

# WEST OK WEEKLY



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## Bobcats, Eagles, and Red Tornadoes Win District Championships



Spring sports around Western Oklahoma have wrapped up their regular seasons and are moving into their post-season playoffs. We want to congratulate a few Wright Media teams on their hard-fought seasons and securing their district championships.

Hydro Eakly Softball and Baseball were able to clinch their district championships during their district tournaments held in Hydro two weeks ago. Hydro-Eakly Softball secured their District Championship after defeating the Riverside Braves once with a score of 9-0. The Amber-Pocasset Panthers fell twice to the Bobcats with scores of 13-2 and 22-0. The Bobcat Softball team then traveled to Tushka for Regional tournament play last week. In their first game, they defeated the Apache Warriors 4-3, but then they suffered a 2-3 defeat against the tournament host

the Tushka Tigers. They were eliminated from post-season contention after a 2-6 loss during a rematch with Apache. The Hydro-Eakly Bobcat Softball team would complete their season with a 25-13 record.

The Hydro-Eakly Bobcat baseball won their district title after defeating the Oklahoma Christian Academy Eagles 12-4 and 11-0 in two games, as well as the Verden Tigers 10-2 two weeks ago. The Bobcat baseball team then traveled to Rattan for their Regional tournament. The Bobcats got off to a good start against the Union City Tigers, winning 4-2 in their first game. The Bobcats, however, would fall 7-0 against the Rattan Rams in their final match of the first day. The Bobcats would soundly defeat Union City 10-3 On day two, but fell in the postseason to Rattan by a score of 0-6.

The Hydro-Eakly Bobcat Baseball team would end their season with a record of 22-7.

The Weatherford Lady Eagles soccer team claimed their second district title in as many years and are gearing up for their postseason run. The Eagles are set to face off against the Cache Bulldogs in the first round of the 4A soccer playoffs on Tuesday, April 30th. The Lady Eagles currently have an overall record of 13-2, according to MaxPreps.

The Clinton Red Tornado Boys Soccer team also claimed another district title in their pursuit of their 4th state championship in 4 years. The Red Tornado Boys are pitted against Madill in the first round of the 4A soccer playoffs on Tuesday, April 30th. The Red Tornadoes currently have an overall record of 10-5, according to MaxPreps.



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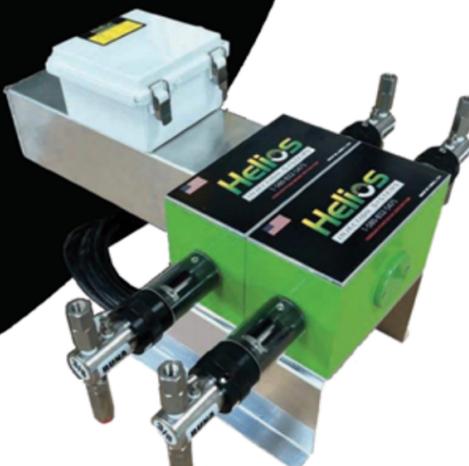
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**Corky Goucher**

Larry Lynn “Corky” Goucher was born August 31, 1957, in Oklahoma City, to Charles Vernon and Patricia Mable (Ayres) Goucher and passed away Sunday, April 21, 2024 in Weatherford, at the age of 66 years, 7 months and 21 days.



Corky was raised and attended school in Weatherford, graduating with the Class of 1976. After high school, Corky worked many jobs, including working at 3M for 18 years and 14 years at Carl Albert doing State Testing Assessments. He attended SWOSU where he completed a Bachelor’s Degree. Corky lived in Weatherford for 40 years, where he helped raise his children, Courtney and Jason. Corky lived a very full life – full of loving family and many loving friends who will miss him dearly.

Corky is preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Patricia Goucher; one son, Jason Goucher; and one nephew, Shawn Murrie.

Corky is survived by his daughter, Courtney Goucher of Enid; four grandchildren, Phoenix, Nala, Jagger, and Journey; one brother, Steve Goucher and his wife Lisa of Rockwall, TX, and their children, Mallory and Brent; one sister, Carrie Murrie and her husband Larry of Weatherford and their daughter, Brittany.

**Elaine Curtis**

Elaine Curtis was born November 13, 1978, to Samie Lynn Curtis and Chester Old Bear in Clinton, OK and passed away early Saturday, April 20, 2024, in the St. Anthony’s Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK.



Elaine was raised in Clinton where she attended school thru the 8th grade. She moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma and attended Tulsa Schools. She later attended Rose State College in El Reno, OK and then continued her education at Bacone Business College in Muskogee, OK, receiving a degree in Business.

She has been employed at the Sonic Drive In, Clinton Laundry, Bar-S Foods, and the Lucky Star Casino.

She was a proud member of the Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and a member of the Clinton Indian Baptist Church. She enjoyed doing bead work, drawing, she was an artist and she loved doing calligraphy. She was a collector of hats, turtles, beadwork, and gnomes.

She was preceded in death by her father.

She is survived by her mother, Samie Curtis, brothers, Shannon Curtis, and Virgil Curtis, all of Clinton, OK. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**Oneta Coleman**

Oneta Faye (Stoddard) Coleman was born along with her twin sister Oleta on November 28, 1928, to Boyd and Lola (Quattlebaum) Stoddard in Leedey, OK. They were welcomed home by older twin sisters, Lorena, and Loretta. She attended Leedey School where both her parents taught, and her dad coached. She graduated from Leedey High School in 1947.



Oneta married Gene Coleman and her twin sister married Doyle Bray in a double-wedding ceremony on November 14, 1947, in their hometown of Leedey, OK.

The young Coleman’s made their first home in Clinton where Oneta worked for the Oklahoma Bank and Trust for about four years. They moved to Erick, Oklahoma where she worked at a Erick Bank for 11 years and then moved back to Clinton where she was employed at the First National Bank for over 40 years before retiring.

She was a longtime active and faithful member of the Broadway Heights Baptist Church, she enjoyed the outdoors, camping, gardening, working in her flowers, cooking, and her little four-legged friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, two sons, Gary Coleman and wife, Gayla, Ricky Coleman and her twin sister, Oleta Bray and twin sisters, Lorena Taylor, and Loretta Kauk.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Tammy Robinson and husband Darryl, Lawton, OK, John Coleman and wife, Shandi, Clinton, OK, Ricky Coleman and wife Misty, Fredrick, OK, Billy Coleman and wife, Natalie Coleman, Sherman, TX, Aron Coleman and wife Amber Coleman, Fredrick, OK, Shonna Hayes, Fredrick, OK.

She is also survived by 17 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

She is also survived by special friend Joyce Kelher, Bartlesville, OK and several nieces and nephews.

