

# WEST OK WEEKLY



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## 3-Day Custer Co. Livestock Show for FFA/4H Students Begins February 25



**Larry Bryen**  
OSU Extension Ag Educator

The Custer County Jr. Livestock Show will

start a three-day run beginning Sunday, February 25th through Tuesday, February 27. FFA and 4-H members throughout Custer County will be exhibiting Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Broilers, and Agriculture Mechanics.

There are some changes to this year's livestock show and premium sale. First off, the Custer County OSU Extension will be adding "Agriculture Mechanics" to our show events. This is a growing area that will also be an event at Southwest District Jr. Livestock Show and Oklahoma Youth Expo. Several entries have already been submitted and accepted for presenting.

Secondly, four students will be acting as "Show Ambassadors," one from each community. They will help in putting on the Custer County Jr. Livestock Show and Premium Sale.

Lastly, the show will have FFA/4-H members from each community providing entertainment throughout the dinner.

The Custer County OSU Extension encourages everyone to come to the Livestock Show and Premium Sale to support the outstanding 4-H and FFA youth of Custer County.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

9:00 am.....**Barns Open**  
  
2:00 pm.....**Judging Preparations**  
Weigh Sheep and Goats  
Mouth Ewes  
Broiler in Place  
  
3:00 pm.....**Sheep Judging**  
Ewe Show  
Market Lamb Show  
  
4:00 pm.....**Goat Judging\***  
Doe Show  
Wether Show  
  
5:00 pm.....**Broiler Judging \***

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

7:30 am.....**Swine & Card Prep**  
Must be Entered/Weighed and in Place  
  
8:30 am.....**Swine Judging**  
Gilts Show  
Barrows Show

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 (continued)**

11:30 am.....**Judging Preparations**  
Beef Cards Due  
Check Heifer Papers  
Beef Weigh-In  
  
1:30 pm.....**Beef Judging\***  
Heifer Show  
Prospect Steer Show  
Market Steer Show  
  
3:30 pm.....**Agriculture Mechanics Judging**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

9:00 am.....**Livestock Judging Contest**  
Redlands Community College  
  
6:00 pm.....**Buyers Meal**  
  
6:30 pm.....**Awards Presentation**  
Entertainment  
Premium Auction

\* indicates this show will immediately follow the previous event/show. Times provided are estimates.



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**Bob Palmer**

Robert David Palmer was born on January 18, 1958, to Albert and Dorothy (Aldrich) Palmer, in Sterling, IL. He passed away January 2, 2024, at Weatherford regional hospital at the as of 65 years, 11 months, and 16 days.



Bobby, or Bob as he was called, was raised in Rockfalls, IL. He had an adventurous childhood.

He joined the army in 1977, where he received accreditations for being a sharpshooter. After he was discharged, he moved to Oklahoma for the oil boom in 1982.

Bob had various jobs with the oil field, but his favorite was hauling oversized loads, or hauling wind blades all over the United States.

Bob was quite the talker, loved AMA flat track racing, motorcycle hillclimbs, riding his motorcycle all over the USA, fishing, and getting together with family and friends.

Bob is survived by his wife of 40 years Sahun (Helgesen) Palmer; two sons: Alex and Logan; and one granddaughter, all of Oklahoma; three sisters: Pat (Jim) Brockman of South Carolina; Janice (Michael) Mercer of Illinois; and Penny (Cal) Nutt of Illinois; and two brothers: James Palmer of Illinois; and Michael (Kelly) Palmer Florida, as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Susan, and brother Larry.

As a good friend of Bob said: "He was a man who stood taller than most (noting not only his physical height, but also his character and his actions). Rest in Peace, Bobster."

**Yonnie Milliner**

Yonnie Belle Milliner was born January 29, 1936, in Gotebo, to Robert Henry and Ethel Belle (Williams) Fulwider and passed away Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at her home in Wichita Falls, TX, at the age of 88 years and 14 days.



Yonnie was raised in Weatherford where her parents lived in the old Rock Island Railroad Hotel. She graduated from Weatherford High School with the Class of 1954. On June 13, 1954, Yonnie married Duane Victor Milliner in Weatherford while he was in the service. As Duane finished his service they moved to Washington D.C. They moved to Dallas in 1961 to be closer to family. The family settled in Wichita Falls in 1972. Yonnie worked as a homemaker, Tupperware representative and a receptionist for the Women's Clinic.

Yonnie lived life to the fullest and was loved dearly by all that knew her. She loved spending time with friends and family, she had over 50 first cousins. Yonnie had an early retirement which allowed her to be with Duane until his passing and spend an amazing amount of time with her grandchildren.

