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Towns in Western Oklahoma Prepare to Celebrate the Holiday Season

Cordell Chamber of Commerce

Christmas On The Square

Dec 5th
5pm to 7pm



SAYRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

HOMETOWN Christmas

DECEMBER 14



Saturday, December 14th

HYDRO'S Christmas ON MAIN STREET



Weatherford Chamber Small Business Society presents

DECEMBER TO REMEMBER



CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
ELK CITY, OK

OPENING WEEKEND
NOVEMBER 29TH - NOVEMBER 30TH

Tis the Season for Community Holiday Events!

While everybody is recovering from last week's Thanksgiving festivities, the Holiday season is only getting started around Western Oklahoma. Here's a look at some of the events taking place to celebrate the Christmas spirit.

Cordell is hosting Christmas on the Square on Thursday, December 5th from 5pm to 7pm and will feature vendors, shopping, food, contests, photos with Santa, as well as a tree lighting ceremony in front of the Washita Theatre and in Pocket Park.

Elk City will be hosting their annual Christmas In The Park event from Thanksgiving weekend all the way through Christmas from 6pm-11pm nightly. Come to Ackley Park to see the lights, get a picture with Santa, and hop on one of their themed rides like the holly jolly Trolley, the mini train, the Double Decker Bus, or the Centennial Carousel.

Hydro will be celebrating the Christmas Spirit beginning on Saturday, December 7th, with their Free Community Christmas Dinner from 5pm to 7pm. Immediately afterwards they will light their Christmas Tree on Main Street.

Hydro's Christmas Celebration continues on the morning of Saturday, December 14th with Christmas on Main Street. That event will feature festive drinks and cookies, caroling, pictures with Santa and even free rides on the Hydro Free Fair Carousel.

Sayre is set to host their Hometown Christmas event on Saturday, December 14th from 6-8pm. Sayre's Hometown Christmas will feature Carols, photos with Santa, hay rides, hot chocolate, a performance by the Pride of Sayre band, shopping, and more.

Weatherford is set to host their Miracle on Main Street Event on Saturday, December 7th. The Event will feature prize giveaways and more.

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Elizabeth Penner

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Elizabeth Ann Penner, age 42, of Clinton, Oklahoma, who departed this life on November 19, 2024, at OU Medical Center after a courageous battle with illness. Surrounded by her loving family and dear friends, Elizabeth left a profound legacy of kindness and compassion that will continue to inspire all who knew her.



Elizabeth was born on May 22, 1982, to Alonzo and Pamela (Ainsworth) Cordova in Clinton, Oklahoma.

Elizabeth married the love of her life, Steven Penner, on May 14, 2016, in Arapaho, OK. Affectionately known as “Princess” by her husband, Steve, Elizabeth filled her life with love and laughter, especially in the time spent with her cherished family.

Her selflessness shined through her many acts of kindness; whether it was offering rides to those in need or assisting Barbara in her store, she was always there to help her neighbors.

Elizabeth found joy in the simple moments, like sitting by her picture window and decorating it for the Christmas season.

She also took pleasure in watching her favorite soap opera, “Days of Our Lives,” and enjoyed the tunes of country music, with “Urban Cowboy” being one of her favorite films.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her beloved mother, Pamela Sue Ainsworth.

She leaves behind her devoted husband, Steve; her beloved daughter, Jordan Raleigh; her father, Alonzo Cordova; her brother Michael Cordova of Clinton; her sister, Nicole Gamon, and her husband, Domitilo; her in-laws, Bob and Emma Penner of Arapaho; and her cherished Aunt Tina West.

As we remember Elizabeth, let us hold her spirit close to our hearts, cherishing the love, laughter, and warmth she brought into our lives. She will be missed dearly but forever remembered for the beautiful soul she was.

Nannie Mae Russell

Nannie Mae Russell, 95, of Elk City, Oklahoma was born on November 7, 1929 in Elk City, Oklahoma. She is the daughter of Sam William and Esther Asslee (Wickard) Jay. She went to walk the golden streets of heaven on Monday, November 25, 2024 at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City, OK, surrounded by her loving family.