**Kent Thompson**

David Kent Thompson, 63, was born on September 6, 1960 in Clinton, Oklahoma and passed away unexpectedly on April 15, 2024 in Marietta, Georgia. Kent, as he was affectionately known, was a beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, uncle and friend to many. He leaves a legacy of service and unwavering dedication.



Kent graduated from Papillion-LaVista High School in 1978 and later studied Business at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln and OU. Kent’s curiosity and thirst for knowledge were lifelong pursuits.

His fascination with skies ignited during his college years when he dreamed of becoming a pilot. Though life led him down a different path his love for aviation never waned. After attending a travel academy in Texas, Kent found his calling in the airline industry. From his early days as a gate agent at Atlanta Southeast Airlines to his later years as a flight attendant with Delta Airlines, Kent’s career spanned over 30+ years until his early retirement in 2020. Among Kent’s most cherished memories was his service during the Desert Storm conflict, where he volunteered for flights transporting troops. His unwavering commitment to serving others defined him, leaving a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Outside of his professional life, Kent found joy in the simple pleasures – he had a love for reading, music, sports and spending time with family and friends. He was an extremely devoted fan of Bruce Springsteen and cheered passionately for his beloved sports teams, including the Kansas City Chiefs, Oklahoma Sooners, Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Mavericks, Dallas Stars and the Texas Rangers. His passion for these pursuits reflected his vibrant spirit and zest for life.

But above all, Kent was a pillar of strength and love for his family. He selflessly cared for those around him, offering support and guidance whenever needed. His kindness and generosity touched the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew and loved him.

Preceded in death by his parents Kathryn (Merrill) Thompson and Ray Thompson. Grandparents Ted and Eva Thompson, Linden and Frances Merrill. Great-Grandparents – Thompsons, Robertsons, Merrills, Clarks and his Aunt Sallie Thompson.

Survived by his sisters, Shari Klingensmith and husband James, Lori Lax, Kelly Bleigh and husband Richard. Nieces and nephews, Michael Stuart and wife Leonor, Amanda Patke and husband Philip, Lindsey Townsend and husband Clay, Kyle Bleigh. Great-nieces, Olivia Stuart, Addison Townsend and Emily Townsend. Aunts and Uncles, Don Thompson, Melvin and Kathy, Merrill and Perry and Margaret Merrill. Cousins, Debbie Winegar, Carla Thompson, Gayla Cox, Angela Kaplan and numerous cherished friends.

The family has suggested those wanting to honor Kent’s memory may make a charitable donation to any of the following charities. - National Diabetes Foundation, National Kidney Foundation, or the American Heart Association.

**Norma Jean Moore**

Marian Norma Jean (Scudder) Moore was born July 17, 1929, north of Carnegie, OK to Marian Clinton Scudder and Marie Caroline (Trusty) Scudder and passed away Sunday, April 21, 2024 in the River Valley Nursing Home in Clinton, OK.



She became known as Norma Jean, a name her brother gave her. The depression hit in the early 30’s and the family moved to Green Forest, AR, where her father preached at a Presbyterian Church. The family moved back to Oklahoma in time for her to start school at Silver Moon. She started school in Cowden, OK, which was a country school and attended other schools in between. There was a shortage of teachers, so she taught her Senior year and graduated from Cowden School in 1947

After high school, she went to harvest and drove a tractor for her brother. She soon began a career with Southwestern Bell Telephone (SWB) Company in December of 1948. She married Cecil Moore on December 4, 1948, and they made their home in Clinton. She continued to work for SWB Telephone in Cordell for the next five years then transferred to Clinton and retired in Norman, OK in 1982.

She was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church where she served as Elder for 18 years.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, an infant daughter, and siblings Norris Scudder, Nova Dell Barton, and Mona Scudder

She is survived by two sons, Tim Moore and wife, Shirley, of Arkansas, Scott Moore and wife, Carla, Clinton, OK and daughter, Melodie Fawver and husband, David, Arapaho, OK, brother, Norlan Scudder, of Oklahoma; four grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

**Vonnie Schmidt**

Vonnie Kay (Coy) Schmidt passed into the presence of her Savior on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the age of 66 years, 8 months and 13 days. She was in her home surrounded by her husband and children, whom she dearly loved. In life, she always had a smile on her face and a joy that overflowed from deep within her spirit, in spite of the physical hardships she endured.



Vonnie was born on August 5, 1957, in Columbia, South Carolina, to Ralph and Carolyn (Mueller) Coy. She had one older brother, Chad, and one younger sister, Vilene. Due to being a pastor’s daughter, the family lived in several different cities, eventually settling in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where she spent the majority of her childhood. During her freshman and sophomore years in high school, her family moved to Weatherford, Oklahoma, where she met the love of her life, Rick Schmidt. However, their relationship did not begin until she moved back to Bartlesville and was in her senior year of high school. They were married on December 20, 1975, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Following their wedding, they made their home in Weatherford, Oklahoma. She attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University and earned her Associate Degree in Secretarial Science. After graduation, she took a job as the political science department secretary at SWOSU. On October 22, 1979, they were blessed to welcome their first child, Mindy Jae. After the birth of Mindy, she left her job and made the decision to be a homemaker. About 2 years later, they welcomed their second child, Brennan Reid, on February 1, 1982.

She trusted Christ as her personal Savior at a very early age and followed in obedience with baptism a few years later. Her commitment and relationship with her Savior, Jesus, guided her life and ministry to her family and others. Vonnie was always very involved in her church’s children’s ministry and also had a desire to mentor young ladies and couples. She looked forward to her weekly Bible study with her sister, cousins, and close friends. She was very involved at Pine Acres Church, both attending and serving.

If one had the privilege of knowing Vonnie, they would immediately see the deep abiding joy radiating from her ever-present smile. She was diagnosed with a rare liver disease in her thirties and with multiple sclerosis in her forties. Despite those difficult diagnoses, she never complained, remained joyful, and always pointed others to Jesus. She also had a servant’s heart and always deflected attention from herself to others.

As grandchildren came along, they became one of her deepest joys. She was blessed with five of them: Braylie Elizabeth, Peyton Reid, Carter Blake, Addalie Jae, and Langley Grace. Despite her physical limitations, she made a baby quilt for each one, had many tea parties, attended as many extracurricular activities as her health allowed, and loved on them every chance she had.

