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Annual West Central Basketball Tournament Returns January 15



WEST CENTRAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

2024

PRESENTED BY: GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

JANUARY 15TH - 20TH, 2024

**ARAPAHO-BUTLER / BURNS FLAT-DILL CITY / CALUMET / CANUTE
CORN BIBLE ACADEMY / HYDRO-EAKLY / SENTINEL / THOMAS-FAY-CUSTER**

Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

The West Central Basketball Tournament will once again be broadcasted online at Wright.Media on Bobcat TV and Terrier TV, sponsored by the Great Plains Regional Medical Center of Sayre and Elk City. This annual Varsity Basketball event has been held since 1973 and has historically invited high school teams hailing from Granite, Hammon, Custer City, Canton, Taloga.

This year's roster features:

- Arapaho-Butler's Indians and Lady Indians
- Burns Flat-Dill City's Eagles and Lady Eagles
- Calumet's Chieftains and Lady Chieftains
- Canute's Trojans and Trojanettes
- CBA's Crusaders and Lady Crusaders
- Hydro-Eakly's Bobcats and Lady Bobcats
- Sentinel's Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs
- Thomas-Fay-Custer's Terriers and Lady Terriers

The tournament will be hosted at the SWOSU Pioneer Event Center in Weatherford. Programs are available for viewers to pick up at the door, which include team rosters, scorecards, and brackets.

If you have any questions about the event, email Sports@WrightWradio.com or call 580-772-5939.



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Charles Rogers

Charles William Rogers was born September 1, 1940, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Charles Smith and Lena Virginia (Fowler) Rogers. He passed away Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City, at the age of 83 years, 3 months and 19 days.



After high school Charles joined the National Guard. He also served three years as a missionary in Germany. He married JoAnne Gross June 12, 1969, in Salt Lake City, Utah. They made their first home in Corvallis, Oregon, as he finished his Ph.D.

Charles received a BA degree in physics from the University of Utah in 1965, followed by an MS in physics in 1965 and a Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics in 1971, both from Oregon State University.

After receiving his Ph.D. Charles spent one year as a visiting assistant professor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He came to SWOSU in 1972 and retired from there in 2012. He received the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award in 2011.

Charles served many years as a leader and teacher in the local unit of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including 7 1/2 years as the leader of the congregation.

Charles is survived by his wife of 54 years JoAnne Rogers of their home in Weatherford; three daughters: Katharine (Michael) Parker of San Jose, California, Julia Rogers of Edmond and Susanna Rogers of Rocky; one brother David (Carma) Rogers of Meridian, Idaho; two sisters: Dorothy Tormey of South Jordan, Utah, and Melody Bradbury of Riverton, Utah; and two grandsons Kevin and Benjamin. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers-in-law David Tormey and Curt Bradbury.

David Shepherd

David Wayne Shepherd was born on Tuesday, August 11, 1953, in Clinton, Oklahoma, the son of R.B. and Melba (Alexander) Shepherd. He passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Wednesday morning, December 20, 2023, in his Butler home.



David was raised on the family farm and attended Butler Public Schools.

While in school, David was a gifted athlete, excelling in sports.

He was also active in FFA and served in multiple leadership roles.

David was awarded The American FFA Degree, which is the highest honor, awarded to FFA members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experience. He graduated from Butler High School in May of 1971.

David was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Durelle Coit on Saturday, March 11, 1972, in the Independence Church in rural Custer County. David enlisted into the United States National Guard, serving his country until being Honorably Discharged.

He then turned his focus back to farming and ranching, leading and expanding the family farming operation for the next 50 years. He remained active until his death.

David served his community in several capacities, including board memberships with the local ASCS office and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau in Custer County.

When David wasn't on the farm, he could be found playing dominos with his childhood friend and the best man at his wedding Leslie Roper. David also loved the game of golf, playing some of the most beautiful courses across the United States.

If you asked David what his favorite pastime was and what brought him more joy than anything else, he would quickly respond that being a husband to Nancy for more than 51 years, being a Dad to Brandon, Melissa and Robert and being the proudest Papa to Mattison, Chaley and Cheridan would top his list.

David was always present, engaged and offered love and support to his family, attending to every activity they were involved in.

He was always there with that big smile, speaking encouragement with that strong and steady guided voice.