Nannie Mae married her best friend and soul mate, George Alvin Russell on May 26, 1947 at Wheeler, Texas.

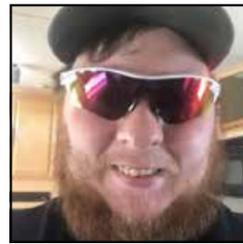
Nannie Mae enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She loved cooking and watching basketball. Nannie Mae was a member of the Prairie View Baptist Church of Elk City, OK, and enjoyed attending their services for over twenty-five years. She was also a member of the Elks Lodge, also located in Elk City, OK. Nannie Mae will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Nannie Mae is preceded in death by her husband, George Alvin Russell, on March 4, 1996; one daughter, Beverly Sue Russell; and her parents, Sam William and Esther Asslee Jay.

Cherishing her memory is her two sons; Dennis Russell and wife, Doneita of Elk City, Oklahoma, Rodney Russell of Elk City, Oklahoma; four grandchildren, Stacey Blake and husband, Ian of Bixby, Oklahoma, Jeremy Russell and wife, Priscilla of San Antonio, Texas, Kelli Jordan and husband, Kim of Elk City, Oklahoma, Brad Elder of Hinton, Oklahoma; ten great grandchildren; two great great-grandchildren; one brother, Sam Jay of Elk City, Oklahoma, one nephew, Scott Jay of Elk City, Oklahoma; one niece, Tina Mannering and husband, Mark of Thomas, Oklahoma; special friends, Ann Gibbs of Elk City, Oklahoma, and the Bell Avenue Nursing Staff; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Jack Pearce

Jack Harrison Pearce, 34, of Midland, Texas was born on July 26, 1990 in Norman, Oklahoma. He is the son of Charles Edward and Celinda Lue (Langley) Pearce. He went to walk beside his Heavenly Father on Monday, November 18, 2024 at Midland Memorial Hospital in Midland, Texas.



Jack married his best friend and soul mate, Rhonda Lee Garmon on November 12, 2009 in Kentucky. To this union two sons and one daughter was born.

Jack was employed by Vault Pressure Control as a service technician in the oilfield. He enjoyed a variety of sports including, baseball, basketball, and football. His hobbies were playing video games, golf, and basketball.

Jack was a great man, father, and husband. He loved spending time with his family and friends and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

The family would like to invite all to watch the service live on martin-duggerfuneralhome.com.

Jack is preceded in death by his mother, Celinda Lue Pearce; his paternal grandfather, James Pearce, and his maternal grandparents, Harrison and Laverne Langley.

Cherishing Jack’s memory is his loving wife, Rhonda Lee Pearce of Midland, Texas; his father, Charles Pearce of Elk City, Oklahoma; two sons, Jackson Earl Pearce and Landen James Pearce both of Midland, Texas; one daughter, Aria Grace Pearce of Midland, Texas; one brother, James Pearce of Greeley, Colorado, two sisters, Elizabeth Pearce of Horse Cave, Kentucky, Rebecca England of Horse Cave, Kentucky;

Jack is also survived by numerous other extended family members and friends.

Janet Girard

Janet J. Crownover Girard was born December 9, 1947, to Chet and Eileen Crownover of Oklahoma City. She passed away Friday, November 22, 2024, at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital in Yukon, Oklahoma.



When Janet was in the fifth grade, her family moved to Weatherford, OK to run the newly-built Mark Restaurant. As an adult, Janet knew the correct way food service should operate and had little patience for low standards or shortcuts in the industry. In 1966 Janet graduated from Weatherford High School where she excelled in both concert band as a clarinetist and a twirler in the marching band both under the direction of Robert Moses. During her college years, she did some modeling for Hutto’s Clothing and worked at Miller Drug behind the beauty counter.

After graduating in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Janet and her husband moved to Daytona Beach, Florida, where her daughter Kelly was born. In 1972, Janet and Kelly returned to Weatherford where Janet began her teaching career in Butler, OK and later in Calumet, OK where she also drove a school bus for the district.