Vonnie is survived by her husband, Rick Schmidt, of the home; daughter, Mindy (Schmidt) Evetts and husband Brandon of Cordell, Oklahoma; son, Brennan Schmidt and wife Carrie of Weatherford, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Braylie and Peyton Schmidt, Carter, Addalie, and Langley Evetts. One sister, Vilene (Coy) Horton and husband Craig of Largo, Florida; father-in-law, Wes and Frances Schmidt of Weatherford, Oklahoma; brother-in-law, Bob Schmidt and wife Terri of Germantown, Maryland; sister-in-law, Cindy (Schmidt) West and husband Darrell of Sand Springs, Oklahoma; in addition to many cousins, nephews, and nieces.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Ralph E. Coy and Carolyn Coy; brother, Chad Coy; and brother-in-law, Troy Schmidt

**Mark Ronan**

Mark Alan Ronan was born September 24, 1956, to Gene and Donna (Sullivan) Ronan in Richmond, VA and passed away Sunday, April 21, 2024, in the River Valley Nursing Home in Clinton, OK.



Mark was raised in Clinton, OK where he attended Clinton Schools, graduating in 1974. He worked for Morrison Tire Company, David Howe Chevrolet and he did mechanic work with his father.

He enjoyed working on cars and in his younger years he enjoyed fishing.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Juli Ronan, and his parents.

He is survived by two brothers: Gary Ronan and wife Glenda of Weatherford; and Scott Ronan of Clinton; daughters: Jessie Ronan of Indiana, and Mikka Simon and husband Gilbert of Arapaho; and two sons: Josh Ronan and wife Lacey of Clinton; and Jared Ronan and wife Lori of Shawnee, OK. He is also survived by six grandchildren.

<b>PM Storms</b>  H: 84° L: 65° <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Stormy</b>  H: 77° L: 53° <b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mostly Sunny</b>  H: 72° L: 56° <b>Friday</b>	<b>Stormy</b>  H: 75° L: 59° <b>Saturday</b>	<b>Stormy</b>  H: 76° L: 62° <b>Sunday</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>  H: 84° L: 66° <b>Monday</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>  H: 88° L: 67° <b>Tuesday</b>
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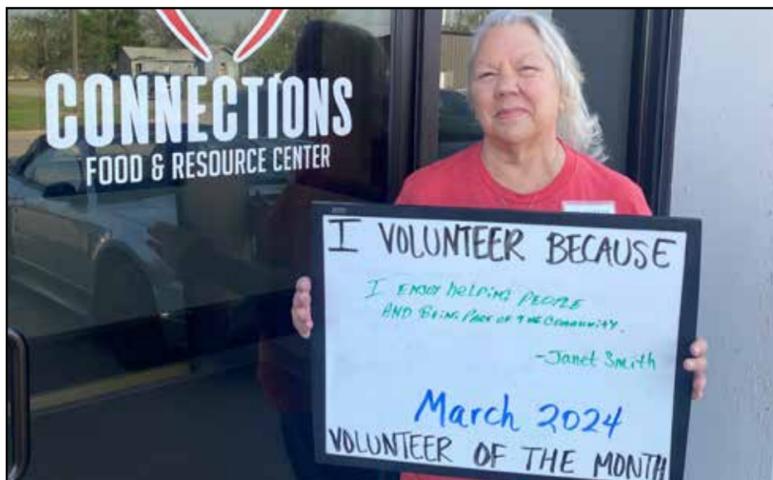
SCAN ME

## Connections Names “Volunteers of the Month” for February & March



Crystal Hamons / Volunteer Coordinator

Vicki Perkins was the volunteer of the month for Connections Food & Resource Center for February. Vicki volunteers because she loves to be around people.



Crystal Hamons / Volunteer Coordinator

Janet Smith was the volunteer of the month for Connections Food & Resource Center in March. Janet volunteers because she enjoys helping people and being a part of the community.

## RFBO: Nation’s Largest Single-Day Food Drive Collecting Food May 11



On Saturday, May 11, letter carriers across central and western Oklahoma will collect nonperishable food donations from homes on their routes as part of the National Association of Letter Carriers’ Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Oklahomans will receive a plastic donation bag in their mailbox the week of May 6. Residents are encouraged to fill the bag, or any plastic bag, with nonperishable food and leave it by their mailbox before their letter carrier arrives on Saturday, May 11. Donations will stay local and benefit Regional Food Bank partners in more than 200 communities across central and western Oklahoma.

“This food drive is crucial to our vision of an Oklahoma where no one goes hungry,” said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank. “The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is a labor of love. We are so grateful for our partners at the National Association of Letter Carriers, whose passion and hard work physically brings in thousands of pounds of food donations each year.”

Since 1992, the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has collected more than 13 million pounds of food and raised \$10,198,979 dollars to fight hunger in central and western Oklahoma.

All nonperishable items are welcomed. Recommended items include peanut butter, canned tuna and chicken, canned fruits, pasta and canned sauce, soup and stew. Healthy food options are also needed, such as wholegrain and low-sodium items.

### The “Stamp Out Hunger” Sponsors List:

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OG&E Energy Corp. joins Stamp Out Hunger as the presenting sponsor for 2024. OG&E employees will also volunteer at a metro post office to sort donations on the day of the food drive. Financial donations are also accepted. Text “Food” to 501-501 to make a \$10 donation. Every \$1 donated helps to provide three meals to Oklahomans living with hunger.

Visit the official Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma website at [rfbo.org/stamp-out-hunger](http://rfbo.org/stamp-out-hunger) for questions and more information about the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

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# HIGHER GROUND

## Teach Us How to Love

I have often mentioned the prayers of the Apostle Paul and their influence on my prayer life. One of the shorter prayers of this great apostle is found in Philippians 1:9-11. “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” Paul has much to say about the love of God in his prayer in Ephesians 3 and in Romans 8. We, as believers are to be the conduits of God’s love. The love of God has been poured into

our heart by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Roms.5:5). So, when we cannot find it within our hearts to express our love to or for someone, we can pray, asking God to love that person through us. The request I most often make in prayer is, “God show me how to love, or give me the capacity to love more deeply.”

If you love a person you want to know more about that person. This will lead to knowledge and understanding. A friend from another part of the nation, mentioned that she did not understand how people could go to church three times a week. I wish I had thought of it at the time, but later I wished I had replied, “Maybe it’s because they love God and want to be together with others who love Him.”

In commenting on this passage, Barclay said, “If we really love Jesus, we will be sensitive to his will and his desires; the more we love him; the more we will be sensitive to his will and his desires; the more we love him the more we will instinctively shrink from what is evil and desire what is right...real love is not blind; it will enable us to see the difference between the false and the true.” So, Paul is asking God to replenish and make their love to grow and overflow.

In our world of half-truths and misguided information, we desperately need a sensitive spirit that will help us discern that which is real truth. Paul’s desire for the church in Philippi was that they so live and love before their fellow man that they would not cause them to stumble—not just for a short time but persevering in that lifestyle until Christ returned. In so doing they would produce fruit of righteousness and bring praise and glory to Christ.

In our age of rage, disrespect, and malicious speech may we as believers reflect the character of Christ and learn to seek to live a life of love that can only come from the one who first loved us and showed us how to love.

