.

Maria is survived by her husband Wendell Harper of their home in Weatherford; two daughters: Janel Harper of Weatherford and Tamara and Casey Adams of Oklahoma City; four brothers: Daniel Elizondo of Weatherford, Gabriel Elizondo Jr. of West Virginia, Chris Elizondo of Corn, and Henarro Elizondo of Watonga; four sisters: Beatrice Elizondo of Hobart, Margaret Elizondo of Watonga, Rebecca Castrojan of Anadarko, and Joyce Elizondo of Clinton; granddaughter Khloe; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; son Grant; brother Alfred; and sister Erlinda.

Burl Davis

Burl Alan Davis was born on November 24, 1967, in Pauls Valley, to Burl and Carol (Evans) Davis and passed away on Friday, November 24, 2023, at his home in Weatherford at the age of 56 years.



Burl was raised and attended school in Weatherford, graduating with the class of 1986 and the SWOSU class of 1992.

He then worked for the Hydro Co-op and BOP Ram Iron. He married Melanie Eve Villines in Weatherford on January 1, 1991.

Burl enjoyed hunting, cattle, horses, going to auctions, and helping people in need. Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

Burl is survived by his sons: Brandon and Melinda Davis of Weatherford, Luke Davis of New York and Henry Davis of Weatherford; daughter Tiffany and AJ Hernandez of Weatherford; five grandchildren; and three sisters: Brenda Friesen of Weatherford, Debbie Davis of Weatherford, and Cathy and Chris Angier of Edmond. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife Melanie.

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SCAN ME

Beckham County Baggers and H2O Baggers Cornhole Groups to Host OCA Major Event

Two Western Oklahoma Cornhole Groups, the H2O Baggers and the Beckham County Baggers have teamed up to host the Oklahoma Cornhole Association's first Major competition for the 2023-24 season. The event will be held December 8th, 9th and 10th at the Mike Brown Event Center located in the Radar Park complex in Weatherford.

The OCA Major event begins on Friday, December 8th with upper/lower blind draws as well as Co-Ed Doubles. The blind draws will be separated into two divisions. The upper division will be for more experienced players, while the lower division will be for beginner and intermediate players. Fees for players will be \$20 per individual for the blind draws and \$40 per team for the Co-ed doubles. However, the Friday night events will be free to watch to the public. The event will open it's doors at around 5:30 pm with games set to begin at 7pm and run until all the games are finished that night.

"The first day is just kind of a meet and greet, blind throw, co-ed, those sorts of things. Where people are just getting together and throwing it just for fun," said Jodi Dooley Co-Director of the H2O Baggers who is helping coordinate the event with the help of her fellow Co-Director of the H2O Baggers Sharil Leger as well as the Co-Directors of the Beckham County Baggers Micheal and Sumer Jones.

On Saturday, December 9th the event moves into the singles and doubles tournaments as well as crew cup blind draws. "Currently we have five divisions. We have recreational or backyard, which is basically beginners. We have the intermediate, which is the next level. We have competitors, advanced, and then we have a new division this year which is elite, which is like the pros," said Dooley.

Each divisions fees will be different with the higher division offering higher payouts for the higher fee price.

Saturday's events are scheduled to begin at 8:30am and will run until the games are finished in the evening. Anyone interested in spectating on Saturday or Sunday will be able to watch the games by paying a \$5 at the door. On Sunday the OCA Major Event will wrap up with a Doubles play.

Fees for Saturday's events are as follows:

- Backyard Singles - \$35
- Intermediate Singles - \$40
- Competitive Singles - \$45
- Advanced Singles - \$50
- Elite Singles - \$75
- Women's Doubles - \$40 per team
- Blind Draw Crew Cup - \$20

Fees for Sunday's games are as follows:

- Backyard Doubles - \$70 per team
- Intermediate Doubles - \$80 per team
- Competitive Doubles - \$90 per team
- Advanced/Elite Doubles - \$100 per team

While the focus of the event will be the gameplay there will also be Food Trucks at the event as well as concessions sold inside the Mike Brown Event Center.

A handful of vendors selling Cornhole related gear and merchandise will have booths set up inside the event center during the event for interested attendees. Anyone interested in attending or participating in the event can find more information by following the H2O Baggers and Beckham County Baggers on Facebook or by following the official Oklahoma Cornhole Facebook page.