Janet and Ernest LeRoy Girard married in October of 1984 and Janet happily became a farmer’s wife. During harvest, Janet was often seen driving a wheat truck. When Janet and LeRoy retired, they traveled the United States in a fifth-wheel - long before it was cool.

After her granddaughter Brooke was born, Janet moved to El Reno to be close to the “light of her life”. As a tribute to Janet’s sister Paulette who worked in OK Social Services, Janet became a foster mom for children who needed emergency or respite care.

Janet had many talents - with an eye for creating art, macramé pieces, and dream catchers. She won many a blue ribbon in county fairs for her elaborate pies and Native American beadwork.

An aviculturist by heart, Janet was known for her breeding of Parrots, Cockatiels, and Cockatoos as well as for their care and enrichment. She was a member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

Janet is survived by her daughter, Kelly Base, and granddaughter, Brooke Base, of Mustang, OK. She was preceded in death by her parents Chet and Eileen Crownover; LeRoy Girard, her husband; and Ruby Paulette Hargis, her sister.

Memorials may be made to Friends for Life Animal Society, 290 W Commerce, Clinton, OK 73601.

Marty Hart

Marty Jay Hart was born September 6, 1960, in Oklahoma City, to Ray LeRoy and Twila Janet (Bordwine) Hart and passed away Monday, November 25, 2024, at Integris Hospice House in Oklahoma City.



Marty was raised in Hydro and graduated from Hydro High School in 1979. Out of high school, he started working in the oil field and later became an equipment operator doing road construction.

In 1981, Marty married Melody Gregg and they made their home in Hydro. To this union they had their daughter, Mandi. In 2001, he started dating Minnie Mae (Pivniska) Luttrell, after a blind date at the Hydro Bar. Marty loved the outdoors: hunting, fishing, noodling, riding motorcycles and in his younger days, bull riding. He enjoyed playing pool and singing karaoke.

Marty was preceded in death by his father, Ray LeRoy Hart.

He is survived by his mother, Twila Hart of Hydro; his wife, Minnie Mae Luttrell of their home in El Reno; his daughter, Mandi Lathers and husband, Russ of Arkansas City, KS; two brothers, Kelvin Hart and wife, Janell of Hydro and their three sons and Monte Hart and wife, Jan of Council Hill, OK and their three children; his sister, Lanette Austin and husband, Bill of Hydro and their four children; half-sister, Judy Powell of Texas;

Marty is also survived by his three grandchildren, Dailey, Reagan, and Journey; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Hydro First Responders.

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Winners of the 2024 Turkey Shoot in Western Oklahoma Awarded



Krystal Blackwell / WW

(Pictured, from left) Jennifer Cameron, Makayla Murphy, Marilyn Prophet, and Jacob Teeter were named among the 28 winners of the radio call-in "Turkey Shoot," hosted by KWEY 95.5 The Coyote. Alongside Pepsi cases, Jennifer and Makayla were awarded a free turkey from United; Marilyn was given Clinton Chamber Bucks; and Jacob was given a Chicken Express gift card



Provided

Weatherford High School Senior Shyla Navarre celebrates her commitment to Southern Nazarene University, where she will compete as a pole vaulter for the Crimson Storm.



Jena Skarda / WOCS

Mia Cole puts on her turkey hat as Rhett Dixon adds the finishing touches to his hat. They wore them to the Thanksgiving feast at Western Oklahoma Christian School (WOCS).

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Do People Matter?



Most of us remember the story Jesus told of the Shepherd who had his 99 sheep safely in the fold, but went looking for the one that was missing. This corresponds to Peter's statement in 2 Peter 3:9, "he is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (1 Peter 3:9)

In God's eyes, people matter, every single lost sheep matters to the Father who wants his creatures brought to safety.

Have you ever driven by a lonely house in the country and wondered, "Has anyone come by that house to share the love of Jesus with them?" How long has it been since someone prayed God's blessings and strength upon them?"