“Holy Father, pour your love into our hearts and teach us how to love our fellow man. So often we allow the culture around us to mold us into a false image of what it means to follow you. Give discernment and sensitivity to see through false teaching. Break down every barrier, cast out every woe that would cause us or others to stumble. In Jesus name, Amen.”

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## Clinton's "Friends on Frisco" Lineup for 2024



Friends on Frisco is back in Clinton and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce has a wonderful line-up of events scheduled for the spring, summer, and fall that will be a hit for anyone and everyone around Western Oklahoma.

This month, Friends on Frisco will celebrate our great homeland with "America with Friends on Frisco: Americana." The event will take place on Thursday, May 9th, from 6 pm to 9 pm with the downtown portion of Frisco Ave being shut down for the block party.

"What's fun about closing off the street is that there's a lot of freedom there to do things. You know, if kids want to bring a bike or a skateboard or whatever, the street is completely clear," said Julie Caldwell, President of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Fort Sill's 77th Army Band will perform American classics in Englemann Park for the block party. There will be late-night shopping, with stores along Frisco Avenue staying open later than usual for attendees. Stores along Frisco Avenue will also have games, activities, and snacks.

Food trucks will sell burgers, ice cream, and other treats. Vendors from the farmer's market will also be present.

"It's a lot of fun, of course, with the live music and all the things happening, but also our stores are open later, so, especially if you're from out of town, you might get to go into a store that's not open when you make it to Clinton, normally," added Caldwell.

While May's theme will be Americana, The Clinton Chamber of Commerce has five other Friends On Frisco events planned through October.

On June 13th, the theme will be "Get Your Kicks on Clinton 66" in honor of Clinton's place on Route 66.

On July 11th, the theme will be "Hometown Heroes," celebrating first responders. On August 8th, the theme will be "Back-to-School Bash."

On September 12th, the theme will be "Cultures in Motion," with Intertribal and Hispanic dancers performing along Frisco Ave.

Finally, in October, they will host an "Oktoberfest" style celebration along Frisco Ave.

For more information about the Clinton Chamber of Commerce or Friends on Frisco, you can visit their website at clintonok.org, or you can find them on Facebook.

**BFDC / NEW SUPERINTENDENT** - The Burns Flat-Dill City School District will have a new superintendent beginning July 1st. Current Superintendent Larry Johnson says the board has selected Jamie Matuszewski to lead the district beginning July 1st. Johnson says he plans to retire effective June 30 and will relocate to Okarche.

**SAYRE / NEW SUPERINTENDENT** - The Site Director of Western Technology Center in Sayre will become the next superintendent of Sayre Public Schools. Dee Wilhelm was recently approved for the position by the Sayre School Board of Education. Wilhelm succeeds Danny Crabb, who is resigning at the end of the current school year.

**BLAINE CO / BIA** - Some new faces are now cross-commissioned with the Blaine County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Travis Daughtery says Bureau of Indian Affairs officers are now a partner of the Blaine County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Daughtery says this agreement is a giant step toward working with the Cheyenne and Arapaho nation.

**WASHITA / FIRE TRUCK GRANT** - A new brush pumper will soon be in service for the Cloud Chief Fire Department in Washita County. Chief Nacona Cook says the department received a reap grant through the Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA) to obtain the truck.

**ELK CITY / AIRPORT TERMINAL** - Groundbreaking on a new terminal at the Elk City Airport was recently held. According to Elk City Mayor Corey Spieker, the total cost of the project is expected to be roughly \$2.15 million.

**SWOSU / ROVER DOGS** - The Southwestern Oklahoma State University "Rover Dawgs" recently participated in NASA's 2024 Human Exploration Rover Challenge, hosted on April 19 & 20 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL. SWOSU placed 4th among all U.S. teams and 11th internationally in the competition.

**WATONGA / TRAIL RIDE** - The Roman Nose Hills Trail Ride scheduled for April 27 north of Watonga was canceled due to weather concerns. There will be a Fall Edition later this year on the weekend of September 27th, 28th, and 29th.

**CUSTER CO / BRIDGES** - District 3 in Custer County is completing two county-built bridge infrastructure projects soon. Custer County District 3 Commissioner Lyle Miller says that bridge infrastructure in the county has improved greatly, and mentions that District 3 has been concentrating money on bridges. Commissioner Miller says that two more additional bridges are set to go out to bid soon.

**CUSTER CO / JACKSON** - A Clinton man is charged in Custer County District Court with robbery with a weapon at the Quick Shop at 600 South 10th Street. 41-year-old Jason Lemuel Jackson allegedly used a weapon in the April 7th armed robbery. Police say that Jackson was behind on his payment at Days Inn and paid for his room in cash on the afternoon of April 7th.

**CLINTON / ARPA FUNDS** - Clinton City Council recently approved a resolution regarding the city's acceptance of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) recovery funds of just under \$1.6 million. Treasurer Debra Blanchard says the funds will be used as part of the 10% payment of the Exit 65 project of the I-40 Business Loop. The city will receive the funds in three separate payments.

**SWOSU / RETIREMENT** - The Department of Chemistry & Physics recently hosted a retirement party at the east ballroom in the Memorial Student Union. The retirees are two long-term chemistry faculty, Dr. Sylvia Esjornson and Dr. William Kelly, who will retire after the Spring 2024 semester.

**WEATHERFORD / ROTARY** - Captain Todd Doyals of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation was the most recent guest speaker for Weatherford's Rotary Club. According to Doyals OSBI has beefed up its internet crimes against children unit and investigated some 10,000 cyber tips last year; with some roughly 3,000 cyber tips investigated so far this year.

**WEATHERFORD / SPACE CITY** - The State Legislature has approved several pieces of legislation recently surrounding the city of Weatherford. Senator Darcy Jech says one of those includes naming the city of Weatherford the Space City of Oklahoma.

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**Happy Birthday Wishes for May 1** - Joseph Barnhill, Izzy Carpenter, Michael Chain, Jake Dewees, Sumer Friesen, Eric Nelson, Lacie Tompkins, Sheri Waldrop, Ashley Weaver; **May 2** - Jason Ewing, Leo Goeringer, Garrison Green, Kenda Green; **May 3** - Megan Biswell, John Lee, Peggy Engelbrecht, Frankie Jameson, Chelsie Mavity, Jamie Nelson, Kim O'Daniel, Jerri Winn. **May 4** - C.R. Christensen, Adrienne Kern, Tasha Marsha, Austin McCullough, Jenny Morley, Preslee O'Connor, Kevin Permenter, Layken Reyes, Peggy Wehba, Ed Weichel; **May 5** - Larissa Adams, Shonda Burton, Kayla Christensen, Jack Crawford, Jesse Fleming, Brandon Grove, Bodhi Hines, Kinzie Kardokus, Kalie Kerth, Alasha Lehman, Jacob Pankratz, Sue Patterson, Ronald Pebley, Nelson Perkins, Whitney Roper, Andrea Stobbe, Sonora White; **May 6** - Samantha Altland, Preston Bragg, Kyla Brooks, Jill Coykendall, Christine Hart, Jim Johnson, Jeanne McRay, McKayla Mercer, Scott Miller, James D. Moore, Jeff Nickel, Emily Steffes, William Steffes, Esther Taylor, Daron Worrell; **May 7** - Ruth Bearshield, Brett Bonham, Tory Haynes, Sherry Manke, Virginia McCarthy, KayLynn Music.