Yonnie is survived by her two daughters, Kari Milliner of Wichita Falls, TX and Diana Calhoun of Fort Worth, TX; her son, Larry Milliner and wife, Dawn of Wichita Falls, TX; three grandchildren, Audrey Calhoun, Sarah Calhoun and Tara Fowler and husband, Justin; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two brothers, Cecil Mack Fulwider and Raymond Fulwider; and son, Bruce Duane Milliner.

**Lola Adams**

Lola Faye (Dorsey) Adams was born March 9, 1955, to Bobby Dorsey and Ida Mae (Pearson) Adams in Elk City, OK and passed away Wednesday, February 7, 2024, in the Oklahoma University Medical Center in Oklahoma City, OK.



Lola Faye was raised in Elk City, OK where she attended school. She was married to Robert "Chief" Hester in Clinton. She has spent most of her adult life in the Clinton area.

She was a member of the Grace Temple Worship Center, she loved the outdoors, fishing, cooking, and could spend hours shopping. She had a knack for decorating and enjoyed doing that for family and friends. Her passion was spending time with her family and supporting the grandchildren in their activities.

She was preceded in death by her father, and grandmother, Fred and Leola Adams, son, Robert Hester, Jr., Robert Joe Hester III, Jeremiah Jermall Hester, sisters, Angela Searcie, Mary Dorsey, and Judy Dorsey, two uncles, Rafe Adams, Ira Jay Adams.

She is survived by her former husband, "Chief" Hester, Clinton, OK, Elder/Minister Arlene Hester Miles, son Orenthial Hester and Ashley Hester, Clinton, OK, mother, Ida Mae Pearson, Wichita Falls, TX, three sisters, Sherri McKinnon and husband, Mack Killeen, TX, Lisa Pearson, Clinton OK and Marsha Albridge, Wichita Fall, TX and four brothers, Bobby Admas, Burns Flat, OK, Eddie Pearson, Clinton, OK, Jerry Pearson, OKC, OK and Terry Pearson, Clinton, OK.

She is also survived by 21 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren and close friends, Dr. Kenneth Egan, Eddie and Pamela Henderson, Trisha Taplin, Cheritha (Panky) Ford.

**Brad Elder**

Brad Duane Elder was born January 10, 1950, in Stillwater to Vernon Joseph and Violet Marguerite (Jardot) Elder and passed away Monday, February 5, 2024, at his home in Hinton, at the age of 74 years and 25 days.



Brad was raised and attended school in Elk City, graduating in 1968. He earned a bachelor degree from Oklahoma State University in 1972. After college Brad worked on road construction, in the oilfield, raised pigs and worked for the Federal Government as a Soil Conservationist. On December 19, 2023, Brad married Connie Miller in their family home. He was a loving father and husband and always made his family feel special. Brad enjoyed sports, OU sports, football, the Kansas City Chiefs, and spending time with family and friends.

Brad is survived by his wife, Connie Elder of their home in Hinton; one daughter, Michelle Brandner and husband, Chris of Yukon; two sons, Bradley Elder of Hinton and Ty Duane Elder of Oklahoma City; one sister, Jackie Elder of Norman; one brother, Pat Elder and wife, Cindy of Oklahoma City; and two grandchildren, Braden Elder and wife, Anna and Natalie Elder.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

**Carol Curtis**

Carol Jane Curtis was born October 30, 1953, in Stockton, KS, to Denver Lee and Anna May (Boyle) Willis and passed away Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, at the age of 70 years, 3 months and 14 days.



Carol was raised and attended school in Meade, KS, graduating with the Class of 1971. She married Victor Curtis, in Meade, KS and made their home in Hutchinson, KS where they raised their family. She went to college and earned her bachelor's degree from Friends University, graduating in 1999. Carol moved to Weatherford in 2001, to be closer to her family. On July 27, 2016, she married Jim Kornele, who later passed away. Carol worked in the Weatherford Public School Administration office and retired in 2017. Carol enjoyed going to church, Bible study, Friday night dinner group, and spending time with family. She loved spending time with her granddaughter, Anna and her dog, Maggie.

Carol is survived by her daughter, Becky Tomlinson and husband, Kris of Oklahoma City; her son, Dennis Curtis and wife, Eloise of Honolulu, HI; her sister, Linda Wulf and husband, Randy of Commerce City, CO; her brother, Steve Willis and wife, Roma of Weatherford; granddaughter, Anna Tomlinson of Oklahoma City; brother-in-law, Mark Bejot; Aunt Martha Boyle; and many nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Patti Bejot; and husband, Jim.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church.

**Gale Carr**

Norma Gale Carr-Mallory was born November 12, 1958, to Herbert Carr, Jr., and Jealden (Sanders) Carr in Clinton, OK and passed away Thursday, February 8, 2024, at the Reserve of Amarillo, TX.



