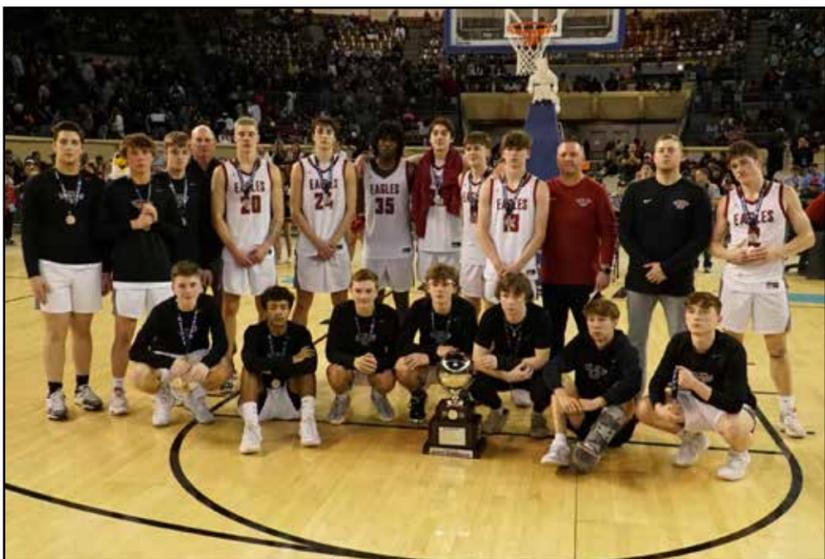
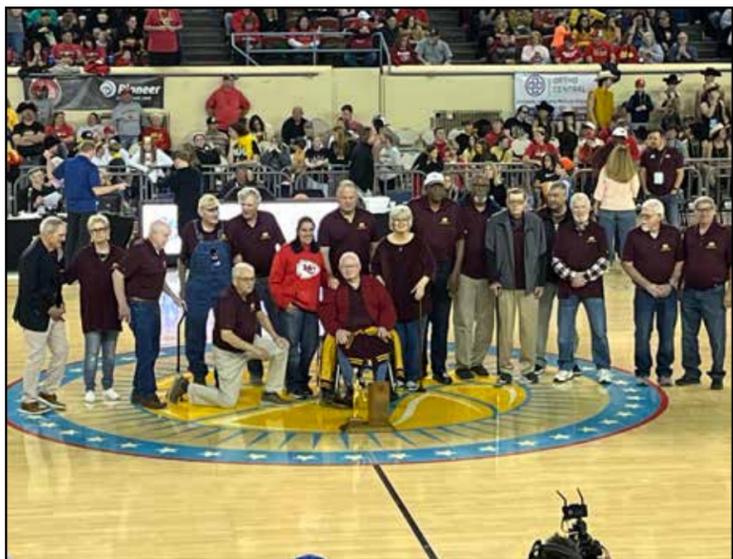


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Triumph and Heartbreak Strike at the OSSAA State Championship



Provided

Pictured left: The OSSAA honored the 1964 and 1965 State Championship Basketball team from Clinton, OK in-between games during this past Saturday's tournament.

Pictured right: The Weatherford Eagle boys pose with their Silver Ball after falling to the Douglass Trojans 72- 69 in the Class 4A boys Basketball State Championship game this past Saturday.

The Oklahoma State Basketball Tournaments wrapped up this past weekend after nearly 4 weeks of post season action. While there were a handful of winners from Western Oklahoma over the past two weekends, including the Seiling Lady Wildcats and the Merritt Oilerettes who took home gold balls in Class A and 2A respectively, on the Wright Media Network it was the Weatherford Eagles in 4A boys basketball that captured the hearts and minds over a season characterized lockdown defense and stylish acrobatic slams.

The Weatherford Eagle boys started their State Championship run last Thursday with a matchup against the Stillwell Indians in the State

Quarterfinals. The Eagles started hot and kept up the pressure to easily down the Indians 54-34 behind scoring leader CJ Nickson.

The Eagles would move onto a greater challenge in the Semifinals where they would face the Tulsa McLain Titans, who defeated Anadarko 64-56 on their way to the semifinal game.

Tulsa McLain would wind up leading at halftime of the semifinal game 31-30, but the Eagles would go lights out in the 3rd quarter blanking the Titans for the majority of the quarter en route to a 59-50 victory. This would punch the Eagles ticket to back-to-back State title games against the Douglass Trojans.

The Douglass Trojans had defeated the Blanchard Lions and the North Rock Creek Cougars to set up the rematch of the 2023 State Championship game. The game was close for all of regulation with the Eagles leading 36-30 at the end of the first half, but the Trojans were able to close the gap and tie up the game at 66 a piece to send it into overtime. Unfortunately, the Trojans outscored the Eagles 72-69 after overtime on their way to claiming back-to-back state basketball titles.

The Wright Media Network would like to thank the Weatherford Eagle Boys basketball team for a hard fought season filled with many victories and memories



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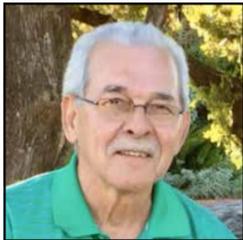


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Rick Skinner

Rick Skinner entered this world on March 4th, 1952, the first son of Billy Lyne and Loneta Louise (Stevens) Skinner and passed away Thursday, February 29, 2024, in Angel Fire, NM, at the age of 71 years, 11 months and 25 days. Born in Carnegie, OK, our future Dad, Papa, Brother, Uncle, and Hero helped oversee the raising of a legion of younger siblings, assisted of course by his 2 older sisters. His youth was full of adventure with several summers spent harvesting across the Great Plains from Oklahoma to Montana. He loved his small-town running buddies Bill Howell and Kyle King who remained important to him throughout his life. Dad thoroughly enjoyed recounting the memories that told the story of his upbringing.