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**Delta Truck Box** - Brand new, full size, white, one top opener. \$800 OBO. 580-330-1437

**Military Jeep Hood.** Roughly 30"x30." \$250 580-330-1437.

**2014 Ford Focus** - \$6,500. 580-330-3489.

**2001 Honda 600CC** - Navy Blue. 16k miles, \$2,000. 405-892-8301

**2003 Chevy Trailblazer** - good tires. \$5,750. 580-330-3489

**4-Michelin used passenger tires** - 20 inch. 580-393-1444.

**Motorized Mountain Bike** - Comes with detachable 1-wheel trailer. Lots of extras. Low miles. \$600. 580-890-9442.

**2020 Flagstaff** - Super Light. 5th Wheel Camper. One Owner. Always Shedded. Lightly Used. Two Slide-outs. 32ft. \$32,000. 405-777-3023.

**2009 Mercury Grand Marquis LS** - \$3,750 OBO. 580-330-3489.

## FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

**Riverside Roll Top Oak Desk** - Beautiful 1980's model. \$300. 580-772-7357.

**Thomasville Dining Set** - Has 6 chairs (2 with arm rests). Table comes with heat-insulating cover. Dark cherry color theme. Like new. \$1,500. 580-890-0004.

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**Widescreen TV** - 93" Mitsubishi. Purchased locally, \$499 (Special Price). 580-772-7997.

**Mirrors!** Large, framed: \$50; Full length: \$10. 580-613-0108

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**Swivel Bar Stools** - Black, \$100. 580-890-0004.

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**Chairs for Sale!** Swivel (\$20), Rocking (\$65) and Adirondack Patio Chairs (\$65). Contact 580-613-0108.

**FOR SALE** - Young Children's Wood Rocking Horse. Like new. \$45. 580-613-0108.

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**97" Projection Television** - \$750. Call 580-772-7997

**Large Copper Skillet** - \$45. 580-613-0108

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**Pulaski Accent Chest** - four drawers. Brown reddish. \$450. 580-890-0004

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**Lincoln Stick Welder** - Comes with leads. \$300. 580-660-5978.

**Troybilt Garden Tiller** - 7HP motor, like new. \$600. Contact 580-729-0001.

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**For Sale** - Hoe, sprayer, ladders, post hole diggers, golf cart, kerosene stove and tanks, heaters, 245/60R18 tires, folding chairs, hand tools, work bench, lawn mower. 405-246-8952.

## ANIMALS AND PETS

**Puppies!** Born March 2024. Anatolian/Pyrenees/Houndogs. Females for \$45, Males for \$60. 580-613-0108.

**Great Pyrenees** - Free to a good home. Would make good farm dogs. 580-330-8658.

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## MISC.

**Doors!** Metal Door (83' x 27"). Solid Core Door (79' x 35"). Call 580-772-7997.

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**Assorted Materials** - Aluminum, Iron, 2x4s, Plywood, Plastic Palettes. 580-890-0053 for pricing

**Return of the Jedi Lunchbox** \$80.00 OBO. 580-330-1437.

**High Quality Bulls** - Horned or pulled bulls for sale. Cross-breeding steeds can be a lucrative business! 580-661-1146.

**Organic Farm Eggs** - \$5 per dozen. 580-613-0108.

**Ceiling Tiles** - 209 sq ft. \$60. Call 580-799-7834.

**Ladies Gold Rolex Watch** - Purchased Locally. Asking for \$8,995. 580-772-7997.

**Garage Sale!** Saturday, May 4, 7-noon. 1808 Pamela Lane, W'ford. Antiques, clothes, household items, kitchen items, teacher items, etc.