David's sudden departure has left a family, many friends and a community in disbelief. He will be missed but forever remembered.

David was preceded in death by his daughter Melissa Durelle Shepherd on July 12, 1993; his father, R.B. "Bozo" Shepherd on September 20, 1999; and one of his best friends, travel buddy and fellow golfer Bob Beene on August 5, 2020; and a host of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

David is survived by his wife Nancy of the home; his mother Melba Shepherd of Clinton, OK; two sons: Brandon Shepherd and his wife Karol of Yukon, OK; Robert Shepherd and his wife Chanda of Butler, OK; three granddaughters: Mattison Shepherd of Yukon, OK; Chaley (Shepherd) Powell and her husband Tucker of Butler, OK; Cheridan Shepherd and her boyfriend Brock Conkling of Stillwater, OK;

David is also survived by his and Nancy's close family friend and travel partner Renee Beene; and David's best friend from childhood Leslie Roper; three sisters: Sharon Thompson of Crescent, OK; Linda Tharel and her husband Bruce of Clinton, OK; and Cheryl Sullivan and her husband Randy of Weatherford, OK.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of David Shepherd to the Clinton Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 500 South 30th Street, Clinton, OK 73601.

Byron Daugherty

Byron Wayne Daugherty was born September 10, 1937, to Byron Alfred Daugherty and Ruby Mae (Cordell) Daugherty in Watonga, OK and passed away early Friday, December 22, 2023, in his Arapaho, Oklahoma, home.



Mr. Daugherty was raised on Barnitz Creek north of Arapaho, OK.

He attended Arapaho Schools and graduated in 1955. He married Peggy Jane Barrick February 28, 1955, in Wellington, TX.

He has been a farmer and custom wheat harvester for over 67 years. During the winter months, he ran motor graders for John Cornell, Bob Smith, Larry Stewart, and others. Peggy preceded him in death on June 7, 2009.

He later married Deloris Watkins on June 8, 2014, in Arapaho, OK. They have made their home in Arapaho since that time.

He was a member of the Arapaho First Methodist Church, the Custer City Masonic Lodge, and was a member of Clinton Eastern Star and was Worthy Patron in 2006.

His hobby was doing dirt work for his sons and grandsons. His passion was spending time with children and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Peggy, granddaughter Susan Daugherty, two brothers: Larry Daugherty and his wife Carolyn, Gary Daugherty and wife Gaye and a niece Cheryl Davidson.

He is survived by his wife Deloris of the home, daughter Mitzi Merrell and husband Randy, Arapaho, OK and three sons: Dirk Daugherty and wife Bonnie, Arapaho, OK, Kenny Daugherty and wife Lynda, Stafford, OK and Jeff Daugherty and wife Caren, Elk City, OK and sister Phyllis Daugherty, Butler, OK.

He is also survived by 11 grandchildren: Janae Chittum and husband Clay, Custer, City, OK, Korrie Meyer and husband Brian, Paxico, KS, Kevin Merrell and wife Lindsey, Weatherford, OK, Traci Manseau and husband Joe, Edmond, OK, Travis Daugherty and wife Kayla, Seiling, Ryan Merrell and wife Leanne, Hydro, OK, Alan Daugherty and wife Katie, Clinton, OK, Hayden Daugherty and wife Kristin, New Castle, OK, Taler Broadbent and husband Jared, Elk City, OK, Aaron Daugherty and wife Kylee, Elk City, OK, Branson Daugherty and wife Taylor of Edmond, OK

Byron is also survived by 26 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grand children.

The family has requested those wishing to make a memorial contribution to do so to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 825 N.E. 13 Street, OKC, OK 73104.

Charlie Pool

Charlie Wayne Pool was born September 17, 1944, to Walter Edward "Bob" Pool and Tommy Lucille (Wooten) Pool in Vernon, Texas, and passed away Tuesday, December 19, 2023, in the Clinton Regional Hospital Emergency Room.



Charlie started his toddler years in Vernon, TX but before school age, his family moved to Dalhart, TX. He attended Dalhart Schools. His father owned and operated a scrap metal yard, and he assisted his father in that business until moving to Clinton, OK in 1981. When first arriving in Clinton, he was employed with his uncle A.W. Pool. He, also, then was employed with Zane's Auto until opening his own business Charlie's Transmissions. He owned and operated that business for several years until his retirement. He was married to Carolyn Muir on July 7, 1964, in Stratford, TX and she preceded him in death in May of 2016.