Gale, as many called her, was raised in Clinton, OK and graduated from Clinton High School in 1977. She made Amarillo, TX her home in 1979 and then moved to Arlington, TX in 1989. She continued her education at Amarillo College, studying to be an EMT. She was gainfully employed at Verizon, Aviall, and later, Boeing as a Data Entry Specialist until failing health forced her to relocate to Amarillo in 2019.

Gale was a former member of the Potter's House in Dallas, TX. After relocating to Amarillo, she became a member of Prayer Temple Church of God in Christ Church in Amarillo, TX under the leadership of her brother, Pastor Mal Carr. She loved little kids, shopping, and collecting African Art and Memorabilia.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Richard Carr, and a niece, Kimyahta Carr-Nabors.

She is survived by two sisters, Ethel Jean Carr-Jones, and Joy Renee' Carr-Cobbins, and three brothers, Mal Ray Carr and wife, Edith, Herbert Charles Carr, and wife Maria, and Adrian Carr, all of Amarillo, TX.

She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, aunts, Arleava Carr and Opal Fisher, and a special friend, Gregory Wilson, Columbus, GA.

**Jon Regier**

Jonathan Luke Regier was born October 1, 1998, in Weatherford, to Donald J. Regier and Lisa Carole (Daniel) Huber and passed away Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at Integris Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City, at the age of 25 years, 4 months and 6 days.



In a life that spanned only 25 years, Jon was fortunate enough to live more life than most will ever know.

Jon had the unique opportunity to experience the spectrum of life, the grandest scenarios this world has to offer as well as the most difficult. It formed a unique perspective of unconditional love and a judgement only of hearts, not appearance.

He gave to help even to his last day with organs saving the lives of 2 people and restoring the quality of life for several others.

A comet appears in the sky, its bright, its brilliant, yet it passes away as quickly as it came. We stand amazed and wish only that we could see it once more.

Jon is survived by his mother, Lisa Huber and husband, Mark of Weatherford; his father, Donald Regier of Weatherford; his life partner, Adrianna Brooks of Edmond; his daughter, Sage Regier; and his sister, Bailey Regier of Yukon. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Ruth and Buis Daniel and John and Shirley Regier, and brother in infancy, Daniel Joel in 1992.

**Vickie Choate**

Vickie Diann Choate was born October 9, 1950, in Mangum, to Melvin and Thelma Pearl (Sullivan) Smith and passed away Monday, January 22, 2024, at Canadian Valley Integris Hospital in Yukon, at the age of 73 years, 3 months and 13 days.



Vickie was raised and attended school in the Texas panhandle, Muleshoe, Dalhart and Sunray. In 1976, she worked at Diamond Shamrock in Elk City as a dispatcher until 1982. On July 24, 1990, Vickie married Ronald Choate in Shamrock, TX. She worked in the childcare department at Church of the Savior in Oklahoma City. In April 2023, they moved to Thomas. Vickie enjoyed going to garage sales, cooking, her grandchildren and spending time with family and friends.

Vickie is survived by her husband 33 years Ronald Choate of their home in Thomas; two sons: Chip Jones and wife Diana of Thomas and Tom Jones and wife Heather of Mannford; six grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers: Duane, Jimmy, Mickel and Terry; four sisters: Mary, Louise, Wendy and Bonnie; and a grandson Zackary Weir.



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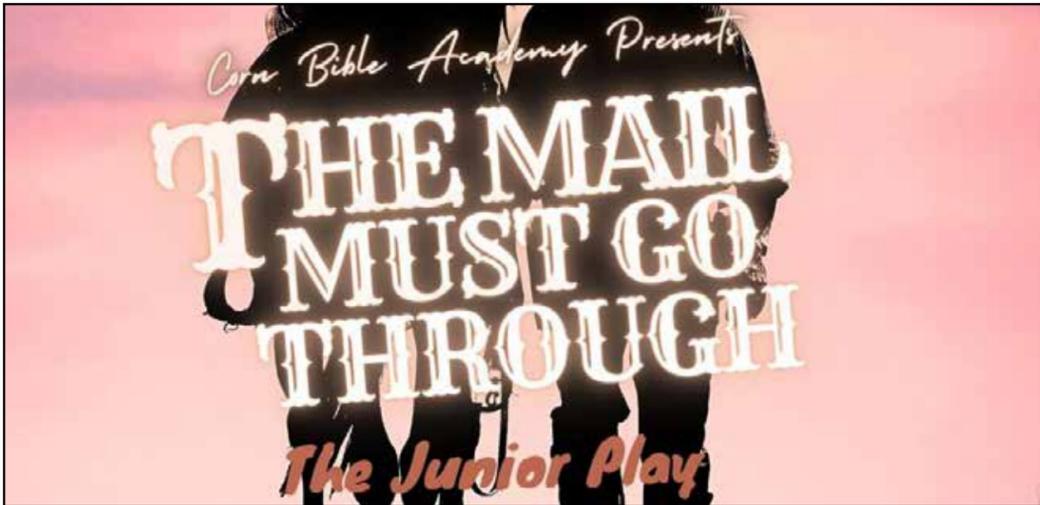
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## CBA's Junior Class Writes a Western Melodrama, Performs March 1 - 2