**Oilfield Drillbit** - 3 head and HEAVY. \$300. Call 580-330-1437

**5-Car Electric Train Set** - In up-and-running condition. \$30. 580-890-9442.

**Exercise Bike** - \$20. Contact 580-890-9442.

**FOR TRADE** - Will Trade Shotgun for Handgun. Call 405-426-0461.

**Empire Strikes Back Lunchbox and Thermos** - \$85.00 OBO. 580-330-1437.

**Unicycle** - Needs new inner-tube. \$50. 580-772-5100.

**Fresh Peanuts** - Located in Carnegie. www.gooberhouse.com. 580-654-1175.

**New Men's Shirts** - Large, long sleeved. Expensive Brands. No Iron. 580-772-2300.

**Large Gas Barbequer** - \$50. Call or text 580-890-0053.

**Assorted Doors & Full Size Hutch** - 580-890-0053.

**Size 33 Record Albums** - \$3 per choice or take all for \$1 each. Call 580-890-9442.

**Old Road Maps** - Pristine condition. Properly stored. Call 580-393-1444.

**Steel Office Desk** - \$20. Contact 580-890-9442.

**Turkey Eggs For Sale** - Call 580-225-6559

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Grocery		Produce	
Food Club Round Top White Bread	\$1.28	Large Avacados	2 for \$3.00
Food Club Soft Drinks 12 pack Cans	3 for \$12.00	Select Cucumbers	2 for \$1.00
Food Club Squeeze Catsup 38 oz.	2 for \$4.00	Texas 1015 Sweet Yellow Onions	.99 Lb
Best Maid Hamburger Sliced Dills 32 Oz.	2 for \$6.00	Golden Pineapple	\$2.99 each
Food Club Squeeze Mustard 14 Oz.	\$0.79	Hothouse Red, Yellow, Orange Bell Peppers	2 for \$3.00
Wide Awake Coffee Cups 10 Ct All Varieties	\$3.99	Iceburg Lettuce	\$1.00 Head
Food Club Tomatoes Asst. Varieties 14.5 Oz.	\$0.77	Juici Apples	.99 Lb
Food Club Macaroni and Cheese Dinners 7.25 Oz.	3 for .99	<b>Dairy</b>	
Shawnee Cornbread Mix All Varieties 6.5 Oz.	3 for \$2.00	Red Diamond Tea Gallons	2 for \$5.00
Kelloggs Pop Tarts 13.5 Oz. All Varieties	2 for \$5.00	Yoplait Yogurt 4-6 Oz. All Varieties	3 for \$2.00
Food Club Insant Rice 14 Oz. White	2 for \$3.00	Food Club Orange Juice 52 Oz.	\$2.99
Old EIPaso Enchilada Sauce or Taco Shells	2 for \$4.00	Country Crock Spread 15 Oz. All Varieties	\$3.88
Malt O Meal Bagged Cereals All Varieties	2 for \$8.00	Food Club Butter 16 Oz. All Varieties	2 for \$6.00
Campbells Chicken and Rice Soup Family Size	2 for \$5.00	Rana Ravioli Or Tortellini All Varieties	2 for \$8.00
Jollytime Microwave Popcorn 3 Ct.	2 for \$6.00	Food Club Heavy Whipping Cream 32 Oz.	\$5.99
Food Club Oats 18 Oz. All Varieties	2 for \$5.00	<b>Dry Grocery</b>	
Maruchan Ramen 6 Pack All Varieties	2 for \$4.00	Downy Fabric Softner 44 Oz.	\$3.99
Food Club Tomato Sauce 8 Oz. All Varieties	2 for \$1.00	Glad Tall Kitchen Bags 40-45 Ct.	\$9.98
Lucky Leaf Pie Fillings All Varieties	2 for \$6.00	Sprayway Glass Cleaner 19 Oz.	2 for \$5.00
<b>Meat</b>		<b>Frozen</b>	
Richards Andouille Sausage	\$4.99 Lb	Hot Pockets 8.5 Oz.-9 Oz. All Varieties	2 for \$6.00
Opas Smoked Sausage All Varieties 16 Oz.	\$6.79	Food Club Jumbo Butterfly Shrimp 9 Oz.	2 for \$7.00
Boneless Ribeye Steak	\$17.99 Lb.	Blue Ribbon Ice Cream 48 Oz.	\$2.88
Boneless Pork Loin Roast	\$2.89 Lb	Blue Bunny Mini Swirls	\$4.88
Baby Back Ribs	\$3.39 Lb		
Pilgrims Pride Drumsticks or Thighs	\$1.79 Lb		
Trimmed Beef Brisket	\$5.99 Lb		

# Final Bulldogs of the Week Recipients Named for 2023-24 School Year

**Grant Kopycinski** Sports Information Graduate Asst. SWOSU women's rodeo team and SWOSU golfer Sutton McMillan are the final Bulldogs of the Week for the 2023-24 athletic year. The weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media, the home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

The SWOSU women's rodeo team has compiled quite a year of accomplishments. They have now claimed five team titles after winning the Panhandle State rodeo to conclude the regular season circuit. The win solidified their Central Plains Region Championship, automatically qualifying them for the College National Finals Rodeo in June.

McMillan (Choctaw, Okla.) placed at the top of the SWOSU leaderboards at the 2024 Great American Conference Championships last week. He notched a top five finish for the Bulldogs, finishing the tournament at T4. He used a score of 70 in his final round to climb into the top five and grab his best finish at a tournament on the year.



## Beverly Shelden Volunteers as Voice for Residents at Corn Heritage



Cherrie Nutley, LTC Ombudsman supervisor, is proud to work with long-time Ombudsman Volunteer Beverly Shelden. Beverly serves as a volunteer at

Corn Heritage Village of Weatherford and has for almost nine years. Residents and staff look forward to Beverly's weekly visits and know if they have

concerns, she will help them work towards a solution.

Beverly has worked with her leadership group of 4-H kids to involve them in volunteer work by setting up a 4-H student and resident pen pal program at Corn. She is a tireless advocate for these residents and a friend.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) could not be its best without the volunteers who help carry out the mission of advocating for long-term care residents.

This year, National Volunteer Week is held April 21-27, and it is an opportunity to recognize the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. The theme for National Volunteer Week is Celebrate Service – an opportunity to shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve.

If you would like more information on the LTC Ombudsman Program or volunteering as an ombudsman, contact Cherrie Nutley, LTC Ombudsman supervisor for southwest Oklahoma out of SWODA. Email her at [cherrie@swoda.org](mailto:cherrie@swoda.org) or call her at 580-562-5032.

## Putting Oklahoma's 2024 Democratic Presidential Primary in Perspective

**Oklahoma Presidential Preferential Primary Election History 1988-2024**

**Column Abbreviation Guide**  
 Total RV = Total number of all registered voters  
 Dem/Rep RV = total number of Democratic or Republican registered voters  
 D/R % RV = Democratic or Republican percentage of registered voters  
 Votes Cast = raw number of votes cast in the Presidential Preferential Primary election for each party  
 D/R % Turnout = percentage of registered Democrats or Republicans that voted in the Presidential Preferential Primary  
 \* signifies incumbent president running for re-election

Election	Democratic Party			Win %	Republican Party			Win %
	Votes Cast	Turnout	Winner		Votes Cast	Turnout	Winner	
3/08/1988	392,727	29.0%	Al Gore	41.4%	208,938	33.9%	George H.W. Bush	37.4%
3/10/1992	416,129	31.1%	Bill Clinton	70.5%	217,721	31.6%	George H.W. Bush *	69.6%
3/12/1996	366,604	33.0%	Bill Clinton *	76.2%	264,542	42.4%	Bob Dole	59.3%
3/14/2000	134,850	11.3%	Al Gore	68.7%	124,809	17.0%	George W. Bush	79.2%
2/03/2004	302,385	29.6%	Wesley Clark	29.9%	66,198	17.0%	George W. Bush *	90.0%
2/05/2008	417,207	41.2%	Hillary Clinton	54.8%	335,054	42.4%	John McCain	36.6%
3/06/2012	112,771	12.0%	Barack Obama *	57.1%	286,523	34.6%	Rick Santorum	33.8%
3/01/2016	335,843	40.4%	Bernie Sanders	51.9%	459,922	52.3%	Ted Cruz	34.4%
3/03/2020	304,281	41.2%	Joe Biden	38.7%	295,601	29.3%	Donald Trump *	92.6%
3/05/2024	91,632	14.1%	Joe Biden *	72.3%	311,460	26.0%	Donald Trump	81.8%

All election and voter registration information obtained from the Oklahoma State Election Board



**Jeff Berrong** Berrong Insurance Producer After reading a few news articles and hearing some discussion and handwringing about the lower voter turnout in the Democratic Party's Presidential Preferential Primary in Oklahoma on March 5th, I wanted to provide some comprehensive answers for those with questions and place this election in proper historical context.

There are two main reasons for the lower turnout in this year's Democratic presidential primary. The accompanying spreadsheet provides the election information and voter registration history from the Oklahoma State Election Board that supports this analysis.

The first thing to remember is that voter turnout will always be low if there is not an operational campaign that activates lower-propensity voters. This holds true regardless of party or election.