You can also give Jodi Dooley a call with any questions you may have about the event by calling 580-917-4961. "You know, trust and believe if this old gal can play, anybody can play," said Dooley

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HIGHER GROUND

A Little Child Shall Lead Them



Jim Morrison

The day of Thanksgiving set aside by Congress as a National Holiday is gone for the year but hopefully thanksgiving itself will be an ongoing feature in all of our lives.

We were blessed to have most of our family home to share this great time. Our entertainment was provided by our three-year old great-granddaughter assisted by her one-year-old sister.

As the last evening together drew to a close Sadie the oldest of the two pointed to most of the adults indicating that they were to form a circle as she led them in "Ring around the Rosies, pocket full of Posies, Ashes, Ashes all fall down."

As Mary and I watched and joined in the laughter as these big adults crumpled to the floor at the command of the child.

It was an event which had little meaning to the

world at large but one that will be etched in my memory and cherished as one of the joys of family.

I couldn't help but think of the contrast I would be seeing in a few weeks. I will be entering the homes of 10 or so families to deliver Christmas gifts to children who have a parent that is incarcerated.

This is part of the Angel Tree program developed by Prison Fellowship. Since I am no longer associated with the jail ministry, I will have fewer families to minister to. This will allow me to take more time and make sure the meaning of Christmas is understood by the whole family.

The gifts are purchased by church members and I get the privilege of delivering them. I recall an occasion a few years ago that still makes me sad. As I delivered the gift and explained that this was from their daddy, a young boy looked up and said, "Have you seen my daddy?"

I could read into that question the sadness of a little boy who missed his daddy.

The incarcerated parent is given the opportunity to write a brief note to each child. Most all contain the same sentiment of missed relationships and eagerness to be home.

Jesus declared that "the thief (Satan) has come

to steal, kill, and destroy." The Apostle Peter wrote that the nature of Satan is like a "roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." We see that on every hand and more and more in our secular world.

But we as believers must not rest in our contentment and security of God's love without a Holy discontent of the sin that abounds.

Surely, we are to resist the devil, stand firm in our faith, and be the aroma of Christ in a world that reeks of decay. As the Apostle Paul said; "For the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

Please pray that the thousands of children across our land that receive a gift from an incarcerated parent will experience the love and joy of a Heavenly Father. Pray also for the caregivers. They face a difficult task and must recognize their role as spiritual leaders in the home.

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

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



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4th Annual “Live the Legacy” Event Raises Over \$19,000 for SWOSU Rodeo



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J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Foundation

The 4th annual SWOSU Live the Legacy event was held at JC Cowboys Event Center in Weatherford, Oklahoma. The event raised over \$19,000 for Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Rodeo.

Proceeds from the Live the Legacy event will be allocated to the men’s and women’s rodeo teams to support future team members and program needs.

Guests were treated to cocktails and a steak dinner served by JC Cowboys. Dinner was followed by a silent and live fundraising auction, and later a performance by the Dirt Rich Band.

Over 100 guests attended the reception, dinner, silent auction, and live auction.

Live the Legacy was hosted by the SWOSU Rodeo Team along with the SWOSU Foundation, Inc.

“The event was a success, with rodeo team members, family, and friends coming together to enjoy a night filled with dancing, music, and creating cherished memories,” said SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell. “We are so grateful to those who came out to support our Rodeo program and to celebrate its prestigious heritage and outstanding record.”

The Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU.

To make a charitable donation to support SWOSU Rodeo, please visit www.GivetoSWOSURodeo.com or call 580-774-3267.

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Clinton Student Named as 2023 Recipient of “Drs. Bob and Nancy Maynard Scholarship”



J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Foundation

Jessica Jefferson of Clinton, Oklahoma has been named the 2023 Drs. Bob and Nancy Maynard Scholar at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) for the 2023-24 academic year. Jefferson is a senior at SWOSU majoring in Elementary Education.

The Drs. Bob and Nancy Maynard Scholarship was established by Drs. Bob and Nancy Maynard from Aurora, Colorado. Dr. Bobby “Bob” Maynard is a 1977 SWOSU graduate and a 1981 graduate of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences. His wife Nancy practiced medicine at Great Falls Clinic in Montana for over 30 years until their retirements in 2021. Bob specialized in internal medicine and Nancy in pediatrics.

The Drs. Bob and Nancy Maynard Scholarship is stewarded by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. The Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy, award scholarships, and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU.