Of course, I haven't stopped myself, but it doesn't stop me from wondering sometimes

It also doesn't remove the thought that people in every house are important to God. I just received an update from a Christian worker in India. Her husband and a couple of new converts had driven 10 hours to witness to and help disciple a few new believers. How do you measure the price of a human soul? I believe it was William Carey who labored 7 years in India before he won his first convert.

Just before Jesus left the earth he told his disciples that they should be his witnesses starting in their home town and on to the ends of the earth. It's quite evident that Jesus thought people were important.

Recently, it occurred to me that we spend a lot of time encouraging people to come to church but not a lot of thought is given to our going to them, where they live, on their turf, letting them know that we care. So I made a commitment that until the Lord led otherwise, I would spend an hour each Monday evening visiting some of the least visited people in our city.

Most studies show that those who live in trailers and apartments are the least likely to be personally contacted by any church. For five Monday's I have been going door-to-door meeting a lot of folks I would have never met before. It's been fun.

Out of the whole group, probably 35-40 trailers, I met only one who would not talk to me. I don't brag a lot about the church.

I just try to find out what is going on in their lives. Then I never fail to ask how I can pray for them at that moment.

I met a lady who had lost her husband a couple of years ago, and was now unemployed and raising a 12 year old by herself. I met a teen age college student who was a single parent to twin babies, with plans to begin her college career next semester.

I met a young couple with a 5 year old daughter who said, "The timing was perfect. We had just been talking about how we needed to find a church." I had the privilege of leading them to faith in Christ. People who drive over one hundred miles to get prescriptions filled at the Agape clinic matter to God.

Lonely people in nursing homes matter to God. Drivers at the Fast-lane truck stop matter to God. Inmates at the local and county jail matter to God. Jesus said, "The fields are white unto harvest but the laborers are few. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers to the harvest."

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

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

Mexican Consulate Representatives Visit SWOSU Scholarship Recipients



Courtesy of SWOSU

SWOSU's 10 IME Becas Scholarship recipients met with two Mexican Consulate representatives from Oklahoma City. Pictured, from left: Dr. Veronica Aguiñaga, Rep. Vasty Rivera, Liliana Diaz, Cristal Hernandez, Alondra Alvarado, Perrla Ramirez, Rosa Maria Alanis Soto, Uriel Luna, Karina Rodriguez, Maritza Hernandez, Lea Garcia, Kenya Chavez, Rep. Claudio Uribe.

J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU PR & Marketing

SWOSU recently hosted representatives from the Mexican Consulate in Oklahoma City to celebrate the recipients of the IME Becas Scholarships and to discuss the range of services offered by the consulate.

The visit from the Consulate of Mexico in Oklahoma

City highlighted the ongoing partnership between the university and the Consulate of Mexico, which supports students of Mexican heritage on their academic pursuits. They have awarded \$4,000 to SWOSU through the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME) Becas program.

This amount was matched by the SWOSU Foundation, effectively doubling the financial support available to students of Mexican descent. The IME Becas program, established by the Government of Mexico, is designed to expand educational opportunities for individuals of Mexican origin, helping them achieve their academic goals and progress toward graduation.

During the visit, consulate representatives met with the scholarship recipients from SWOSU to provide more information about the IME Becas program. The recipients also learned of the consulate's various services, which include legal support, community outreach, and cultural promotion. The visit offered students a valuable opportunity to learn about the resources available to them through the consulate. The 2024 IME Becas Scholarship recipients from SWOSU include Liliana Diaz, Michelle Chavez, Uriel Luna, Alondra Alvarado, Amy Morales, Britny Chavira, Cielo Barrera, Erika Chavez, Karina Rodriguez, Kenya Chavez, Cristal Hernandez, Maritza Hernandez, Nayeli Valencia, Perrla Ramirez, Rosa Maria Soto Alanis, and Valeria Garcia. The scholarships provide essential financial assistance to these students, enabling them to continue their education and work toward their aspirations.

The visit emphasized the importance of international partnerships in providing educational support and opportunities to students of Mexican heritage. SWOSU remains committed to providing resources and support to help its students succeed in their academic and professional endeavors.