Not having a competitive election generally means not having an active campaign to engage voters. This is typically the case in party primaries for an incumbent president seeking re-election and was true for President Biden in 2024.

Active campaigns in noncompetitive presidential primaries only take place in general election battleground states where the presidential campaign is investing resources and hiring staff to lay the groundwork for November.

Seeing as how a Democrat has only won Oklahoma's electoral votes once in the last 72 years, President Johnson in 1964, we are most definitely not a battleground state for either political party at the presidential level. This means national campaign resources only briefly flow our way if there is a competitive primary, such as in 2004, 2008, 2016, and 2020.

To put things in perspective, even though the Democratic electorate's 14.1% voter turnout was certainly low for President Biden's re-election primary in 2024, it was actually better than the 12% of registered party voters that came out to vote when President Obama was on the primary ballot for re-election in 2012 or the 9.2% of registered Republican voters who showed up for President George W. Bush's re-election primary in 2004.

The long-term trend of shrinking Democratic voter

registration in Oklahoma is the second reason for the lower raw vote count. In 1988, the first election after

Oklahoma switched from a caucus system to a presidential primary, nearly 67% of voters in Oklahoma were registered as Democrats and only 30% were registered as Republicans.

Fast forward 36 years later to 2024 and only 28% of voters are registered Democrats with nearly 52% now Republicans. This means that in Oklahoma's closed primary system, even though the Oklahoma Democratic Party allows Independents to vote in their primaries, the number of active Democratic voters is dramatically lower than the number of voters who can participate in the Republican primary.

The reasons for this partisan realignment are beyond the scope of this article but are explored in detail in my 2003 OU honors thesis, "The Rise of the Republican Party: Conservative Politics and the Christian Right in the Sooner State."

A unique product of Oklahoma's political history is the number of predominantly older, conservative rural voters who originally registered as Democrats back in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. The political reality of the closed primary system and the overwhelming Democratic registration advantage of that era made it pointless for them to register as Republicans if they wanted to participate in elections that were decided in the partisan primary. These voters were essentially "Democrats in Name Only," or DINO, as we'll call them.

In primary elections for federal office, depending upon the candidate mix, DINO voters typically either supported a candidate not perceived as a "national" Democrat or instead purposely voted for the least electable Democrat for the general election before deserting the ticket to vote for the Republican nominee in November.

Over the decades this effect has become less pronounced as a result of both the actuarial tables and a great many of these DINO voters re-registering as Republicans starting in the 1990s when GOP candidates became more reliably competitive in state and county races.

At the presidential primary level, this rural, conservative

DINO phenomenon has still manifested itself in several ways over the last 20 years. In 2004, former general Wesley Clark scored his only primary victory in Oklahoma after being perceived as the least "national" Democrat. In 2016, Bernie Sanders was able to combine his support from progressives with a very strong anti-Hillary Clinton rural vote to cruise to an unexpectedly large 10-point win in the Sooner State.

When President Obama ran for re-election in 2012, he did not have any credible or well-known opposition in the primaries. However, running against four unknown primary challengers in Oklahoma, he still lost 14 rural western and southeastern counties and had very narrow plurality victories in most of the non-urban counties. Buoyed by his 81% and 76% supermajority victories in Oklahoma and Tulsa counties respectively, President Obama's statewide margin of victory was an anemic 57%. That is practically unheard of for an incumbent president with no real opposition.

The vestiges of this DINO effect were still present in 2024, but much less noticeable. President Biden, running for re-election with no real primary opposition, only lost one rural county, the western-most panhandle county of Cimarron that only cast a total of 24 Democratic votes. While his margins in many rural counties were still quite depressed, they were much higher than President Obama's were in 2012 so that after factoring in the 82% and 80% supermajorities in the two most populous counties, President Biden's statewide majority was a much more respectable 73%.

Here's what all this tells us: for the foreseeable future, the number of voters participating in the Democratic presidential primary will be vastly less than those participating in the Republican primary as our state's voter registration is now mostly in sync with the partisan political realignment that has occurred over the past 40 years. Also, today's Democratic primary electorate is much more likely to stick with their party nominees in general elections. Finally, regardless of party, if people are actively campaigned to, they are much more likely to vote. I expect that competitive presidential primaries in both parties in 2028 will once again dramatically increase the turnout percentages from where they were in 2024.

# Oklahoma History: How the First Tornado was Forecasted



Courtesy Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center History Office

From left: Tinker weatherman Major Ernest J. Fawbush and Captain Robert C. Miller.



Courtesy NOAA Photo Library

March 20, 1948: Tornado aftermath at Tinker AFB (five days prior to the broadcast)



Courtesy NOAA Photo Library

March 25, 1948: Tornado damage at Tinker AFB (following the broadcast)

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

On March 25th, 1948, a violent storm set down upon Tinker Air Force Base (AFB), OK causing an estimated \$6 million in damages, and people celebrated – because history had just been made. Five days prior to the March 25th tornado, another severe weather storm swept across the base. Except, that tornado caused \$10 million in damages and some fatalities. The sheer volume of loss spurred leaders at AFB and the Air Weather Service to investigate the possibility of forecasting the likelihood of tornadoes from severe thunderstorms. The result: an unbelievably accurate forecast about the severity and time of the next tornado at AFB; which allowed the base ample time to prepare, and, ultimately, to ensure safety for personnel and minimize loss.

Before 1948, tornadoes had never been forecast and the consensus among the scientific community was that storms capable of producing tornadoes formed so quickly and with such force that it was statistically impossible to forecast in advance. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), members of a board sent to AFB to investigate the possibility of predicting tornadoes concluded that, “due to the nature of the storm it was not forecastable” and that “it was an act of God.” The board went on to urge commanders at the base to develop safety guidelines to prevent personnel and property loss.

Following the catastrophic tornado on March 20th, General Fred S. Borum assigned Major Ernest J. Fawbush and Air Force Captain Robert C. Miller to investigate the possibility of forecasting. Fawbush and Miller then spent the next three days studying upper-air charts, surface patterns and weather parameters from past tornadic outbreaks. By scrutinizing upper-air charts and patterns, Fawbush and Miller identified recurring patterns preceding tornado outbreaks. Their research illuminated similarities in weather patterns preceding these storms. By combining the data they had gathered with other expert theories on tornado causes and behaviors, Fawbush and Miller were able to identify and list weather parameters

they felt were significant in producing tornadoes if, “all were present in a geographical area at the same time,” Miller.

There was just one small problem – these storms can form almost tremendously fast. So, a forecaster would need to consider the likelihood for these parameters to either exist, or have the probability to develop, and then, within a reasonable degree, they would need to project these parameters over an area of time and space that would create a “tornado threat area”. Not to mention the fact that this prediction would need to be accurate to a reasonable degree and be given with enough lead time to allow parties in the prediction’s path to brace themselves. The size of the threat area they would need to consider would cover 20-30,000 square miles.