Upon graduating from Carnegie High School in 1970, he enrolled in classes at SWOSU where he was introduced to what would become his lifelong hometown of Weatherford. This also kicked off a special commitment to his SWOSU Bulldog Family that would span 5 decades. In 1974, Rick became the first male Skinner to graduate with a college degree. His Bachelor of Science in Industrial Arts was bought and paid for out of his own pocket as he held several jobs through this time, including roughnecking during the oil boom.

1976 was a monumental year for Rick. He married his bride, Lynn Ellen Gibson of Enid, OK and went into business with his next younger brother Randy. Over the next decade, Rick grew his family with 2 boys and 1 baby girl while also building The Weatherford Cabinets brand. He endured all the challenges he faced with dignity and determination. In 1987, Rick rejoined the SWOSU community within the Physical Plant. Under the leadership of Jim Loomis, he gained the highest confidence and respect as the Assistant Director. He was known for his ability to get the job done right and under budget. The first time. Eventually, Jim passed the baton to Rick, and he literally ran with it. Multiple campus projects were started and completed under his watch. By the time he retired in 2018, the SWOSU campus was transformed into the crown jewel of Western Oklahoma. Along the way, Rick Skinner became synonymous with Weatherford and was often asked to weigh in on community matters that needed no-nonsense solutions.

During his post-retirement years, Dad fell back in love with his favorite sport. If he ever beat his golfing buddy George Faulkner, he would talk for weeks about that perfect shot he pulled off to win the round. He also rekindled his first true love of woodworking with his brother Randy at the Cabinet Shop. Above all, he relished every opportunity to attend his kids' and grandkids' events, big and small. From Friday Night Lights to graduations and from little league baseball games to theatrical productions, he showed up to every family event with an eager smile because he sincerely wanted to be there. He championed his kid's dreams and made them his own. Most recently, Dad unlocked an opportunity for all of us to gather together in the mountains anytime we wanted.

February 29, 2024, after nearly 72 years on Earth, God called Dad home. But before He did so, He gifted Dad one last fine day with family in Angel Fire, NM.

Rick is preceded in death by his sister Kathryn Louise Skinner; his father Billy Lyne Skinner; and his mother Loneta Louise Skinner. He is survived by his eldest son, Ryan Todd Skinner, his wife Caroline, and their children: Trenton Ryan and Sydnie Lauren all of Shawnee, OK; middle son Rodney Allen Skinner, his wife Ashlee, and their children: Sam Riley and Hollen Kate of Elk City, OK; daughter Taren McKenzie Black, her husband Jacob, and their children: Brady Lynn and Baylor McKenzie of Edmond, OK; his siblings: Judy Unruh and her husband Jerry of Weatherford, OK; Janis Scott of Blanchard, OK; Rhonda Dorrell and her husband Doug of Excello, MO; Randy Skinner and his wife Brenda of Weatherford, OK; Ronnie Skinner and his wife Reta, of Weatherford, OK; Jeanine Scales and her husband Daryl of Carnegie, OK; James Skinner of Weatherford, OK; Jerry Skinner of Carnegie, OK; Lorrie Hollingsworth and her husband Eddie of Carnegie, OK; and Lana Nix of Weatherford, OK; in addition to many nieces and nephews whom he adored. In all, Rick Skinner was part of a living breathing Family of 140+ relatives that routinely gathered together for fellowship during all seasons of the year. Undoubtedly, Dad will be celebrating all future Skinner Family Reunions from the Heavens above.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rick Skinner Memorial Fund, c/o SWOSU Foundation, Inc., by visiting 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096, by visiting the website www.givetoswosu.com/ and selecting 'Rick Skinner Memorials' from the menu of places to give, or by calling 580-774-3267.

Lynley Lustfield

Lynley Faith Lustfield was born May 26, 2015, in Duncan, to Austin Derek Lustfield and Mayzey Lynne Brown and passed away Thursday, February 29, 2024, at her home in Clinton, at the age of 8 years, 9 months and 3 days.

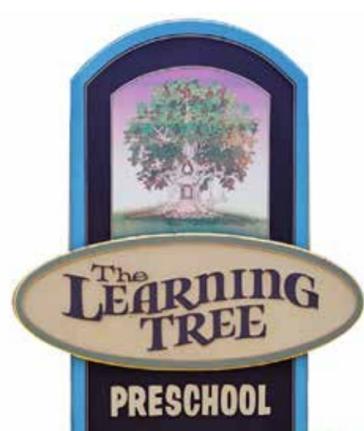


Lynley was raised and attended school in Clinton at Nance Elementary until 1st grade. After which she continued her love of learning while being homeschooled. Lynley will be remembered for her love of her iPad, playing games, big bows and matching fingernails.