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CLINTON / SUPPORT STAFF - The Clinton School District this week released the finalists for support staff of the year. The finalists include: Lana Johnston at Clinton High School; Connie Cabaniss at Clinton Middle School; Michelle Thompson at Washington Elementary; Juanita Carrizales at Southwest Elementary; and Elsa Villanueva At Nance Elementary. Additionally, finalists for Newcomer of the Year include: Jacklyn Olney at the high school; Vickie Hull at Clinton Middle School; Kristen Sirmon at Washington Elementary; Katie Daugherty of Southwest Elementary; and Amber Hansen at Nance Elementary.

BECKHAM CO / FATALITY UPDATE - The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says a two-vehicle accident that killed six people in Beckham County last week, 3 miles west of Elk City remains under investigation. We have learned that six of the seven passengers in the vehicle were from Camden, New Jersey. The other passenger was from Oklahoma City. The driver, 43-year-old Jose Paxtor Oxlaj of Los Angeles, California was arrested for first-degree manslaughter.

HINTON / ODC - The Oklahoma Department of Corrections says visitation appointments will no longer be required to visit general population inmates at Great Plains Correctional Center in Hinton. Visits will occur on a first-come, first-served basis with 20 available slots per day. Visitation begins at 9 am. Security threat group units still require a scheduled visitation.

WEATHERFORD CC / AMBULANCE - The Weatherford City Commission took no action yesterday on changes to the Lifeguard Ambulance Contract and possible funding. The city has several options to choose from to fund a \$75,000 increase in the contract with Lifeguard for next year. City Commissioner Jimmy Ingram says he wants to see the financials of Lifeguard before moving forward. Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin says Lifeguard has not increased its fees to the city since beginning services in 2017.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

 ON A **HAPPY DAY** TO YOU!
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Happy Birthday Wishes for December 6 - Austin Barragsee, Catherine Bryant, Zachary Carnahan, Larry Cozart, Lacy Crawley, Sarah Ivy, Debbie Kauk, Bonnie Moore, Kayla Schmidt, Season Simon, Odessal Tebhoe; **December 7** - Marie Burgard, Tabatha Cabaniss, Saige Carpenter, Shelly Chase, Kevin Davis, Fay Jackson, Kyle Jones, Renee Kester, Stefani Lamb, Canon Lyles, Mary Lou Mirkey, Ashlyn Newton, Mikka Ronan Eithel Simpson, Bonnie Stucker, Kathy Whitson, Amber Wood; **December 8** - Kimberly Fisher, Falcon Taylor Hinchey, Jeff Jackson, Eugene Jefferson Jr., Mario Llamas, Rita McLemore, Rich Miller, Paula Price, Misha Richard, Daniell Rippee, Ryan Walker; **December 9** - Cale Courtney, Andrew Foster, Dennis Martin, Lynn McCauley, Melissa McCulley, Glenn McCulley, Chad Nabors, Joy Nix; **December 10** - Mitzi Cannon, Richard Coit, Betty Donovan, Carolyn Elliott, Ethan Hines, Parker Jacks, Steve Juarez, Angela Morrison, Michelle Mounsey, Nicole Page, Michael Russ, Chris Sanchez, Kassidy Skinner, Kimberly Sumner, Jeffrey Willis; **December 11** - Andrew Davis, Elisabeth Fraser, Matthew Goeringer, Debra Hupfer, Penny Lanier, Mary Ralston, Monty Reynolds, Jenna Scales, Bob Schmidt, Brenda Williams, Laurie Wood, Emma Jean Wynn; **December 12** - Leonard Boyd, Megan Fite, Jina Hampton, Mike Hopper, Chet Hunter, Lonnie Hymer, Joy Keng, Alice Peet, Sue Roles, Josh Vanderburgh, Lisa Wandrie, Amber Wood.

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Ben Smith and Laine Gooch Are Named Bulldogs of the Week

Grant Kopycinski
Sports Information Graduate Asst.

Ben Smith and Laine Gooch have been named

the newest Bulldogs of the Week, brought to you by Wright Wradio – SWOSU’s home for athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Smith (Edmond, Okla.) averaged 23 points per game and eight rebounds per game this week versus two GAC opponents.

He tied his career high with 28 points against Southeastern on Saturday. He also added seven rebounds and two blocks, leading SWOSU to its first win of head coach Brett Weiberg’s Bulldog career.

Gooch (Wylie, Texas) produced two solid games for the Lady Dawgs, as they started the year 2-0 in GAC games.