**Valerie Fuller**  
CBA Administrative Assistant

It all started as a joke in the fall of 2023, when the US History class learned about the Pony Express and started to imagine what that life must have been like. With the help of their teacher, Carillion Thiessen, the class cast themselves into the roles of a melodrama set in 1860 on the Central Plains. They chose the characters, the setting, and the plot of their play. By January, Mrs. Thiessen had put together the rough draft of a full script using their ideas and shared it with the directors, Roshelle Wherritt and Joyce Creed, for editing.

Young Sam (Samantha Rother) has been an orphan most of her life, so being self-sufficient is nothing new. As soon as she gets the opportunity, Sam heads out west and doesn't look back, even when she finds herself in Poot's Landing, Kansas. When she can't find a job doing "women's work," she dons her overalls and applies at the Pony Express office as a pony rider. A male pony rider.

This new job seems to work out well...until it doesn't: she forgets that she's already known as a young lady to Ms. Flora (Gracie Carman) the innkeeper. When Ma Mann (Annie Schmidt) finds out and threatens to tell her son, Boss Mann (Lachlan Penner), the owner of the local Pony Express station, Sam begs the women not to tell. Little does she know, Pony Express rider Billy (Braxton Driskill) was eavesdropping and heard every word.

Finding a soft spot in his heart for Young Sam, Billy promises to keep her secret from the other riders, Hoot (Travis Cooke) and Slim (Liston Lively), as well as from Boss Mann.

Just like any melodrama worth its salt, this one has its villains too. Major Maurice (Luke Zybach) and Pinky (Garret Lind) are brothers waiting to intercept a letter that will lead them straight to a gold mine and all the luxuries it will provide. They're looking for anyone to help them with their devious plan, and they just might find the help they need in Edie (Olivia Webb), a Pony Express employee who has got her own agenda.

The boy-crazy friends Eloise (Alli Slagell) and Gale (Isabella Partin) also have an agenda; they cannot seem to get enough of those handsome Pony Riders. Thankfully, they get some advice from Shannon (Emma Miller), whose maturity and common sense help guide them through their angst. Finally, There's a Karen (Daniela Massoumi). Need we say more?

So cinch up your saddle, grab your spurs, find your felt hat, and head south of town for the Junior Class performance of *The Mail Must Go Through* or *Destiny Wears a Cowboy Hat*.

Show times are March 1 & 2, Friday and Saturday matinees at 1 PM and evening performances at 7 PM each night. Tickets are required for this event and are available at cornbible.org. There may be limited availability at the door. Seniors will provide a meal before the Friday evening performance at 5:30 PM.

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# HIGHER GROUND

## A New Affection

Now that the Super Bowl and all its hype is over, we can get into the important happenings; that is the reporting of the pitchers and catchers to Spring Training. Baseball is back! Just kidding to all you football fans. We all have our favorites and find it hard to escape the emotions they bring.

On a more significant thought we all struggle with our loyalties and affections. In the 19th century a highly respected minister and professor coined the phrase, "The Expulsive Power of a New Affection." Thomas Chalmers, a Scottish minister and professor was so highly respected that at his death, it was reported that half of Edinburgh turned out for his funeral.

John Piper, a writer, apologist and former pastor has written in his book, *Desiring God*, that "the root power of sin is severed by the power of a superior pleasure or more compelling joy. . . The bondage to sin is broken by a stronger affection—a more compelling joy."

The parable that Jesus taught in Matt. 13:44 illustrates this point. "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man finds it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." All that he had accumulated in this world suddenly seemed unimportant when compared with the newfound treasure.

The sudden turn-about of Saul of Tarsus pictures so clearly the expulsive power of a new affection. This young zealous Jew was a member of the religious ruling class and on his upward way. In his testimony in Gal.1:14 he said of himself; "I was intensely persecuting the church of God and seeking to destroy it.

I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of the fathers." Then on his way to Damascus to round up and persecute more people of the Way, he was struck down and saw the risen Jesus himself. His whole life and direction was turned around. In 2 Corinthians 5:14ff he says, "for the love of Christ compels us for we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." He was so struck with the fact that Christ had died for him that he was compelled by that love to absorb beatings, imprisonment, and eventually death because of his new affection.

Believers in countries controlled by radical Islamic groups often suffer beatings, persecution and imprisonment. They have learned to suffer for the sake of Christ. Coming to that point brings Christ close and the relationship more precious. Their commitment to their faith, to witness at even the cost of their lives brings with it a certain kind of intimacy and joy that we with our freedoms seldom experience.