Lynley loved swinging and reading all her books while relaxing in her playroom. She enjoyed helping her Dad work in the shop. Lynley's most favorite things were spending time with her Mom, going book shopping, and having a special treat of donuts with her Dad. Memorials may be made to Kids Therapy Connection in Thomas to provide continued joy for kids with special needs.

Lynley is survived by her parents, Austin Lustfield and Mayzey Brown of the home in Clinton; maternal grandparents, Vernon and Terri Brown of Springtown, TX and Sherry and Donny Cosby of Ninnekah; paternal grandparents, Durk and April Lustfield of Clinton; maternal aunts and uncles, Melissa and Justin Nielson of Leon, OK and Chellsey Maxwell of Cement, OK; paternal aunts and uncles, Aaron and Allison Lustfield of Clinton, Trason Lustfield of Clinton, Zachary and Marly Lustfield of Clinton and Casey Lustfield of Hydro; great-aunts and uncles, Myron Lustfield of Hydro and Stacey and Brad Yearwood, James Brown of Rush Springs, and Reba Maxwell of Marlow; Great grandparent, Karla Kohman of Golden, CO; and her very best friend Manning McAtee.

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SCAN ME

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Lau and McAbee Named as the Newest Bulldogs of the Week

Grant Kopycinski
Sports Graduate Asst.

Rebecca Lau from SWOSU women's golf and Brody McAbee from SWOSU rodeo are the newest Bulldogs of the Week.

This weekly student-athlete recognition from SWOSU is brought to you by Wright Media, the home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Lau (Selangor, Malaysia) recently led SWOSU golf to their second win of the season last week.

Lau turned in her highest finish of the year at the Diffee Ford/Lincoln Invitational where she placed second.

Her top two finish also led to her being name the GAC Golfer of the Week.

McAbee (Ansley, Nebraska) swept the Saddle Bronc event over the week at the Fort Scott Rodeo. He took home the top spot in both rounds to claim the average win.

He scored a 78-point ride in the long round and followed it up with a 75 in the short go to secure his first-round wins and average title of the season.

BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK

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Mike Smith
News Director

Corn Bible Academy Hires New Superintendent for 2024-25 School Year



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Valerie Fuller
CBA Administrative Asst.

Corn Bible Academy would like to announce the hiring of a new Superintendent. Chris Zeller will replace the current superintendent, Tim McDonald, who is retiring at the end of this school year.

Mr. Zeller has been in education for 29 years. He has experience as a teacher, coach, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, and Head of School/Superintendent. He has his Bachelor of Science Degree from Arlington Baptist College in Biblical Studies and Education, and a Master of Arts Degree from Liberty University in Christian Leadership.

Zeller is also a certified youth mental health coach with a certification from the American Association of Christian Counselors.

Additionally, he is working to earn his Doctoral studies in Religious Education at OSU-Cornerstone College in Stillwater, OK.

Mr. Zeller has been married to his wife, Kris, for 21 years. They have four boys together, Peyton, Ethan, Jaden, and Rysin.

Chris and his family are excited to bring his experience and love for educating students with a Biblical worldview to Corn Bible Academy.

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OK / SUPER TUESDAY - Former president Donald Trump won the GOP primary in Oklahoma on Tuesday while President Joe Biden won the Democratic primary. Locally, in Custer County, Trump won with nearly 85% support. President Biden won Custer County with 68% of the vote in the Democratic primary. In Washita County, President Biden won by only 12 votes over democratic candidate Dean Phillips. No local races were on the ballot in western Oklahoma on Super Tuesday.

BECKHAM CO / ACCIDENT - Two Elk City teens were hospitalized in critical condition following a one-vehicle accident on a Beckham County road, one mile west and one mile north of Elk City. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says 18-year-old Amelia J. Shawn and Rachel Putman were both hospitalized at our medical center after the vehicle that Shawn was driving left the road and struck a barbed wire fence and utility police. The vehicle then rolled over coming to rest in a dry creek bottom.

BLAINE CO / K9 - A K9 for the Blaine County Sheriff's Office has received a donation of body armor. The sheriff's office says the K9 has received a bullet and STB protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from a non-profit organization with a vested interest in K9's incorporation.

ELK CITY / FIRE - City Manager Tom Ivester says the city commission heard a significant report from fire chief Kyle Chervenka, regarding the department fighting wildfires the previous week. What is referred to as the Smokehouse Road fire in Texas and Oklahoma combined to burn more than a million acres with more than 31,000 acres burned in Ellis and Roger Mills counties in Oklahoma.

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WASHITA CO / DONATION DRIVE - The Washita County 4-H is holding a donation drive for local nursing homes. They are collecting essential items to bring comfort and joy to those in the community who could use a little extra care. A few of the items in need include toiletries and grippy socks. However, a complete list can be found on the Washita County OSU Extension Facebook page.

ELK CITY / CAPITAL - Bids for the new fire station and renovations to the police department will be going out soon. City Manager Tom Ivester says the airport project includes a new box hangar and new terminal.

CLINTON / SOUTHWEST UPDATE - Construction work on Southwest Elementary in the Clinton school district is underway. According to district superintendent Tyler Bridges, the building is expected to be ready for occupancy in October of this year. Superintendent Bridges also mentions that work on Nance Elementary is 85% complete with that building ready for occupancy in May.

CLINTON / TAYLOR - A principal in the Clinton school district has decided to retire. Janalyn Taylor has spent the last 17 years as principal at Nance Elementary. Taylor will retire in May after a 42-year career at Clinton Public Schools.