Charlie attended the Cornerstone Church and the Peace Lutheran Church. He enjoyed music and liked to sing and spent many hours on the dance floor. He was a domino player and enjoyed playing pool.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, sister Twila Bingham, three brothers: Bobby Pool, Jimmy Pool and Gary Pool, and a son-in-law Michael Robertson.

He is survived by three daughters: Sarina Robertson, Linda Pool, both from Clinton, and Christy Lacy and her partner Claudio Elizondo, Jerry Pool and wife Terry of Cordell, OK, his significant other Dorothy Wortham, Cordell, OK; five grandchildren: Kerri Reynolds and husband Josh, Kandi Pool, James Pool, Joey Lacy, and wife Amber, and Garison Lacy; great-grandchildren: Charlie Lacy, Brody Lacy, Rylie Pool, Conner, Ciler, Dawson, Ryllynn and Kinley.

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| <p>Mostly Sunny</p>  <p>H: 47° L: 27° Wednesday</p> | <p>Partly Cloudy</p>  <p>H: 44° L: 30° Thursday</p> | <p>PM Showers</p>  <p>H: 43° L: 30° Friday</p> | <p>Mostly Sunny</p>  <p>H: 48° L: 37° Saturday</p> | <p>Partly Cloudy</p>  <p>H: 51° L: 33° Sunday</p> | <p>AM Showers</p>  <p>H: 54° L: 34° Monday</p> | <p>Mostly Cloudy</p>  <p>H: 45° L: 25° Tuesday</p> |
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SCAN ME

Senate Review by Senator Darcy Jech (12/20)



Preparations are well underway for the 2024 legislative session, which convenes on February 5. The deadline to request bills recently passed, and we are now working on finalizing legislation related to a variety of issues and projects across the state. Among the bills I have filed are measures related to increasing efficiency and streamlining customer requests at the Oklahoma Tax Commission; expanding on vehicle tax relief; and other bills related to the Department of Corrections, education, and taxes.

In addition to crafting and filing policy legislation, work on the state budget has begun as Appropriations Subcommittees are holding meetings to hear state agencies' budget requests for Fiscal Year 2025. Serving as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Regulatory Services, my responsibilities include coordinating with the 14 state agencies our subcommittee oversees to understand the resources needed for them to operate efficiently. With more than a dozen state agency and entity budgets to review, our committee must work diligently to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used wisely, and that Oklahomans' needs are being met by funding essential state programs and services.

I've also had the pleasure of serving as the Senate's appointee to the Route 66 Centennial Commission. The statewide celebration will take place in 2026, promoting tourism in our state and offering an excellent opportunity to showcase local businesses and attractions along Route 66. Municipalities, nonprofits and government entities or agencies located along Route 66 can apply for grants to

promote economic growth, preserve history, and enhance tourism efforts. I encourage eligible organizations to visit www.okcommerce.gov/community-development/oklahoma-route-66/ to learn more about the program and complete the application before the deadline on February 2.

I look forward to seeing the opportunities presented to our district and state through this grant program and the centennial celebration. If there are any entities or groups who are interested in participating, please feel free to contact my office for more information.

Another program I'd like to share is the Senior Valuation Freeze, which helps those over 65 save on property taxes over time by freezing the value of their home. The deadline for the 2024 tax year is March 15, so be sure to contact your county assessor for more information on the program and how to apply.

Lastly, I'd like to invite high school juniors and seniors from Senate District 26 to apply for the Senate Page Program. This program allows Oklahoma students to have a firsthand look at the legislative process and other aspects of state government. Interested students are welcome to contact my office for more information.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and you're looking forward to some great family time over the holidays. I know Vicky and I sure are. If there's anything I can do to help you, please contact me by email at Darcy.Jech@oksenate.gov or by phone at 405-521-5545. You are also welcome to visit my Capitol office on the second floor.

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Weatherford Connections Food & Resource Center Planning Two Major Events for 2024

Mike Smith
News Director

The Connections Food and Resource Center in Weatherford will be hosting two major events in early 2024.