Needless to say, Fawbush and Miller felt a little trepidation in making a forecast of this magnitude. However, their concerns were put to the test on the morning of March 25th, 1948. They noticed strikingly similar charts between that morning and the morning of March 20th. Then, after analyzing upper-air data, they prepared an announcement that set 6 P.M. local time to be the expected detonation time for a critical storm. When they plugged in the data, they came to the conclusion that central Oklahoma would possibly be in a severe tornado threat by that afternoon.

The pair notified General Borum and warned him that the most critical time would be between 5 and 6 P.M. Borum implored the men to release a forecast for heavy thunderstorms and explained that by doing so, they would allow the base time to put in motion its new base warning system. After some reservation, the warning was issued.

The day progressed. Reports confirming the weather patterns began pouring in, and at 1:52 P.M., thunderstorms appeared in the northwest and began extending to the southwest. Around 2:30 P.M., Fawbush and Miller determined the storm would be directly over Tinker Air Force Base at 6 P.M. General Borum asked the men if they were going to issue a tornado forecast. Miller responded, “no one has ever issued an operational

tornado forecast” and pointed out that the possibility of a second tornado hitting an area within 20 years was rare, and the last one at AFB was 5 days ago. But at Borum’s insistence, Fawbush and Miller released their forecast at 2:50 P.M.

Tinker AFB began preparing their Tornado Safety Plan (hanging aircraft, tying down loose objects, diverting air traffic, and evacuating personnel to safety). Such a drastic shutdown of the base costs a substantial amount of time and money, and there was a fear that if the forecast was wrong, public trust in weather forecasting would be shattered.

By 5 P.M., the storm’s squall line went through Will Rogers Municipal Airport with a light thunderstorm and pea sized hail. A little after 6 P.M., thunder rolled in and rain began. Within minutes, radio broadcasts were cut to an urgent news bulletin that a tornado had touched down at Tinker AFB.

Debris, powerlines, poles, runways, and buildings were in shambles. Emergency crews were working overtime to clear the streets and restore the base to operational status. But there were no casualties or significant losses. Borum’s Disaster Plan worked as well as their first tornado forecast. Fawbush and Miller were heroes.

The legacy of Fawbush and Miller’s pioneering forecast extends far beyond the confines of Tinker AFB; their leap into the realm of prediction paved the way for advancements in meteorology and into the way we approach severe weather forecasting. To this day, the forecast techniques created by those two men are still in use. And the National Severe Storms Laboratory and the NOAA have been applying the knowledge they gained to improve the accuracy and lead times we enjoy around the nation. The preparation and up-to-date information we have on upcoming severe weather wouldn’t be possible without the gutsy call and inspiration of Borum and the minds of Fawbush and Miller.

A memorial to these men and to the first tornado forecast was dedicated on March 25th, 1998 at the Tinker Air Force Base.



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Cecil Gray is an independent artist and lead member of the band 'Cecil Gray Native Blues,' which recently completed their cover album "Saddle Mountain Blues."

In 2004, the band won the award for "Best Blues/Jazz Recording" at the 7th Annual Native American Music Awards (NAMA) for their CD Album "Indian Harmony."

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# SPORTS Presented by:

## Bulldawg Baseball Takes Split Versus Northwestern on Senior Day



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**Jon Chidester**  
SWOSU Media Relatio

SWOSU Baseball bounced back from a 19-15 loss in game one on Friday to earn a 7-6 win in game two over Northwestern.

11 seniors were honored prior to the day's start: Rece Parker, Marco Barrera, Caleb Clines, Joseph Frisby, Ernesto Hidrogo, Justin Breen, Logan Lagasse, Josh Fluet, Geoff Marlow, Jackson Phillips, and Grant Ewy.

With the threat of weather on Saturday, the final game of the series and regular season will commence Sunday at 1:00 pm in Weatherford. Coach Saunders, in his final game at the helm, will be recognized before the action starts.

### Game One – NWOSU 19, SWOSU 15

The Dawgs fought all the way back to tie a game they trailed all the way through in when Marco Barrera hit a three-run home run with two outs in the eighth inning. Northwestern went on to spoil the comeback with a five-run top of the ninth in response.

The teams combined for 37 hits in the game with the edge to SWOSU 19-18.

Barrera homered twice in the game for five RBI. Jackson Syring and Geoff Marlow also homered in back-to-back fashion in the third inning.

### Game Two – SWOSU 7, NWOSU 6

SWOSU hung on to win the nightcap after Jackson Phillips stranded the tying run on third and go-ahead run on first in the final inning. Phillips, a senior, concluded his career with a complete game effort in which he struck out 11 and walked two.

The bats used extra-base hits to plate runs early and sprinkled in additional runs throughout from there.

Marco Barrera homered and Geoff Marlow and Justin Breen both doubled to produce a three-run opening inning on offense.

A two-RBI single from Markus Coronado in the third allowed the home side to regain the lead 5-3.

Jackson Syring had an infield single in the fourth and came around to score thanks to some wild pitching. Breen drove in the final run thanks to a sacrifice fly in the sixth – an inning that saw the Dawgs strand the bases loaded with one out afterwards.

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## SWOSU's Softball Season Ends in Arkadelphia



**Jon Chidester**  
SWOSU Media Relatio

SWOSU Softball led Henderson State 1-0 through the first three innings until the fourth and fifth innings spoiled the chances of a series victory. The Bulldogs fell 7-1, allowing HSU to snatch the final postseason spot away from the Bulldogs in the process.

SWOSU Softball split with Henderson State on Friday, with the Dawgs beat the Reddies 4-1 in the opener before falling 9-2 in game two. The series culminated in a winner-take-all rubber match on Saturday where one of the teams will clinch the eighth and final postseason spot on the final day of the regular season.

The Dawgs used two hits in the first inning to plate the game's first run. It was a great start, but the offense managed just one hit the rest of the way.

In the circle, Courtney Hill held the Reddies scoreless through three before they finally broke through with four runs in the fourth and another three in the fifth. A three RBI double gave the Reddies the lead and an error let the fourth run cross. With the score 4-1, HSU had an inside the park home run give them another three runs an inning later.

After scoring in the first inning, SWOSU went three-up and three-down in four of the next six frames while the Reddies built their lead. Hits in the game came from Jadyn Hook and Chesnie Hewitt in the first, and Blaire Gentry in the fourth, all singles. Gentry also pitched a scoreless sixth inning in relief.

SWOSU ends the season with a four-win improvement in comparison to 2023. The Bulldogs lose five seniors from the 2024 roster.

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