CLINTON / LEVITT AMP - The second year of the Levitt Amp Clinton music series will kick off in May with a few scheduling changes. According to Clinton Chamber of Commerce president Julie Caldwell, there will be dates in May, June, and August, but not July because of the heat. The event happens at McLain Rogers Park and is the second of three years that the concert series will be held in Clinton.

WEATHERFORD / GOODWILL - The president of Goodwill of Central Oklahoma was the guest speaker at the Rotary in Weatherford. Jim Priest spoke on the location of a donation and thrift store in the Weatherford shopping center. Priest says the Goodwill Thrift store is projected to open in June.

CUSTER CO / FIRE - Custer County emergency management director Mike Galloway updated Custer County Commissioners yesterday, regarding the aftermath of the recent wildfires in western Oklahoma. Galloway says Oklahoma governor Kevin Stitt says he is watching the western Oklahoma fires closely but says Oklahoma wildfires have not met the financial threshold for FEMA funding.

WEATHERFORD / STAFFORD - An expansion is expected to begin soon at the Stafford Air and Space Museum in Weatherford. Stafford Foundation board member Gary Mol says a \$4.5 million expansion is planned with private monies. Mol says the expansion will hopefully begin in April once a gas line is moved.

SWOSU / FAIR - The 32nd Annual Research and Scholarly Fair at Southwestern Oklahoma State University will be held at the Wellness Center on April 20th from noon to 3 p.m. Students, faculty, staff, and administration can showcase their research, engage in professional discussions, and learn from each other's projects. The deadline to submit a project for consideration is April 1st.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!



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Happy Birthday Wishes for March 13 - Richard Baugher, Matthew Cannon, Kim Cisco, Kevin Evans, Debbie Garrison, Betty Klaassen, Terrel Leonard, Eileen Mullins, Brandi Nabors, John Shaddon, Eva Zitterkob; **March 14** - Rudy Ahdokobo, David Altland, Summer Bass, Brandy Carlson, Elise Cornell, Erica Creswell, Brandi Gateley, Mary Katherine Nail, Eddie Perkins, Steve Thomason, Sara Townley; **March 15** - Brenna Butler, Mike Goossen, Casey Murray, Jennifer Scruggs; **March 16** - Calvin Browning, Tucker Goodall, Jara Griffin, Morgan Hanson, Richie Hull, Floyd King, Julie Maddox, Craig Nabors, Virgal Slagell, Darren Toczko; **March 17** - Keith Anston, Steven Bagby, Andrew Patrick Basgall, Ron Henderson, Patrick Janning, Mike Kidd, Robert Middleton, Sheresha Moody, Clifford Prichard, Katie Roach, Jennifer Schultz; **March 18** - Michelle Agan, Stephanie Buckner, Riley Grogan, Elizabeth Gwinn, Margaret Hamlin, Jack Melton, Frank Sewell IV, Pat Scholar; **March 19** - Agustin "Augy" Castorena, Claudia Castro, Elisie Jo Lafever, Josh Nickels, Krisha Shantz; **March 20** - Letha Bentley, Hayden Billings, DaLynn Brinkley, Spring Cordes, Maxine Crissman, Barbara Deevers, Scott Guthrie, Oma Hicks, Nicholas Janning, Bryale Johnson, Tena Leatherbury, Don Morris, Trevor Ridgeway, Adam Rogers, Savana Schmidt, Bethany Shannon, Denny Smith; **March 21** - Mary Ellis, Aspen Martin, Mustafa Sami, Kay Sewell, Presley Sperle, McKenzie Sprowls, Jim Wahnee, Nina Wilhoit.

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SPRING HOME & GARDEN

Save Money On Your Energy Bill With Crusader RetroFoam

One of the most overlooked aspects of owning a home can have some of the greatest impact on monthly costs: insulation. Whether purchasing pre-built homes or starting from the ground up, many homeowners might be unaware of the amount of savings they are potentially losing. We all want to be comfortable, especially in our own homes, and that means temperature control. Rain, sleet, or shine, AC and heat units keep the inside space nice and cozy—but they are often working overtime because of inefficient seals that fail to separate the out from the in. Insulation, with its different levels and types, is that seal.

Martin Knop and his son Joshua know firsthand how much of an impact insulation has on a home. Owners and operators of Crusader RetroFoam, an Injection Foam Insulation company, the pair first installed the foam in their own homes and have been very pleased with the results. While working in the construction business, Martin began looking for a way to install new insulation in a clean and efficient way and came across information for RetroFoam, a foam that you could inject straight into the wall. Curious, Martin used it on his own home, did some jobs with it, and noticed “great and positive feedback.”

“Most people will begin noticing their AC/Heat will not run as often when we’re done. It’ll seal the air infiltrations and ensure the inside air stays consistent” – Martin.

If you’ve ever noticed that your heat and air systems seem to be constantly running, or that when they’re turned off, the temperature never holds, you may be dealing with gaps in your insulation. Most notably, older homes, homes with big bay windows, and homes with nooks & crannies seem to fight this problem the most. When explaining how RetroFoam is different than the regular rolls of insulation, Martin described the process as similar to the way you seal a refrigerator. “If you forget to shut the door of your refrigerator - even just a small gap - you’ll notice the air starts to escape and condensation forms. The full coverage seals around the doors prevent that. RetroFoam acts the same way.” The foam is injected through small holes in the wall and begins to fill in air pockets and create seals that most insulations miss. And the best part? You don’t have to take down drywall to install.