Courtesy Harold Wright / WW

Sean Burrage (pictured left), the Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and Kyle Hilbert (pictured right), the Speaker-elect for the Oklahoma State House, were speakers at the Western Regional Legislative Tour, hosted by SWOSU.

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CUSTER CO / LAWTER ROAD - The construction project on Lawter Road will continue into December as District 2 County Commissioner Bruce Walker his disappointment that it wasn't able to be completed before the Thanksgiving rush of travelers, delayed by rainy weather. "The contractor wanted to start on the portion (of the road), and I asked her to wait a (bit) with Thanksgiving's short work week," said Walker. "I told them to watch for a time window when the weather was good for the next 10 days and then we'd knock (the rest of the work) out." The two-mile grade, drain, and surface project is nearing completion after crews have spent the last several months making improvements along that stretch of road.

WATONGA / RETIREMENT GRADING WorldAtlas, an online geography and travel resource, has released its eight best places to retire in Oklahoma. Watonga tops their list, saying it creates a comfortable environment for retirees. In its write up about Watonga, WorldAtlas highlights the annual Cheese Festival and Roman Nose State Park. Additionally, it notes that Watonga has a median house value of just over \$96,000, which is \$110,000 less than the state average.

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WEATHERFORD / HOSPITAL PROFIT - The Weatherford Regional Hospital has finished the first month of its new fiscal year with a profit says Chief Financial Officer Georganna Buss. "We came out kind of rocking in October and ended with a net profit of 160,323 for the month. So obviously, that's our year to date as well." The new fiscal year for the hospital begins each October.

SWOSU / FOOD DRIVE - The SWOSU Gold Army National Guard recently concluded a canned food drive for Connections Food and Resource Center in Weatherford. The members collected 618 pounds of food to help fight hunger in western Oklahoma.

WEATHERFORD / CHAMBER NOMINATIONS The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for outstanding individuals for recognition at the 2024 End-of-Year Banquet to be held February 22. Four special awards are to be presented, including the Hall of Fame, Roots & Wings, Outstanding Service, and Young Professional. Nominations must be submitted by December 27.

WEATHERFORD / AMBULANCE SERVICE The Weatherford City Commission recently approved a contract renewal with American Medical Response (AMR) ambulance service. Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown made comments about some concerns within the community regarding the approval of the renewal due to an increase in the monthly ambulance fee. "I think AMR is doing a really good job. We've got a great service. I have had people comment that we know everything's going up in price. The comments that I've had is "can we afford as good a service as what we've got?" As we move to the future, people are concerned as far as anytime we raise prices for them, they don't mind if we're paying it." The city commission approved increasing the monthly ambulance fee from \$5.75 to \$6.10 per water meter.



WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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Christian Free Store - Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875.

Alfalfa, OK, Community Center "Bible Study," Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public.

OK Parkinson's Alliance, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford's Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. Questions? Contact OK Parkinson's Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@OKpa.org.

Iron Sharpens Iron is a Christ-centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for Dec. 4 - Fred Atha, Kristen Bailey, Elizabeth Byrd, Beverly Leonard, Richard Miller, Aubrey Robers, Avery Spottedcorn; **Dec. 5** - Robin Cates, Retha Flue, Donna Gates, Scott Haven, Heather Hock, Kaylee Holland, Elizabeth Janning, Melissa Jett, Amanda Johnson, Madison Lax, Ted Lilly, Adam Lockstone, Gary Long, Rachal Maxon, Chuck Meyer, Kristen Roberson, Carl Schneberger, Chris Shaw, Susan Steiner, Randy Stucker, Harland Unruh; **Dec. 6** - Austin Barragee, Catherine Bryant, Zachary Carnahan, Larry Cozart, Lacy Crawley, Sarah Ivy, Debbie Kauk, Bonnie Moore, Kayla Schmidt, Season Simon, Odessal Tebhoe; **Dec. 7** - Marie Burgard, Tabatha Cabaniss, Saige Carpenter, Shelly Chase, Kevin Davis, Fay Jackson, Kyle Jones, Renee Kester, Stefani Lamb, Canon Lyles, Mary Lou Mirkey, Ashlyn Newton, Mikka Ronan Eithel Simpson, Bonnie Stucker, Kathy Whitson, Amber Wood; **Dec. 8** - Kimberly Fisher, Falcon Taylor Hincey, Jeff Walker, Eugene Jefferson Jr., Mario Llamas, Rita McLemore, Rich Miller, Paula Price, Misha Prichard, Daniell Rippee, Ryan Walker; **Dec. 9** - Cale Courtney, Andrew Foster, Dennis Martin, Lynn McCauley, Melissa McCulley, Glenn McCulley, Chad Nabors, Joy Nix; **Dec. 10** - Mitzi Cannon, Richard Coit, Betty Donovan, Carolyn Elliott, Ethan Hines, Parker Jacks, Steve Juarez, Angela Morrison, Michelle Mounsey, Nicole Page, Micharl Russ, Chris Sanchez, Kassidy Skinner, Kimberly Sumner, Jeffrey Willis;