This brings us to the heart of the matter. We in our comfort and casual commitment seldom realize the power that roots out the things of this world that tend to consume us and our attention. The only way that we are going to dislodge the affections of this world is to experience a new and deeper love for God and a grasp of His love for us. We need to recapture the cross in all its glory and realize the love of God that led to that event. "God so loved..." is often quoted but seldom contemplated in its fullness. I need to pray, "Lord, let me, help me fall in love with you all over again." Love is not just an emotion but an expression of life that drives out all lesser rivals. "Lord, reveal yourself to me so clearly that I will be drawn to your Lordship."

**To comment: 1580-302-1142**

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**LOCAL AND AREA NEWS**



**Mike Smith**  
News Director

**Bessie Fire Department's Annual Pancake Supper Returns March 4, 2024**



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It started with half a hog in the basement of the Bessie Public School nearly 75 years ago as a fundraiser for the March of Dimes, but as the decades passed and the community changed the Bessie Fire Department assumed the annual Pancake Supper fundraiser which has become a community tradition and an integral source of funding for the fully volunteer fire department.

This year the Pancake Supper will take place on Monday, March 4 at the west side of the Bessie gym located at 712 Main Street in Bessie from 4pm to 8pm. As the name suggest there will be pancakes, but many people look forward to the whole hog sausages that the fire department prepares themselves.

These days half a hog won't suffice and the Bessie fire fighters raise around 30-40 hogs themselves to provide roughly 10000 pounds of meat which they use for their signature whole hog sausages with a special seasoning recipe that's a century old. However, this is more than just a fundraiser this is a cherished community event.

"We do most of [the butchering] within the fire department with help from the community there at the fire station in Bessie to process all of our sausage," said Craig Kliever, Chief of the Bessie Volunteer Fire Department.

A modern fire fighter requires about \$10,000 worth of equipment in order to do their job effectively and while the Bessie Fire Department receives a portion of their funding from sales tax revenue in Washita County, fundraisers like this Pancake Supper are how they fund the majority of their operations.

These operations range from medical calls and wellness checks for community members to mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities like Clinton and Cordell to battle grass fires and house fires. These services are critical for the well-being of the community and the annual pancake supper serves a critical role in making sure volunteers can properly serve their community.

Folks from as far as Maryland and California make the trip to join the festivities which occur the first Monday in March every year.

This year the Bessie Fire Department will also have a raffle for two firearms; a Glock 19X 9mm 4.02 and a Christensen Arms Mesa 6.5 Creedmoor 22" bolt-action rifle. Raffle tickets for the firearms are set at \$20 for the handgun and \$30 for the bolt-action rifle. People interested in purchasing tickets for the raffle can buy them at the event or from a member of the Bessie Fire Department.

Tickets for the Pancake supper are \$13 for adults and \$7 for children under 12 years of age. A to-go line will also be available in the alleyway west of the Bessie gym for \$13 a plate.

A variety of sausages and pork will also be available for purchase at they event:

- 2 lbs smoked/unsmoked link sausage - \$12
- 2 lbs bulk sausage - \$12
- 1 lb liver sausage - \$6
- 4 lbs liver sausage - \$20
- Pork Ribs - \$15 per package

**WEST OK / SALES TAX** - The City of Weatherford had a down month in sales tax receipts for December sales, having a 7.2% decline. Weatherford's reported earnings is just over \$1.07 million. The City of Clinton was down by almost 5%, collecting just over \$499,000. Meanwhile, Elk City was also down for December sales tax receipts by just over 8% collecting more than \$1.25 million

**CLINTON / JOB FAIR** - A job fair will be held later this month by the Clinton Chamber of Commerce inside the Frisco Event Center says Chamber President Julie Caldwell. 25 businesses are currently signed up to attend and will be providing many employment opportunities available for those who attend. Caldwell says businesses still wanting to participate in the job fair can call the chamber. The job fair will be held on February 27th from 10am to 2pm.

**KARLIN / RETIREMENT** - Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin has announced his plans to retire. Karlin made the announcement earlier this month, stressing the amount of thought that has gone into this decision. "For quite some time, (I've) been trying to figure out when that time was. After 35 years of doing the job of a Firefighter and almost 10 years as the Chief, (I) just kind of came to the conclusion that this is a good time." Karlin's planned retirement date is August 30th. "The Department and I will be looking forward to moving on to the next stage in leadership. With change comes good things."

**CUSTER CO / LAWTER ROAD** - Custer County District 1 Commissioner Bruce Walker recently provided an update on the Lawter Road project. A portion of the work will result in the widening of Lawter Road, but the construction has limited it to one narrow lane. "People will need to allow for an extra 15 minutes in their commute (before the road's completion)," said Walker, "because there's a lot of traffic in that area." Additionally, to alleviate some confusion, Walker explained that when the "ROAD CLOSED" signs are set in the ditches rather than on Lawter Road, then it's open for traffic to pass by.