Some of the common concerns with insulation upgrades deal with the notion that new installations will require full wall replacements, too – costly and messy, or that packing the wall that tightly will make electrical repair/upgrade work a nightmare in the future. However, Crusader RetroFoam creates holes from the outside of the house (usually through brick) and can inject the foam with little hassle. Then, there’s just the matter of covering the holes with a special mortar.

Martin explained, “You can hardly tell any work was done physically, but it’ll start paying back quickly: 10%, 15%, you’ll see money back fast.” And as far as upgrades go, the RetroFoam is extremely pliable to work with. Cabling and wire-running can be done through the foam very easily.

So, when considering ways to “weather ready” your home, consider looking into upgrading the insulation. With a simple installation system, customers of Crusader often tailor their orders to their needs. For example, some customers have had specific sections filled, like the south wall, a bedroom, or just had an addition finished. Then, they’ll order another section later down the line. RetroFoam is a competitive solution to insulation problems. The foam is Class One Fire Rated, can dampen sound up to 80%, is non-toxic, and can cover many of the cracks and crevices of a home.

When paired with caulk in hard-to-reach places like window and door trims, air leakage can be severely reduced.

Crusader RetroFoam covers most of western Oklahoma and operates in three counties in Kansas. For more information or to get a quote, stop by their website and Facebook page; you can also contact Martin Knop at (580) 774 - 9139, or Joshua Knop at (580) 302 - 3039.



SPRING HOME & GARDEN

Plan for the Possibilities of a Spring Garden with Janie's Garden Center

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." This famous line comes from renown author Leo Tolstoy and his highly praised novel Anna Karenina, which is held by many to be one of the greatest works of writing ever written. However, Tolstoy missed one other crucial component of Spring - the beauty of gardens and flowers. Luckily, those are exactly what Janie's Garden Center is known for!

With locations in Weatherford, Clinton, and Elk City, Janie's Garden Center is opening for Spring with beautiful, full, and healthy plants. Their greeneries are colorfully eye-catching and their garden decor is unmatched. Janie's has everything and the like: from annuals & perennials, to shrubs & trees, to vegetable plants. They also have all forms of pottery, iron stands, and hanging baskets to house your new Spring greens. Mulch and soil is also available at each location

making Janie's the perfect one-stop-shop as we usher in the season of sunshine and warmth. Gift cards are available as well if you're looking to get that person with a green thumb the perfect present.

You can visit Janie's Garden Centers at any of their locations: at 721 Gary Blvd, in Clinton; at 303 N Madison, in Elk City; and in Weatherford at 127 S 8th Street, right across from the Old Armory Building.

Janie's has always been synonymous with Spring and the family business is looking to continue their motto of bringing the best quality plants to western Oklahoma.

Ewbank Offers Water Service with Four Generations of Experience

Alex Ewbank Water Well Drilling, LLC, is a 4th generation industry provider of water services for both commercial and residential clients operating out of Weatherford, OK. From submersible pumps to farmland irrigation to residential well testing and drilling, Alex and his team are committed to ensuring all water operations at the work site and at home are efficient and functional.

Part of that 100% uptime goal is being available when things go wrong. Problems can happen, and Ewbank is committed to their mindset of "Service is Key". Offering 24/7 emergency call-outs and a strict policy for quality, it's no surprise Alex Ewbank Water Well Drilling has a rich history serving the Oklahoma community.

Alex recalls working as a kid alongside his family every summer and on the weekends and seeing the importance of what they do. He saw the effect having access to clean, running water has on daily life. "You can't live without water, and if you're coming home after work on a Friday, you can't wait until Monday for a tech to come out. You deserve to have service." Alex has grown the business tremendously and continues to follow the principle set by his great grandpa. "I'm a firm believer in accountability. If there's a problem, I want to know about it so we can fix it. I want us to be the go-to company people think of. Our success is success for our customers." Their drive is to keep growing for the 5th and 6th generation of the business, or for whatever comes after.

For any water project, whether it be pump and generator rentals, water lines and reservoirs for oilfield drilling, or well creation and testing for new and existing homes, contact Alex Ewbank Water Well Drilling, LLC for a consultation.

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SPRING HOME & GARDEN

HGSA: Vegetable Growing Tips For Any New Gardeners

Start with the Soil! Good garden soil is crumbly and full of organic matter. It is home to an array of organisms, including helpful bacteria and fungi, and insects of all sizes. It retains water yet drains well. Grab a handful of your garden soil and squeeze it. If it holds its shape, yet crumbles easily when you drop it, you're off to a good start. If it stays in a ball or crumbles as soon as you open your hand, add compost. This will correct poor drainage, and help your soil retain water and nutrients. Add about 3 inches of compost to your problem soil, and gently work it in with a garden fork.

Start Small. Tilling up an area that is so large that you won't have the time to keep the weeds under control will lead you to feel discouraged. If you're busy (and who isn't!) start with a single raised bed or a 4-O by 8-O plot. This is enough to plant a couple of tomatoes, basil, salad greens, maybe a row of beans. This may seem obvious, but plant what you want to eat, and concentrate your early efforts on those plants. A salad and herb garden is a good choice for beginners. As you become more comfortable with plant habits and growing techniques, you can add to your growing space.