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

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

2004 Trailblazer - Good tires. \$4,000. 580-330-3489

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

2003 Trailblazer - Good shape. \$3,000. 580-886-2980.

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New Brown Couch - Comes with 2 manual recliners. \$500 OBO. 580-772-3223.

Widescreen TV - 93" CRT. Mitsubishi. \$499. 580-772-7997.

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

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Coil roofing air nailgun - Like new, with 3 boxes of coil nails. \$250. 580-330-1437.

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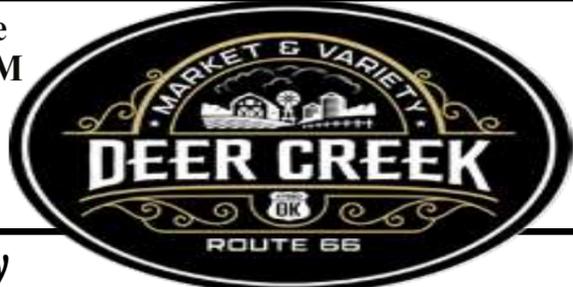
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Weatherford Scout Spruces up Agape Clinic For Eagle Scout Project



Provided

Agape Leadership and Scout Gloria Martyn, who renovated the exterior of the Clinic as part of her Eagle Scout Service Project. Pictured, from left: Stephen Drinnon, Sally Drinnon, Sue Ball, Gloria Martyn, Aimee Henderson, Claudia Wright, and Tami Martyn.

Gloria Martyn, a Weatherford High School Freshman and member of local Scout Troop #6355, renovated the exterior of the The Agape Medical Clinic as part of her Eagle Scout service project this past fall and summer.

As a member of the Scouts each member that achieves the rank of Life Scout is provided the opportunity to advance in rank to the level of Eagle Scout.

However, to attain that rank, Scouts must perform a service project that has a significant impact on their community and effectively demonstrates their youth leadership ability.

Martyn was contacted by members of the Agape Medical Clinic last Spring and presented with an opportunity to help their organization.

The Agape Medical Clinic in Weatherford is a nonprofit medical clinic and pharmacy serving people with medical needs throughout Western Oklahoma. Martyn was looking for a worthy service project to demonstrate her leadership and service abilities, and Agape seemed like a perfect fit.

“They needed help and I didn't want to just choose somewhere that I could do something but they didn't really need the help,” said Martyn, “I wanted somewhere that genuinely needed something to be fixed.”

Once Martyn received the green light from Scouts leadership as well as from the Agape Clinic, she got straight to work. And while Martyn has completed her Eagle Scout Project she plans to remain in the Scouts.

“We got rid of the parking bumpers, replaced them, got them painted. We painted the rafters, put in new benches and painted the door and put in a couple signs in Spanish for the Spanish people who come here,” said Martyn.

Martyn's work and coordination was greatly appreciated by The Agape Medical Clinic's leadership. “So not all Eagle Scouts will stay in the troop,” said Martyn, “but I am planning to. I want to be able to teach others how to have a service based mind, and just I want to help others.”