The Infant Crisis Services' "BabyMobile" will operate a drive-thru at the lot just west of Connections Food & Resource Center. This non-profit organization, based out of Oklahoma City, provides diapers, formula, and food for children, ages 0-3 years old. Supplies will be handed out on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, from 10am to 2pm on a "First Come, First Serve" Basis. A legal guardian must be present.

Additionally, the annual Grand Can Sculpture Competition is just months away for Connections Food & Resource Center in Weatherford. Outgoing executive director Lori Flensburg says teams will build at the Connections Food & Resource Center on April 3rd and 4th. The public will vote by donation for their favorite sculpture on April 5th.

For more information about either of these events, call (405) 528-3663.

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HIGHER GROUND

Prayers for Missionaries



Jim Morrison

During this time of giving and sharing love, one of the greatest gifts you can give is to pray for missionaries around the world. Many of those you can pray for are suffering persecution or at least deprivation of the comforts and conveniences that we are used to in America.

Their sense of calling allows them to serve and give of themselves for the advancement of the Kingdom.

Listed below are some prayer suggestions both for their physical and spiritual needs.

Hopefully, this will stimulate each of us to pray regularly for this hardy group.

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

Praying for Physical Needs

- They have concerns for their children. Pray that their children will be a blessing and joy to their lives. Pray for wisdom in discipline and communication.
- Pray for wisdom as to the best way to provide for their children's education.
- They have relational needs. Pray that marital conflicts will be resolved and a growing love develop.
- Pray for their health concerns. Ask the father to give them a strong immune system to resist diseases, to recognize when they need to seek help, and for good health facilities to be available.
- Pray for the matter of homesickness, especially for first term missionaries.
- Pray that they will be able to establish a balance between home and ministry. Striving to succeed often means long hours away from home.
- Pray for safety in travel, often in crowded conditions and on unsafe highways.

Praying for Spiritual needs.

- Pray for a strong sense of god's calling upon their lives. Pray for God to give them a vision of ministry for the people group to whom they serve.
- Pray for resolution of conflicts that may occur between the missionaries and national workers and Other missionary groups
- Pray for fruit for their labor when God does not give the same response in their area that they hear of in other places.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to demonstrate His power in their witness and lifestyle.
- Pray for a great revival to sweep through their area bring a great harvest of souls, a sense of brokenness and repentance.
- Pray for the personal spiritual walk of the missionary. Ask that they be renewed and refreshed daily to walk in the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Father that their work would bring Glory and Honor to the name of God.
- Pray that their work would expand the Kingdom in a way that would call attention to the power of God.

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



WOCS Pre-K Students Finish 2nd 9-Weeks with Arts and Crafts Nativity



Provided
 Paizley House (middle) of Hydro helps Sadie Nickel and Benjamin Funk, both of Clinton, with their mangers, providing gumdrops to be used for Mary and Joseph.



Provided
 Debbie Dyck gives instructions to Graham Thomas of Rocky and Hazel Mayfield of Clinton on how to use the frosting to adhere candy to their project. Kendall Kliever is ready to help.



Provided
 Tess Miller or Weatherford inspects over her classmates finished mangers on display at the center of the classroom.



Provided
 This big smile proves Nylah Mejia of Clinton is happy with her manger and the gum drop angel on top.



Provided
 Tripp Miller of Weatherford is deciding if anything else needs to be added to his graham cracker manger.

ANTHONY MOORE
 State Representative
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ELK CITY / CAPITAL PROJECTS – Several projects are planned for 2024 in the city of Elk City. City Manager Tom Ivester says those projects include street and sidewalk upgrades and improvements at the airport, police, and fire departments. Ivester says the city commission has approved the design expenses for the airport projects. He says bids are due January 10th for the terminal building and will be before the Aviation Commission at the end of January for approval.

WASHITA CO / EARLY VOTING – Early voting begins January 4th for voters in Washita County to renew a 1.25% county sales tax. The tax funds the Washita County Justice Center, county general fund, fire departments, ambulance services, OSU Extension and the 4-H programs, senior citizens centers, and the County Free Fair. Early voting will be held at the Washita County election board office in Cordell from 8-6 both January 4th and 5th. Election day is Tuesday, January 9th.