If you're Growing in Containers, Make Sure They're Big Ones. It may look odd in spring to have a small tomato seedling in a 5-gallon container, but by mid-summer, the roots of that fast-growing plant will completely fill the pot.

Why plant in large containers? The larger the container, the less the likelihood that it will dry out if you skip a day of watering. Plus, as your plant grows large and productive, it will need the nutrients contained in the soil mix. This is true no matter what you grow in pots. Salad greens, peppers, tomatoes, and even cucumbers can produce a satisfying harvest in containers, provided that you fill them with a water-retentive, well-draining soil mix that is meant for containers, and treat them every two weeks with a balanced, soluble fertilizer. Filling pots with soil you've dug from your garden is a bad idea. It is much more dense than a container mix, and will not drain well.

When Sowing Directly in the Soil, Pay Attention to Spacing. Many seeds can be sown directly in the garden once nighttime temperatures are consistently above 50°F (10°C), including salad greens, beans and peas, root vegetables, and many flowers. Vegetable seed packets generally tell you how close your plants should be in the garden. Try to sow seed sparingly, following the packet instructions, and when your seedlings are about 2 inches in height, thin them to the recommended spacing. This is important with all vegetables and flowers, but particularly so with root vegetables. If grown too close together, carrots will end up tangled, beets will be spindly, and radishes will bolt prematurely.

Have a Ready Supply of Mulch, and Fertilize

Regularly. Mulch does double duty in the vegetable garden. It helps keep weeds under control as it conserves soil moisture. Use mulching materials that will readily break down and over time they will improve the soil as well. Half rotted straw, shredded leaves, pine needles, shredded paper, cardboard, or any combination of these are good choices for the vegetable garden. Wait until your plants are several inches tall and your garden is well watered. Then put mulch down around your plants, keeping it an inch or two away from your plant stems. This doesn't have to be done all at once. One or two-inch layers can be added over the growing season.

To ensure a good harvest, vegetables grown in well-drained soil should be fertilized every 3 to 4 weeks with a balanced organic fertilizer. This is particularly important with heavy feeders, which include brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, etc.), tomatoes, eggplants, squash, and melons.

Diversify! Flowers belong in or near the vegetable garden for a number of reasons. They attract pollinators, and they bring in predator insects that will help keep insects such as cabbageworms and aphids in check. A diverse garden is a healthy garden. Good, easy-from-seed choices to plant near or within a vegetable garden include marigolds, sweet alyssum, zinnias, bachelor's buttons, cosmos, calendulas, nasturtiums, and California poppies.

SPRING INTO ACTION

HOME MAINTENANCE TIPS

Winter can be hard on your home, so spring is the perfect time to make important repairs. Not only can repairs beautify your home but they can also help you avoid more expensive work later.

- CHECK ROOF SHINGLES AND YOUR CHIMNEY**
Let's start at the top. Snow, ice, freezing and thawing can damage roof shingles, causing them to buckle or loosen. Missing or damaged shingles should be replaced by a qualified roofer to prevent further water damage. Ask your roofer if he or she is also qualified to inspect your chimney for cracks and to fix them as needed.
- CLEAN AND INSPECT GUTTERS**
Clogged or damaged gutters can let water seep into walls or get into the basement instead of directing it away from the home. Clean debris from gutters and downspouts and replace damaged sections.
- FIX CONCRETE CRACKS**
Cracks in concrete driveways and pool decks can worsen over time. To prevent further damage, and avoid tripping hazards, power-wash the area then seal with crack filler or silicone caulk.
- SERVICE AC UNITS**
Air conditioning units get a workout during the summer so use the spring to get them ready. A qualified HVAC technician can clean the system to help it operate more efficiently. You should also prune nearby plants that could block airflow.
- PAINT TOUCH-UP**
Touching up cracked or peeling paint not only makes your home look better, but protects it from the elements as well. While inspecting outer walls for paint needs, also check for wall damage or openings that developed over the winter and ask a licensed contractor to repair them.

Spring is also a great time to service up your homeowners insurance. As your home changes, your insurance needs change as well. Contact your independent insurance agent to make sure your home insurance grows with you.

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Wings of Time, Volume IV - Oklahoma's (and America's) Youngest Aviator



Christopher Nick (OKC Artist)

A painting on display at the Oklahoma State Capitol of Pearl with her Curtiss Robin and Wiley Post in the background, unveiled in 2014.



Courtesy Chickasaw

A teenage Pearl Carter poses in front of her Curtiss Robin plane with her Chickasaw-Choctaw mother, Lucy, and her white father, George.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Eula “Pearl” Carter Scott, born and raised in Marlow, Oklahoma, was inspirational and fearless. When her father George Carter’s blindness began to get more severe, Pearl would act as his driver and accompany him to his office, meetings, and to the farms. She was a natural behind the wheel, owning her first car at 11 years old, and after mastering the ground, her attention aimed towards the skies.

In 1928, aviator Wiley Post visited Marlow to see his family and became quick friends with the Carter’s after landing in her father’s field nearby. They became fast friends, and Wiley flew both her father and Pearl separately that day and later told her father that she was a natural, asking all sorts of questions about the plane and piloting, with no fear and pure exhilaration.