For more information about the Agape Medical Clinic, visit their website www.agapemedicalclinic.org. For more information about Scouting in America and how you can get involved locally, visit www.scouting.org

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Elijah Williams and Lanie Gooch Awarded Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Elijah Williams and Lanie Gooch gave strong minutes off the bench last week for their teams and have been named the Bulldogs of the Week. The weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media, the home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Elijah Williams (Lawrenceville, Georgia) finished with a season high 11 points on 5-of-10 shooting in a loss to Cameron last week in 21 minutes of floor time. He grabbed four rebounds and added one assist for the Bulldogs in his second appearance of the season. The Dawgs' bout against Cameron closed out the non-conference schedule for the Dawgs as they now set their focus on the GAC.

Lanie Gooch (Wylie, Texas) played 17 effective minutes in SWOSU's near upset against Lubbock Christian University, ranked at number 5/11, last Tuesday. Gooch finished her performance with eight points, six rebounds, and a steal. She fell one shy of tying her season high in both scoring and rebounding.

Oklahoma History: The Town of Maysville's Twist On Everyday Life



Courtesy Burford.com

Charles Elmore Burford (1932 - 2013) had owned and operated Burford Baking Co. since 1995.



Courtesy Burford.com

"Burford Connect" is advertised for its ability to troubleshoot and monitor networks of conveyers, alongside its simple setup and intuitive interface, much like their breakout "twist tie."

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Maysville, Oklahoma, might seem like an unlikely birthplace for a world-changing idea. It's a small, quiet town in the heart of the state, where life is simple and the community is close-knit. But from this unassuming place came an invention that transformed daily life in a way few could have imagined. That invention? The bread twist tie.

The little strip of wire encased in paper or plastic has become a household essential. It keeps bread fresh, organizes cords, and serves countless other uses. It may be small, but its impact is far-reaching, and its story begins with the innovative mind of Charles Burford.

In the late 1940s, Charles Burford, a resident of Maysville, saw an everyday challenge that others often overlooked. Bread was typically sold in wax paper or cellophane bags, and once opened, keeping it fresh was tricky. People used string, rubber bands, or folded the bags over—but these methods didn't seal well, and bread often went stale quickly.

Burford, who had a knack for practical problem-solving, believed there had to be a better way. He

envisioned a closure that was easy to use, reusable, and effective. After experimenting with materials and designs, he created the twist tie—a flexible wire encased in a durable, lightweight material that could be twisted to securely seal a bag.

Burford didn't just invent the twist tie; he recognized its potential to make life easier for millions. He patented his idea and founded the Burford Company in Maysville to produce and market it. At first, the twist tie was introduced to the bread industry, where it quickly caught on. It provided an affordable and efficient solution for keeping bread fresh while giving packages a polished, professional look.

From there, its popularity grew. Soon, twist ties were being used not just for bread, but for produce bags, baked goods, and even household organization. They became a staple of modern packaging, proving that sometimes the simplest ideas have the greatest reach.

For Maysville, the success of the twist tie became a source of pride. The Burford Company created jobs and brought attention to this small Oklahoma

town. Over the years, even as packaging technology evolved, the twist tie remained a reliable and widely used tool.

Burford's invention reminds us that innovation doesn't have to be flashy or complicated to make a difference. The twist tie's enduring success lies in its simplicity and practicality, qualities that reflect the spirit of its hometown. Burford created other baking industry products like the Hydraplate Bread Pan Oiler, the Burford Butter Applicator, and the Rotary Seeder. He was inducted into the Baking Hall of Fame in 2010.

Today, the bread twist tie is more than just a convenient way to seal a bag. It's a tool that has found its way into countless corners of our lives. The next time you use one, take a moment to appreciate the thoughtfulness behind it—and the small town where it all began. Maysville might not be a bustling metropolis, but its role in creating the twist tie is proof that big ideas can come from anywhere. Thanks to Charles Burford's vision, it's left its mark on the world in a way that continues to make life just a little easier every single day.