**WEATHERFORD / YMCA PLAN** - The City of Weatherford will plan and build a new Community Center owned by the city and to be run by the YMCA. The "Yes Weatherford" campaign, which looked to renew a half-cent sales tax, passed with 55% support on February 13. Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown discussed the next step now that the renewal has passed. Currently, the leading candidate for the location of the facility is most likely Rader Park.

**WEATHERFORD SB / CALENDAR** - The Weatherford School Board of Education approved the calendar for the 2024-25 school year. The first day of school is set for August 8th. Thanksgiving Break will be November 25-29, with Christmas Break scheduled from December 19-January 5. Meanwhile, Spring Break for 2025 year will be March 14-23.

**WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!**



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**Happy Birthday Wishes for Feb. 21** - Jackie Aaron, Cindy Groth, Ryan Houck, Phillip Lanier, Terry McClemore, Jackie Price, Mark Shadid, Kay Villines; **Feb. 22** - Chris Arganbright, Bill Bendure, Rick Freeman, Bob Huddleston, Kyle Jeffers, Maralea Kliever, Jessica Martin, Jace Marten, Marcia Matz, Ralph May, Collin McQuillen, Chuck Megli, Steven Mejia, Ferrel Roles, Joshua Salinas, Rhonda Weil; **Feb. 23** - Carl Baily, Paige Bradley, Marti Brooks, Aubrey Crowder, Mervine Kock, Diego Martinez, Brad Meadrum, Camden Mendez, Michaela Pullum, Kristin Sweeney, Yatina Wreath, Jessica Zibell; **Feb. 24** - Harrison Cornell, Ronnie Henson, Kristen Kelley, Britton Linstead, Mizie Mol, Monica Smith, Claude Snider, **Feb. 25** - Annie Ellis, Brianna Farrow, Dorinda Hart, Mike Hill, Brianna Jefferson, Deana Lamar, Heather Livingston, Kimberly Meltz, Ann Seals, Gary Severn, Larry Joe Taylor, Zan Warde; **Feb. 26** - Van Cheadle, James Davis, Melissa Godwin, Sue Harper, Terry Harris, Lonnie Isch, Maria Jacobs, Danielle Shaw, Candace Slagell, Margaret Starr, Amber Whitt; **Feb. 27** - Eddie Berrong, Tonja Challis, Glenda Creech, Rylee Gossen, Peyton Johnston, Martha Miller, Shaylee Nailon, Margaret Reed, Wayne Reimer, Dale Rogers, Angie Schmidt, Jerri Schwartz, Gary Schwartz, Brooklyn Stewart, Laramie Taylor, Anita Woods;



# Wings of Time, Volume I - The Winged Frontiers of the Early 1900s



Photo by William James, circa 1911

Charles F. Willard sitting in a Curtiss Model D.



Courtesy US Library of Congress

Juan Bielovucic Cavalie (1889-1949) a Peruvian aviator.

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

Let's embark on a journey through the pages of Oklahoma's history in the great blue sky with a small series we'll be calling The Wings of Time. We'll be recounting the transformative accomplishments of early aviators and impactors on the state.

In this inaugural section, we'll look through specific moments in the beginning of the aviation panorama with legendary figures, like the historic flight of Charles F. Willard, Clyde Cessna's unwavering pursuit of excellence, and Joseph Bartle's impactful wartime contributions.

The series will ultimately lead us through these moments in time and introduce the many faces that shaped over a century of aviation in Oklahoma. Our thread commences in the spring of 1910 with Charles F. Willard's groundbreaking flight, a pivotal moment that marked Oklahoma's initiation into the world of powered flight.

Among being the fourth American to pilot an airplane, Willard also was the first pilot to fly over downtown Los Angeles and the first pilot ever to ever be shot down – fortunately it was just by a squirrel gun of an upset farmer.

The pilots before him were none other than the Wright brothers and his mentor and teacher Glenn Curtiss.

On March 18, 1910, Willard's biplane gracefully ascended to 15 feet on the first day and a daring 25 feet on the second, setting the stage for the evolution of human flight. A replica of Willard's pioneering biplane is thoughtfully preserved at the Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford, serving as a tangible link to this transformative moment. Transitioning to 1911, we explore Clyde Cessna's meticulous experimentation near the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge near Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Cessna left his career as a car dealer in Enid to pursue aviation when he saw an early air exhibition back home in Kansas.