With her family’s permission, Wiley would teach Pearl how to fly. For the next several months, Pearl would learn all about the functions of an aircraft. She routinely described the feeling as the best in the world, saying the exhilaration would drown out any hesitations one might have. Wiley encouraged her father to invest in a plane for Pearl to also help open opportunities for his business with air travel. Not long after, her father surprised her with a Curtiss Robin airplane, picking the model based on Wiley’s suggestions. The airplane was loosely modeled after Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis and fit her perfectly.

On September 12, 1929, she took off on her first solo flight, becoming the youngest licensed pilot in the nation at 13 years old. Soon after, she was acting as a commercial pilot for her father flying businessmen from town to town. She barnstormed and loved pushing the limits of her plane, often doing barrel rolls and dives

Pearl continued growing more of a name for herself at air circuses, airport openings, and barnstorming events around the state and North Texas. Wiley referred to her as a “natural”, so much so that he invited her to Oklahoma City years later, soon after he made his famous flight in his airplane The Winnie Mae. While visiting, he offered her the opportunity to fly his plane. No one other than Wiley and his mechanic had flown the plane before, and no one else ever did. He didn’t trust anyone else to handle the plane and it’s notoriously difficult landing, but he trusted Pearl, and she handled it beautifully.

When Pearl got married and had her second child, she decided to let go of piloting to focus on her growing family. She worked alongside her husband to support their family through the Great Depression and after they lost their farms.

After other hardships and heartaches, Pearl and Scotty divorced, and she began working odd jobs to make ends meet. At the time, she remembered something she used to tell herself long ago, “if you fall down, don’t lay down there. You get up and show people you can do what you want to.”

She began reconnecting with her mother’s heritage and culture, serving the Chickasaw Nation as a community health representative and legislator. Her personality and determination lit up the rooms she walked into, and she greatly represented her people and her home, often bolstering the hearts of those she met.

In the ‘90s, recognition of her accomplishments in aviation and for the people, began to take light and she went to tour the Smithsonian and saw The Winnie Mae. She got accepted into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame, the International Women’s Air and Space Museum Hall of Fame.

In that same decade, she received NASA’s Special Recognition Award, the Oklahoma House of Representative’s Honoree, the Association of the 99’s Honoree. She was a founding member of the Wiley Post Flight Center and has recently had a portrait painting unveiled on the walls of the Oklahoma State Capitol building.

The courage and resolve Pearl showcased throughout her life was inspirational and matched the aviators and other greats of the past. She never forgot her roots and her heritage, and throughout all of life’s setbacks or challenges, she met them head-on.

Keep your eyes peeled for next week’s paper, where we’ll learn more about her good friend Wiley Post and his good friend Will Rogers!

HIGHER GROUND

Make the Break Count



Jim Morrison

Spring break!! I must admit that since I have retired spring break is constant. But for many students, public as well as collegiate, the phrase brings a sense of freedom. Freedom from the routine of classwork.

Freedom to pursue whatever form of relaxation or pleasure they please, except for those who have a job that allows them to earn a little extra money. Somehow, they didn’t know about spring break at Sweetwater, my alma mater. Instead, they had cotton-pulling break for country schools. In those days school started in July so they could dismiss school for six weeks in October to allow kids to help harvest cotton.

Believe me we didn’t get to go to the beach or sleep late. While the media tends to center in on the escapades of college students partying at various beaches, they will never highlight the hundreds, perhaps thousands of students that go on mission trips during their spring break.

Many go to the beaches to minister to the party-goers.

Others put themselves in situations that involve risk, sacrifice, and dependence on God’s power to help them make a difference in dangerous situations.

Thirteen students plus two leaders from SWOSU will be going to Brooklyn, New York during their spring break. A few years ago, Greg Gober, a graduate of SWOSU left a secure position in a comfortable church, to take his family to Brooklyn. There they have planted Hope Community Church—a light in the darkness of that inner-city metropolis.

They will be helping the church get prepared for their annual Easter in the park event. They will also be handing out free donuts and coffee in the subway to let the neighborhood know about the church.

My granddaughter, a junior in high school, will be going with a group from her church to the island of Honduras to minister to those in need in that area.

Remember to pray for the groups going on-mission to hard places from your area. I well remember driving a school bus full of college students to Mexico, Utah, Houston, etc, to do whatever was needed.

One of our greatest experiences was taking 12 students to the Philippines for a five-week ministry opportunity. We visited several islands and saw people dressed in loin cloths much like you see in National Geographic magazine.

I believe every Christian should take at least one mission trip outside the confines of our country. It makes you grateful for the blessings we have. Too often we are content to play it safe in our comfort zone, or we feel inadequate to help. If we are available, God will provide the ability. Mark Buchanan in his book Your God is too Safe describes too many of us: “We want a God who provides but doesn’t intrude, who protects but never demands, never judges, never meddles. We want a God who keeps His distance and doesn’t crowd us. . . I want to be rescued, but not bothered, comforted but never disrupted, soothed but not disturbed.”

I know that that does not describe many of you, but I challenge you to seek the higher ground and not be content with the easy road.

“God give us courage, give us a passion, give us a vision. Make of us instruments of righteousness, agents of reconciliation, and ambassadors of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

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

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SWOSU's Tournament Run Comes to an End in GAC Championship



Grant Kopycinski
Sports Graduate Asst.