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BECKHAM CO / FATALITY – One person is dead and two others are hospitalized after a one-vehicle accident on Interstate 40 at mile marker 25 just outside of Sayre in Beckham County last Saturday morning. Forty-two year-old Michelle Nobel of Tucson, Arizona, was pronounced dead at the scene and two juveniles were transported to our medical center in Oklahoma City after the vehicle, driven by Nobel, departed the roadway, struck a guardrail, and rolled down the embankment. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

CORN/ STRUCTURE FIRE – Recently, local firefighters responded to a structure fire at 109 South Reamer Street in Corn. The fire is reported to have started in the kitchen of the residence.

CUSTER CO / JAIL BRAIN – An agreement for specification on a new jail monitoring system for the Custer County jail was approved by the county commissioners during their meeting earlier this week. According to Commissioner Lyle Miller, the system is essentially the central monitoring system, or 'brains' for the jail. The agreement allows the county to bid the project to multiple companies and to make sure that the system is not entirely proprietary, meaning that the company that installs the system doesn't have to be the one that repairs it.

ANTHONY MOORE / WALTERS NUMBERS Recently, Republicans in the State House of Representatives subpoenaed State Superintendent Ryan Walters over out-of-state teacher applications that Walter's office allegedly has received. Speaking recently on the subject, State Representative Anthony Moore says that transparency and honesty are incredibly important in the matter and that we should be using methods that work best for students in Oklahoma. The subpoena comes after Walter's office has ignored multiple requests for the information.

WEATHERFORD / SALES TAX – Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown says the city of Weatherford just finished its third consecutive year with an increase in sales tax receipts. Brown says it takes everybody to make Weatherford a safe, clean, and progressive city.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

HAPPY Day TO YOU!

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

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 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public. **OK 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@OKpa.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 January 4th - Mandy Case, Carol Ann Janning, Beatriz Martinez, David Nickels, Bo Anna Popich, Yolanda Soto; **January 5th** - Tony Cannon, Misty Carmin, Jackie Galloway, Ivonna Hinton, Carrol Kiegha, Stacy King, Jennifer Pebley, Kendra Robison, Olivia Roper, Doug Sinclair, Luke Toho; **January 6th** - Anita Anderson, Kaydence Andes, Joyce Austin, Ashley Breeden, Brooklyn Christian, Jordan Crane, Korbin Hart, Evelyn Moncriff, Kimberly Rhoads, Kimberly Smith, Tonya West, Truman Whiteshield; **January 7th** - Michael Buckner, Jarrod Burton, Jennifer Daniel, Mark Frye, Winston Gates, Kynsee Hamar, Joe Harl, Bryce Miller, Niki Sawatzky, Zachary Smith; **January 8th** - Larue Betche, Bobby Birdwell, Timber Bishop, Deidra Bright, Tosha Christian, Haley Cordes, Kelli Goldenm Sadie Harris, Diana King, Randy Lowenkamp, Cindy McGuire, Marc Odom, Dawn Dunn Potter, Jamie Sisson; **January 9th**- Floyd Birkenfield, Mark Bowman, Carla Caldwell, Levi Cupp, Zac h Grossman, Andrew Kern, Frances Kissler, Rusty Kreizenbeck, Hailey Martin, Dawson McCamon, Doug McGuire, John E. Royal, James Sharry, Andrea Snider, Monte Taylor, Dustin Thomas, Robert Womack.

Oklahoma History: January 1st and the Legacy of the State Capitol



Chase Wright
Staff Writer

In the vibrant tapestry of Oklahoma's history, one event holds a special place—the dedication of the Oklahoma State Capitol on January 1, 1917. Designed to embody the spirit of the state, this significant structure has been a key player in shaping Oklahoma's narrative. Although the dedication took place in 1917, subsequent January 1st occasions, including 1923, likely witnessed a series of events and commemorations tied to this grand building.

Initiated during the early years of statehood, the Capitol project aimed to provide a tangible symbol of unity and progress for the young state. In 1907, as the youngest addition to the United States, Oklahoma sought a physical representation of its unity, resilience, and aspirations. The

capitol project, initiated during these formative years, reached its pinnacle with the grand dedication ceremony held on that historic New Year's Day in 1917.