He immediately began building a plane he called "Silverwing." Prior to his first successful flight, he had many prior attempts with him famously exclaiming, "I'm going to fly this thing, then I'm going to set it afire and never have another thing to do with aeroplanes!" And fly he did. In June, he had his first historic 5-mile flight at an altitude of 200 feet in front of a crowd of onlookers that had heard of and seen his plane earlier in OKC.

His subsequent exhibition flights in Enid and Cherokee solidified Cessna's status as a trailblazer earning him the nickname "The Birdman of Enid." Cessna went on to become one of the leading US aircraft manufacturers and has exhibits at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center and Alva Regional Airport Museum commemorating his enduring legacy.

Aviation progress shot up tremendously when the first World War began, where Joseph Bartles emerges as a pivotal figure in aircraft manufacturing. Joseph was the son of Jacob Bartles, where the city of Bartlesville, Oklahoma is named. Joseph contributed significantly to the war effort by crafting planes, most notably the Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny."

The "jennies" played a crucial role during this period, serving as primary trainers for U.S. Army Air Service pilots. Their reliability, simplicity, and adaptability made them instrumental in honing the skills of countless aviators, becoming synonymous with the era's aviation advancements. The planes were the first massive quantity production of aircraft in Oklahoma.

As we navigate this chronological tapestry, the narrative unfolds with courage, innovation, and unwavering determination. In the next installment, we will further explore the boom in airspace innovation, delve into the stories of additional aviation trailblazers like Dorothy Pressler Morgan, Charles Lindbergh, John "Lee" Atwood, and Bessie Coleman, and gain insights into how Oklahoma's skies became a platform for dreams.

Stay tuned for the unfolding chapters of our exploration into the captivating history of early aviation in Oklahoma!



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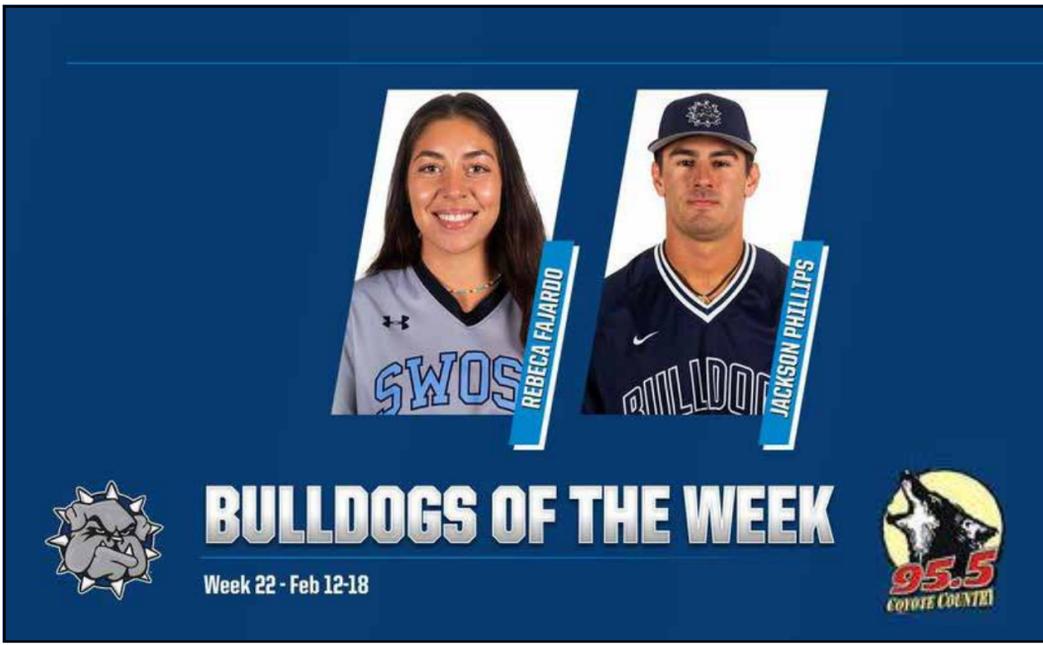
# Rebeca Fajardo, Jackson Phillips Earn Bulldogs of the Week Award

**Grant Kopycinski**  
Sports Information Graduate Asst.

Rebeca Fajardo and Jackson Phillips are the newest Bulldogs of the Week. This weekly SWOSU recognition is brought to you by Wright Media, the home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Fajardo (Waco, Texas) led SWOSU Softball at the plate against tough competition at the Raising Cane's Softball Festival. In four games, she batted .400 with a pair of doubles. She delivered a timely two-out single in the final inning against No. 8 Rogers State on Friday that, at the time, tied the score and gave SWOSU a shot at the lead. She is currently tied with two other Bulldogs for the team lead in batting average at .364.

Phillips (Boerne, Texas) gave SWOSU Baseball a strong start on the mound when they needed it most against Henderson State. After dropping the first two games of the series to the Reddies, Phillips threw a complete game in the series finale to help lead the Dawgs to a 4-1 win and avoid the sweep. He surrendered a first-inning run and then threw six straight scoreless frames to keep Henderson State's offense at bay. Jackson struck out five and scattered four hits in the win.