She scored a season high 10 points on 4-5 shooting in the road win at Oklahoma Baptist. Gooch followed that up with a season high 10 rebound effort against Southeastern.

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Oklahoma History: Clinton-Sherman Industrial Air & Spaceport



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

An SAC Tanker lets out passengers at the Clinton-Sherman Airport, circa 1959.



Official US Navy photograph

An aerial view of the Clinton-Sherman Airport's Surplus Aircraft Storage Facility, 1946.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The Oklahoma Air & Space Port is a public use airport near Burns Flat, Oklahoma, and located about 15 miles southwest of the city of Clinton, also known as the Clinton-Sherman Industrial Airpark. The airport has had a colorful history of uses and, all the while, maintained its status as a premier airstrip for different operations. Today, it continues to serve as a strategic and one-of-a-kind port and base for testing, licensing, and training in use by branches of the Department of Defense, Boeing, and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. It is one of the twelve spaceports active in the nation and the only one approved with an FAA-approved spaceflight corridor not in restricted airspace. It also features one of the longest and widest runways at 13,503 feet by 300 feet.

The port was originally established in October of 1943 during WWII as Naval Air Station Clinton and served as a "Strategic Air Command heavy bomber and refueling aircraft base during the Cold War" until December of 1969. During this period, the air station had multiple facilities and strips built, acted as a salvage site, underwent another name change to Clinton-Sherman AFB, and became a site for the Air Force to develop and train specialized air equipment. Before its inactivation in 1969, bombardment squadrons used the site to practice new strategic readiness and training and acted to support operations of the Air Force globally. The main group, the 70th Bombardment Wing, loaned several aircraft, crew, and maintenance personnel during 1968-1969 for combat operations in Asia.

After being labeled as inactive, the base's operation was put under the ownership of the city of Clinton. Later, in 1999, Oklahoma Senate Bill 720 created the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority (OSIDA), and shortly after, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) granted a license to them to use the port and designated it as a licensed orbital launch site. The reason: the port has access to "The Infinity One", the longest air strip (152 miles long and 50 miles wide) that is not in restricted

airspace and not in a Military Operations Area (MoA). It is one of only 12 licensed FAA launch sites in the U.S. Soon, different aerospace companies like Armadillo Aerospace conducted tests for space prototypes like its lunar lander. Their tests ended in 2009.

Alongside suborbital testing, a rocket racing league was established in 2005 at the port with plans to race rocket-powered aircraft in a closed-circuit track. The rocket racers would be viewable by the public live and through virtually through handheld devices. 3 prototypes were created and tested, but funding failed during plans to host their 2008 inaugural race. Additional funding was picked up, and one exhibition race was held in 2010. Unfortunately, funding again ran out before another race could be held and by 2014, the league ended.

The company Boeing picked up use of the base to test their autonomous landing system for their jumbo jets. By 2015, they were also using the site for proficiency training, flight tests, and recertification flights. Other aircraft manufacturers and companies began to do the same and the Department of Defense is again using it for flight training crews.

The bunker facilities created prior are now used as the Law Enforcement Driver Training Center for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Oklahoma Department of Safety. The annual Cadet Lawman Academy for high schoolers uses the site for their summer programs. According to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the facility is recognized as one of the top law enforcement driving centers in the nation.

In a 12 month operation period ending in June of 2020, the port saw over 30,000 successful operations. Today, the north and west WWII runways, while unused, can still be seen from aerial photographs. As of 2021, Boeing uses the facilities large runway to test its 777-9 aircraft, the largest of its kind in the world at over 251 feet. The aircraft is powered by two GE9X engines which according to OSIDA, "are the biggest and most powerful turbine engines in operation".



Valerie Fuller / CBA

The Corn Bible Academy (CBA) Crusader Homecoming Ceremony was held Friday, December 1st at 5:45 pm. Senior Savvye Fuller was crowned Homecoming King and Senior Emalia Lind was crowned Homecoming Queen.

The Homecoming candidates were, from left to right: Back row: Savvye Fuller (Senior, Clinton), Grant Stewart (Senior, Clinton), and Lance Hulett (Senior, Clinton). Front row from left to right: Samantha Rother (Junior, Corn), Emma Miller (Junior, Clinton), and Emalia Lind (Senior, Weatherford).

The Crownbearer and Flower Girl for the Homecoming ceremony (not pictured) were CBA Kindergarteners Axton Floyd and Ella Daniel.