The Capitol building was poised to reflect the unique spirit of the state, requiring tremendous collaboration between design and construction. Oklahoma City architecture firm Layton and Smith were selected as designers, and the James Stewart Company were slated as the builders. By 1914, the building description was submitted and confirmed. On July 20th, 1914, Governor Lee Cruce broke ground for the building at a ceremony attended by a huge swath of Oklahomans.

Years later, the building stood complete and resplendent. Boasting a six-story structure with local pink and gray

granite from the Johnston County quarries and Bedford limestone from Indiana, the building was captivating amidst the growing community and oil derrick landscape. Inlaid and decorated with copper and stone, the building features north and south wings extending from a square rotunda. Initially designed to hold a prominent dome, it was left off during the first presentation to the Commission so it remained domeless for many years. With the rotunda's ability to sustain a dome, the Oklahoma Centennial Act in 1998 finally commissioned the topper.

In November 2002, the dome was dedicated, and a unique ornament was set atop, something designed specifically to showcase Oklahoma's roots. Dubbed "The Guardian," the ornament is an American Indian sculpture combining spiritual, material, and cultural features of all 39 tribes in Oklahoma. Placed on June 8th, 2002, many tribes were present to offer traditional blessings and dances from the chiefs.

Throughout the 1920s, after its dedication, the state Capitol became a venue for various public gatherings, civic events, and commemorations. Citizens from across the state gathered to witness parades, speeches, and cultural festivities that celebrated the shared history and progress of Oklahoma. January 1st became a date marked by a sense of renewal and a recommitment to the values encapsulated within the Capitol's hallowed halls.

As the years unfolded, the Capitol continued to evolve, mirroring the changes and growth within the state. January 1st remained a time for Oklahomans to come together, not just to celebrate the past but also to envision the future.

Today, the OK State Capitol stands as more than just a building; it's a living symbol of the state's resilience and aspirations. Every new year serves as a reminder of the enduring significance of this architectural masterpiece, an echo through the halls of Oklahoma's rich history.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation Gives Updates on West OK Roads



Mike Smith
News Director

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has been actively working on various road projects throughout 2023. These projects have received major updates for the public, courtesy of ODOT Division 5 Engineer Brent Almqvist.

Bids are still scheduled to be let in November of 2024 for a large project in Clinton at exits 65 and 65a.

Almqvist says as part of the project, the Red Wheat Drive, will be eliminated and each business on the west, including Braum's, McDonald's, and Sutherlands will have their driveways.

The multimillion-dollar road construction work on State Highway 54, north of Weatherford, includes adding 8-foot shoulders, resurfacing work, and taking out about half of the large curve north of Wright Wradio.

Almqvist says once that project is complete, construction crews will soon start the same work on a five-mile stretch between Weatherford and Thomas. The current work on State Highway 54 is scheduled to wrap up in the summer of 2024.

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Clinton Regional Hospital Doing Well Since October Reopening

Mike Smith
News Director

Since its reopening, roughly two months ago, Clinton Regional Hospital has been seeing good numbers throughout the hospital. According to Hospital Chief Executive Officer Len Lacefield, Clinton Regional surpassed the requirements for in-patient admissions and discharges over a month ago.

Lacefield says the hospital is currently only receiving income from cash payments and not Medicare and insurance providers, but he said that should be rectified quickly.

With the reopening of Clinton Regional Hospital this past October, the options for healthcare in western Oklahoma have expanded.

Mayor David Berrong touts the legacy of Clinton Regional Hospital, leading the charge for medicine in western Oklahoma, as something that sets the hospital apart in the area. The hospital is looking to expand its services now that the reopening is



SWOSU Softball Announces Finalized 2024 Spring Season Slate



SWOSU Softball has announced the finalization of their 2024 spring schedule.

The Bulldogs will feature a 52-game schedule comprised of three non-conference tournaments, 21 home games, five home conference series, and another three midweek home doubleheaders.

The season gets underway February 2 at the Hawkins-McGhee Memorial Tournament in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Conference play begins February 23 at home against Ouachita Baptist. The GAC Tournament will be held May 2-4. SWOSU will be looking to qualify for the postseason tournament for the first time since 2019.

Last season, the Bulldogs finished 12-40 overall with a 7-26 mark in conference play. Head Coach Jessica Boone begins year two at the helm of the program with a roster of nine new faces and 12 returners.