# Bartmann Named to Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State Ranking

**KATIE BARTMANN**  
EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL ADVISOR

**Jenna Leven**  
Edward Jones Sr. Administrator

Edward Jones Financial Advisor Katie Bartmann of Weatherford was named to the 2024 Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State ranking in Oklahoma by Forbes and SHOOK® Research. She ranked No. 11 in Oklahoma.

"What an honor to be named to such a prestigious list! As a financial advisor, I am reminded of that old adage about how loving what you do means never working a day in your life. Every day, I enjoy quality

time with individual clients, collaborating with them to find the possibilities for their lives and then celebrating their successes as we reach their goals," Bartmann said. "And I have the incredible good fortune to lead an amazing team dedicated to the well-being of our clients and our community."

Bartmann is supported by her senior branch office administrators, Katherine Smith and Jenna Leven. They can be reached at 580-772-1832. You may also visit their website by scanning the QR Code above.

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# SPORTS

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## Looking Back at Week Two of the OSSAA Basketball Playoffs for West OK

# WESTERN OKLAHOMA BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

- CLINTON RED TORNADES**
- HYDRO-EAKLY BOBCATS**
- SAYRE EAGLES**
- THOMAS-FAY-CUSTER TERRIERS**
- WEATHERFORD EAGLES**
- WATONGA EAGLES**



The second week of the high school basketball playoffs in Oklahoma has concluded and while a healthy amount of Western Oklahoma Schools are moving onto their next rounds with some new hardware some school's seasons have ended. Here's a recap of how this weekend went for the teams on the Wright Media Network.

Starting in Class A basketball, after moving into the consolation side of the Playoff tournament the Hydro-Eakly Bobcat girls and boys traveled to Seiling last Thursday for their regional tournament play. At Seiling the Bobcats both matched up with the Mooreland Bearcats in their respective games. Unfortunately, both Bobcat teams fell to the Bearcats of Mooreland ending their seasons. The Bobcat girls lost 43 - 36 and the Bobcat boys lost 72 - 55.

Continuing in Class A Basketball, the Thomas Terrier girls also traveled to Seiling for their regional playoff games on the winner's side of the bracket on Thursday. There the lady Terriers faced off against the defending Class A State Champions the Seiling lady Wildcats. The Lady Terriers would lose that game 74 - 27 and fall in the consolation side of the bracket. On Friday the Lady Terriers matched up against the Cherokee Lady Chieftains who they would defeat

39-26 sending the lady terriers to the Consoaltin championship against Mooreland lady Bearcats. The Lady Terriers luck would run out against the Bearcats as they were defeated 40-25 ending their 2024 playoff hopes.

In Class 2A Basketball, Watonga and Sayre started their post-season runs in Hooker and Merritt, respectively. Starting in Hooker the Watonga Eagle boys and girls fought for the Area 3, District 1 championship, however both teams would fall against the Hooker Bulldogs. The Watonga girls were defeated 65-34 and the Watonga Boys were defeated 68-25.

At Merritt the Sayre Eagles played against the Merritt Oilers for the Area 3 District 4 championship title. Both of the Sayre Eagles teams were defeated by the Oilers. The Sayre girls were defeated 61-30 and the Sayre boys were defeated 66-33.

With the defeats of the Sayre girls and boys as well as the Watonga girls and boys, Sayre and Watonga will face off against each other to keep their playoff dreams alive at the regional playoff tournament at Merritt this week. The Sayre girls and Watonga girls are scheduled to play on Thursday, February 22 in Merritt at 1:00pm. The Sayre boys and the Watonga

boys are scheduled to play on Thursday February 22 at 2:30pm.

Moving on to Class 4A basketball, the Clinton Red Tornadoes traveled to Bethany for their district playoff game. The Clinton Red Tornado girls forfeited their match-up against the Bethany Bronchos moving into the consolation side of the bracket. The Clinton Red Tornado boys lost their match-up against the Bethany Bronchos 53-23 also moving into the consolation bracket. Clinton will travel back to Bethany later this week for their regional playoff games where the girls will play Bishop McGuinness on Thursday at 1pm and the boys will play Elk City at 2:30pm.

The Weatherford Eagles hosted the Area 1, District 7 championship games against the Woodward Boomers. Both Eagles teams handily defeated the Woodward Boomers securing District Championship titles. The lady Eagles defeated the lady Boomers 73-41 and Eagle Boys defeated the Boomer boys 65-34. The Weatherford Eagles will travel to Cushing this Thursday for their regional tournament games. There both teams will play against the Mannford Pirates to stay on the winner's side of the post-season.

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