SPORTS Presented by:

SWOSU is Overtaken Late on the Road by No. 5 / 11 Lubbock Christian



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Women's Basketball made their way west to face Division II powerhouse and No. 5/11-ranked Lubbock Christian on Tuesday in the final game of November. A late fourth quarter push by the Lady Chaps sealed a hard-fought win for the home team, as the Lady Bulldogs fell by a final score of 67-59.

The first quarter showed that SWOSU was not going to back away from any challenge, starting 3-for-3 from the field and jumping ahead 7-0 within just two minutes of game time.

SWOSU turned over the home team three times in their first four possessions, which set an early tone. The quarter ended with SWOSU holding a 10-point lead at 23-13, going 5-8 from three-point land and shooting 56.3 percent from the field.

Averi Zinn led the way for the Lady Dawgs to maintain the lead going into half. She scored eight total points in the first half, six of them coming in the second quarter.

The Lady Bulldogs also found success by forcing LCU into nine first half turnovers with an 11-2 advantage on points off turnovers at the break.

In the third quarter SWOSU saw its lead dwindle down until LCU took their first lead of the game at 42-41 with about three minutes to play. SWOSU shot just 3-16 in the quarter and didn't make a three after making six in the first half. Despite this, the Lady Bulldogs found themselves with a 47-46 lead going into the final frame after two Layni Zinn free throws with two seconds to go in the quarter.

Layni (Zinn) made it five straight points for her with a three ball in the first possession of the final quarter, but LCU responded right back with one of their own to keep the game at a one-point margin. This started a back-and-forth trend that would keep the game within one possession for the first five minutes of the fourth quarter. LCU eventually extended their lead to a five-point game at 60-55.

Team Statistics

	SWO	LCU
FG%	.339	.424
3FG%	.444	.353
FT%	.688	.733
RB	33	45
TO	8	13
STL	7	4

With about four minutes to go, the difference in scores proved to be too much for the Lady Dawgs to overcome down the stretch.

SWOSU shot just 7-of-31 from the field in the second half and scored 23 total points – matching their scoring output from the first quarter.

Final numbers had SWOSU shooting at 33.9% from the field while LCU finished at 42.4%. Both teams made 11 free throws, SWOSU shot one additional attempt. The Lady Bulldogs forced 13 turnovers, marking the first time this season they did not finish with 20 or more.

Layni (Zinn) led the team with 13 points. Hailey Grant added 12 of her own as the only other SWOSU player in double figures. Averi (Zinn) added eight points with five assists and five rebounds to go along with three steals.

SWOSU will now regroup and look forward to the start of GAC play when they host Harding, the league's preseason favorite, on Thursday, December 5, 5:30 pm, inside the PEC.

SWOSU Men's Basketball Fall to Cameron in Non-Conference Finale



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Hoops started slow out of the gate and could not string together runs to stay in the game against Cameron on Tuesday in the final game of the 2024 non-conference slate. The Dawgs went on to fall 91-60 to the Aggies.

The first half saw SWOSU shoot 30% from the field compared to 61% for the home team. Cameron started off hot, leading 11-2, before the Bulldogs managed to close the margin to 20-14 by the midway point of the first half.

An 18-2 Aggie run from there boosted the home team back ahead. SWOSU trailed 45-24 at the break.

In the second half, SWOSU could not shrink their deficit to anything smaller than to 17 points. Cameron shot over 60% from the field for a second straight half and knocked down six three balls in the second half to prevent any form of a Bulldog comeback.

The Aggies finished 9-22 (40.9%) from beyond the arc in the game compared to SWOSU's 2-of-17 (11.8%) mark. Final shooting had SWOSU at 38.5% from the

field, while the Aggies shot a blistering 62.1%.

MJ Warrior led the offense for the Dawgs with 17 points on 8-14 shooting. Elijah Williams added a season high 11 and Tobias Roland added another 11 with limited floor time due to foul trouble.

Tuesday's result closes out the non-conference schedule for the Dawgs as now they set their focus on the GAC opener against Harding on Thursday, December 5th at 7:30 pm inside the PEC.

Team Statistics

	SWO	Camer
FG%	.385	.621
3FG%	.118	.409
FT%	.800	.556
RB	28	36
TO	7	10
STL	6	3



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