Included in those returning are previous all-conference selections Maddie Rahon (2023) and Dani Carmo (2022).

SWOSU Softball

2024 Schedule

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| | Memorial Tournament 2/2-2/3 | | Mustang Roundup 2/9-2/11 |
| | GAC/MIAA Crossover 2/16-2/18 | | Ouachita Baptist 2/23-2/24 |
| | Southeastern 3/1-3/2 | | East Central 3/8-3/9 |
| | Northwestern 3/12 | | Harding 3/15-3/16 |
| | Newman 3/19 | | Arkansas Tech 3/22-3/23 |
| | Southern Nazarene 3/29-3/30 | | Cameron 4/2 |
| | Oklahoma Baptist 4/5-4/6 | | Northwestern 4/9 |
| | Southern Arkansas 4/12-4/13 | | Monticello 4/19-4/20 |
| | Henderson State 4/26-4/27 | | GAC Tournament 5/2-5/4 |

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HOME AWAY

Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

This is a truncated overview of the 2024 Sports Season. The entire schedule can be viewed at [SWOSUathletics.com/Sports/Softball/Schedule](https://www.swosuathletics.com/Sports/Softball/Schedule).

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An Overview of the SWOSU Bulldog's Upcoming Basketball Season



With the most recent SWOSU Basketball Game in Tulsa occurring after this edition of the WestOK Weekly heads out for print, this week's article will be an insightful look into the teams' 2024 potential.

The Bulldogs entered the break following a 74-63 win over Southern Nazarene on Saturday, December 16 which moved SWOSU to an even 2-2 in Great American Conference play.

SWOSU played the first exhibition game against a DI opponent since October 25, 2019 when they traveled to Fayetteville to face off against the University of Arkansas. (L, 78-51)

The Dawgs were the only team in the Great American Conference (GAC) to be playing outside competition that week, heading into the second part of the conference season which is set to begin January 4.

Since SWOSU transitioned to NCAA from NAIA in 1997, they have not faced the Golden Hurricane in men's basketball.

However, the Lady Bulldogs did defeat Tulsa women's basketball 76-73 back on Oct. 30, 2019 in a preseason exhibition.

Tulsa entered the matchup 8-3 overall on the season. They are set to begin American Athletic Conference (AAC) play next week. SWOSU and TU share one common opponent this season, Oklahoma Christian. The Hurricane defeated OC 74-60 in an exhibition back on Nov. 1.

TU is averaging 43% shooting from the field this season and 31% from beyond the arc. They're a perfect 8-0 on their home floor to start the year.

They've gotten to the foul line 20+ times in all but one game so far in 11 contests.

In their three-game win streak, they are averaging nearly 25 trips to the charity stripe.

Redshirt freshman guard PJ Haggerty ranks sixth in the AAC in scoring, averaging 16.8 points per game.

SWOSU secured the second win of the season against SNU on December 16 and remained perfect in conference home games in the process.

Against SNU, four a fourth consecutive game, the Dawgs did not lose the rebounding battle after both sides grabbed 34 total boards.

SWOSU shot 24-for-28 (86%) at the foul line against SNU, setting season highs in makes and percentage.

The Bulldogs will continue to look to improve their offense, ranking 12th (out of 12) in the GAC in scoring, 64.6 ppg, field goal percentage, 41.9%, and three-point percentage, 28.1%. Both times SWOSU has eclipsed the 70-point scoring mark this season, they have won.

Ben Smith continues to lead SWOSU in a pair of categories -- scoring & rebounding. Smith's 16.9 ppg ranks fifth in the GAC while his 7.4 rebounds per game is second throughout the league. He has one double-double this year and has missed out on two more by a single rebound.

Jalen Johnson, who started the season as an offensive boost off the bench, has moved into the starting lineup the past three games. In his first start of the season at East Central (12/9) he tied a career high with 20 points.

He had 15 more against SNU. He is SWOSU's other double-digit scorer this season, averaging 10.3 points per game.

SWOSU's X-Factor has been Denali Alexander. In two wins this year, he's scored 18 and 15 points. In seven losses, he averages 6.2 points.

MJ Warrior leads the team in assists, 27, and steals, 14.

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