The SWOSU women's basketball team had their magical GAC Tournament run end in a 71-55 loss to Henderson State in the GAC Championship. The Lady Bulldogs couldn't replicate the hot offense from their past two GAC Tournament games.

SWOSU ends the 2023-24 season 15-16 overall and 10-12 in GAC play. After missing the postseason all together, year two for head coach Jeff Zinn almost brought the Lady Bulldogs another conference title.

The Lady Dawgs stumbled out of the gate and fell behind by eight after one quarter. HSU extended the lead to as many as 14 in the first half and maintained the eight-point lead at half. A back and forth third quarter really opened up with a 7-0 run that took the Reddie advantage to 54-38, an advantage that proved too much for SWOSU to overcome. After setting new season highs for field goal percentage in the previous two games, the SWOSU offense came back down to earth at 31.7% overall and just 6.3% from three.

The opening quarter saw the Lady Dawgs fail to establish an offensive rhythm, a theme for the game. They defended well and held Henderson State to 5-16 shooting.

The second quarter was the most efficient quarter for SWOSU. They hit half of their shots and scored 17 points, but Henderson State matched their total due to three three-point shots.

The Reddies took true control of the game in the third quarter. They kept SWOSU at arm's length through a main chunk of the period, but ended on a 9-2 extended run that swung all of the momentum into the favor of Henderson State going into the final 10 minutes.

The SWOSU offense was not able to produce the firepower to mount the comeback in the fourth. HSU extended the lead to as many as 18 at 71-53.

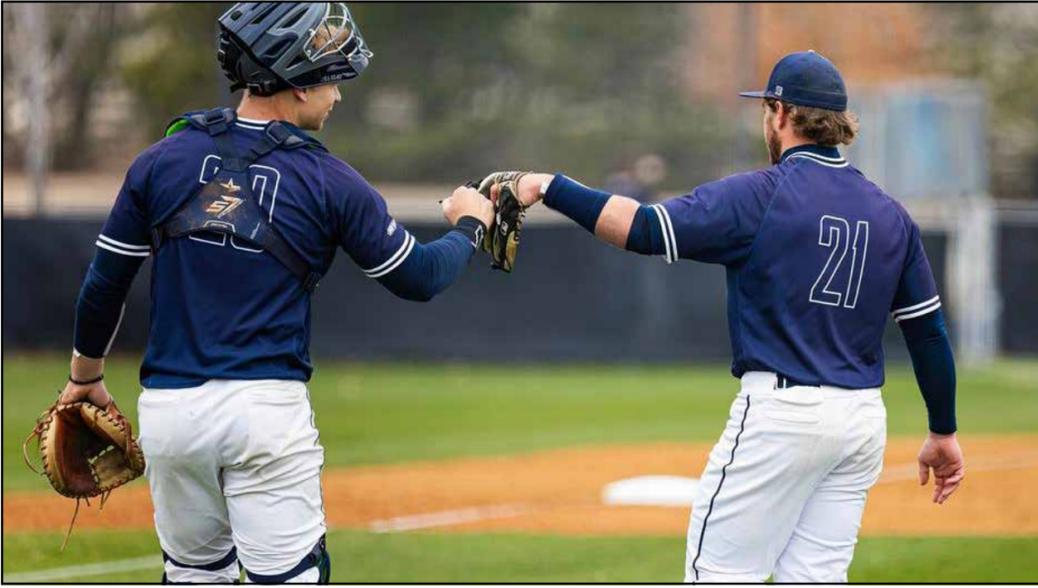
The painted area was where Henderson State won the game. SWOSU allowed 30 points in the paint and were outrebounded 52-28, giving up 14 offensive rebounds to the Reddies.

Averi Zinn, Hailey Grant, and Mason Jones were all named to the All-Tournament Team for their play over the three games. Jones, the star of the semifinal game last night, was injured early in the first quarter and never truly got going today.

Averi Zinn led SWOSU with a team high 16 points, six steals and three rebounds. Hailey Grant scored 11 points and grabbed five rebounds. Layni Zinn and Libbi Zinn put in eight and seven points respectively.

SWOSU only graduates one senior, Taryn Galt.

SWOSU Baseball Wins Their Second Straight Conference Series



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Asst. AD

SWOSU Baseball split with East Central on Sunday to close out the series, and in doing so secured a second straight conference series victory.

The Bulldogs dropped the first game of the day 7-5 before winning the finale 6-2.

The Bulldogs host Harding next weekend in another GAC series.

Game One – ECU 7, SWOSU 5

A seven-run second inning by the Tigers proved to be the difference maker. They racked up nine hits and sent 13 to the plate. Grant Ewy gave five scoreless innings of relief to keep the Dawgs in it, but the offense stranded eight runners in the game and only managed one crooked scoring number – a two-run top of the second.

Five Bulldogs finished with two hits in the game. Zane Leonard was handed the loss on the mound after he did not make it out of the second inning flurry from the Tigers.

Game Two – SWOSU 6, ECU 2

SWOSU took the lead in the fifth and added three runs of insurance in the final inning to win the final game.

Jackson Phillips threw 6.0 innings in his start to earn the win and Ernesto Hidrogo came in to finish things out in the last inning.

Marco Barrera went 3-5 at the plate with two runs scored and an RBI. Jackson Syring doubled in a run in the fifth and had another sacrifice fly RBI in the seventh. Eric Foufoulas capped the day's scoring off in the seventh with a two-RBI single.



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