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SPORTS *Presented by:*

Weiberg Captures First Win as Head Coach, Bulldogs Win 75-74



Jon Chidester
Sports Asst. AD

SWOSU Men's Basketball trailed Southeastern Oklahoma State by 16 at halftime and as many as 18 in the second half, but it didn't matter. The Bulldogs found a way to outscore the Savage Storm 48-31 after the intermission and finally overtook the visitors for good in the closing seconds thanks to a pair of clutch free throws in a 75-74 victory.

The win signifies SWOSU's first of the season after an 0-5 start and gives head coach Brett Weiberg his

first win as leader of the program. SWOSU now sits an even 1-1 in GAC play after the opening week of conference competition.

The Bulldogs shot a steaming 65% from the field in the second half to rally back after just a 30% showing in the first half. Ben Smith, who finished with 28 points on 10-of-18 shooting which ties his career high, poured in 21 of those in the second half to help lead the charge.

Denali Alexander (6-of-9) finished with 18 points in the game, including 10 in the second half,

representing his new season high scoring total. His 10 rebounds allowed him to notch his first double-double as a Bulldog.

Southeastern watched an 18-point margin first get cut to single digits by the 13:22 mark of the second half courtesy of a Ben Smith three ball. Smith then tied the game at 66-66 with 4:24 to play with another three-point make. From there on, it was a Dawg fight.

The lead changed hands another five times down the stretch. The final occurrence came with five seconds to play and the Bulldogs trailing by a single point. Junior guard MJ Warrior, Jr. was fouled on a shot attempt and went to the free throw line with a chance to knot things back up or regain the lead. Warrior, with ice in his veins, knocked down both and SWOSU got one final stop required on the other end of the floor after Southeastern's shot attempt at the buzzer fell short.

Final, good guys, 75-74 – SWOSU's highest point total of the young season.

The Bulldogs shot 46% overall in the game and 26% from beyond the arc. Southeastern finished both at 48% overall and from deep with 11 three-point makes.

SWOSU committed just two turnovers in the second half while forcing the Savage Storm into eight. The Bulldogs won the rebounding battle 36-26 which included 12 offensive rebounds which led to 17 second chance points.

The next game will come Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. against East Central in Ada. The Tigers are also 1-1 after the GAC's first week of conference play.

SWOSU Lady Dawgs Hold On Against Savage Storm, Move to 2-0 GAC



Grant Kopycinski
Sports Information Graduate Asst.

SWOSU women's basketball held the first home Great American Conference contest of the season on Saturday afternoon. After a back and forth affair, SWOSU pulled away in the final minute to win 52-49.

SWOSU improves to 4-3 and 2-0 in the GAC. They'll take a break from GAC play for their last non-conference

game next Monday when Science & Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) comes to Weatherford for a 5:30 pm contest.

Mason Jones and Averi Zinn had monster performances for the Lady Bulldogs on Saturday. Jones scored a career high 21 points on 7-for-7 from the floor which included a 6-of-6 from behind the arc. Zinn also scored 21 points on 8-of-14 shooting and hit a trio of three-pointers herself.

They combined for 42 points -- a whopping 81% of SWOSU's points on the day.

Both defenses came to play early. The teams failed to get in rhythm in the first quarter and after 10 minutes of game time, the score was knotted at 10-10.

SWOSU began the second with newfound energy. Four long range shots sparked a run that gave the Lady Dawgs a 22-13 lead midway through the second quarter. Southeastern flipped that on SWOSU and closed the quarter on a 12-2 run to grab a one-point advantage during the halftime break.

The Lady Bulldogs grabbed another double-digit lead in the third quarter and looked to push the game out of reach. The Savage Storm refused to allow that, cutting the lead back down to two with nine minutes remaining in the game.

A jump shot at the 5:09 mark in the final period put Southeastern on top 49-48. This would be the last score for the visitors though as from there on the SWOSU defense put on a late game clinic. They limited SEOSU to 0-of-4 shooting and forced three turnovers. The most important play of the matchup came when Chloe Cantrell came away with a steal and threw it ahead to Mason Jones for a layup to give SWOSU a 50-49 lead with 1:14 left.

SWOSU shot 18-of-59 (30.5%) overall and 10-for-28 (35.7%) from behind the arc. Southeastern was 15-of-48 (31.3%) from the field and just 4-for-19 (21.1%) from three.



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