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Wright Broadcasting Receives Two Awards at OAB's 2025 Convention



Heston Wright / WM

Wright Broadcasting Systems (Wright Media) received OAB's "Non-Metro Radio Newscast Award" and "Non-Metro Commercial Announcement Award" at the Association's annual convention. Pictured, from left: Sales Manager Courtney Graybill, President Heston Wright, News Director Mike Smith, Founder Harold Wright, and Account Executive Krystal Blackwell.



Weatherford Soccer Boys and Girls Crowned Tournament Champions



Provided

The Weatherford Eagles and Lady Eagles were crowned Champions as the home team of the Weatherford Eagle Classic. The girls defeated the Duncan Lady Demons 3-0, with scoring shots made by Braylee Epp, Ruby Wright, and Macy Clark. Later that evening, the Eagles boys defeated the OKC Storm 2-1. Carson Allen and Yahir Chavez both scored for the Eagles within the last 13 minutes of the second half.

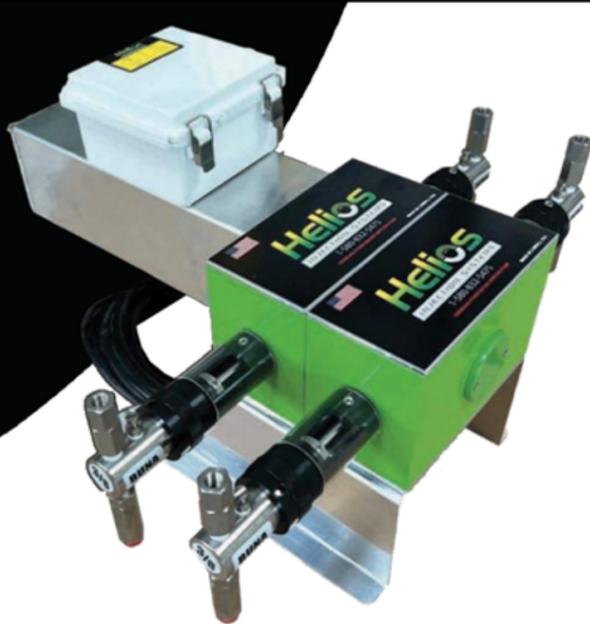
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Mary Cook

Mary Lois Cook Stephens died peacefully in Weatherford, OK on March 26, 2025 at the age of 92. She was born on March 4, 1933 in Stamford, TX to Fred and Myrtle Smith.



Mary has lived in the southwest her entire life. She was raised in the Texas panhandle, graduating from Shamrock High School in 1950.

She married Jodie Cook in 1951 in Tatum, NM. Mary and Jodie were happily married for 44 years and welcomed two children, Michael and Sharon. Jodie passed away in 1995.

Mary worked for Southwestern Bell (AT&T) in Shamrock, Amarillo, and in Pampa, TX and retired in 1985. She was a proud member of the Communication Workers of America Union, as well as Pioneers, the AT&T volunteer organization.

After retirement, Mary pursued her interest in painting and took courses from several masters. One of her proudest accomplishments was becoming the first female in Texas to be a Certified Bob Ross Instructor.

At the age of 54, Mary began providing art lessons for children and adults in 1987 and was awarded Artist of the Year in Pampa, TX in 1994. Mary had a painting featured on the cover of Top of Texas magazine and had many art showcases, including one in San Deni, Italy. Mary lived in Pampa, Amarillo and Friendswood, TX, and moved to Weatherford, OK in 2010.

Mary continued to teach art classes throughout her life and truly loved painting and teaching painting to all ages.

She found a second love in Bill Stephens, whom she married in 1997 and enjoyed traveling with him and watching his motorcycle competitions until his passing in 2000.

For over 55 years, Mary was an active member of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority, including the Delta Mu Master chapter in the Houston area and the Rho Master chapter in Weatherford.

She was member of the First Baptist Church of Weatherford and volunteered at the Pioneer Center.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Myrtle Smith, husbands Jodie Cook and Bill Stephens and his son Andy Stephens; her brothers, Gene and Raymond Smith and her son, Michael Cook.

Mary is survived by her daughter Sharon Bradford and husband Roy of Weatherford, OK; Cliff Stephens of Raleigh, NC; and Jackie Stephens of Pampa, TX; and two siblings: Ronnie Smith of Amarillo, TX; and Fay Denham of Stigler, OK;

Mary is also survived by four grandchildren: Jason Bradford and wife Karen of Canadian, TX; Sara Silva and husband Jeremy of Woodward, OK; Matt Cook of Long Beach, CA; and Jennifer Bradford of Oklahoma City; as well as many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

The family would like to thank Homestead Assisted Living and Shepard Home Health and Hospice of Weatherford, OK for their dedication to Mary's care.

Vickie Adams

Vickie Jo Adams, a resident of Elk City, Oklahoma passed away March 13, 2025, in Elk City, at the age of 78.



Born on November 17, 1946, to O.L. "Ray" and Maxine Pollet in Clinton, Oklahoma, Vickie embraced life with a warmth that touched everyone around her. After graduating from Fort Supply High School, she married her husband, Oscar Lee Adams, on October 25, 1969. Together, they built a loving home and raised their daughter, Sheila, in the heart of Clinton.

She dedicated herself to the community through her work at Busy Bee Restaurant, Pop Hicks Restaurant, and the kitchen of Highland Park, where her culinary creations warmed the hearts and bellies of many. A proud member of the Royal Neighbors, she devoted her time and energy to helping others, raising funds for noble causes and sharing her laughter and kindness with everyone she met. Her heart found joy in the simplest of connections—long conversations with family and friends over the phone, cozy afternoons spent absorbed in embroidery, and the thrill of escaping into the pages of the Bible, the Clinton Daily News, or captivating romance novels. Yet, above all else, it was her family that filled her life with the deepest meaning.

She is survived by daughter Sheila Crawford, eight grandchildren: Ava, Jasterm Lyric, Karson, Gracelyn, Loren, Brandon, and Aiden; her daughter Sheila Crawford, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, sister Billy Shurley, brother Floyd Pollet, and grandson Aaron Michael Cupp.

Troy Branson

Troy Don Branson was born October 16, 1962, in Weatherford, to Donald Gene Branson and LaVonda Lee (Schmidt) Wilson and passed away Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City.



Troy was raised and attended school in Hydro, graduating from Hydro High School with the Class of 1981. After graduation, he started working construction in the oil field and where he learned how to operate heavy equipment. On June 12, 1990, Troy married Jana Lou Brooking in Eureka Springs, Arkansas and together they made their home in Weatherford to raise their children, Ryan and Colby.

In 1993, he began working for the County Commissioner's Office where he was still employed 35 years later. Troy raised cattle for the last 20 years and enjoyed showing them at the agriculture shows.

He loved being in the outdoors riding side by side with his grandchildren, team roping with his brother, coyote hunting and going to all the family events. Troy loved spending time with his grandchildren, family and friends. He will be remembered as being a hard worker that couldn't sit still, and as being a caring and compassionate person.

Troy is survived by his wife of 34 years, Jana Branson, of Weatherford; two sons, Ryan and Moriah Branson and their children, Melrose and Callahan and Colby and Miranda Branson and their children, Benson and Carter; and his sister, Rhonda and Dusty Runnels. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Chris Allen.

Florence Flanagan

Florence (Clark) Flanagan, 101, of Elk City, Oklahoma was born on November 14, 1923 in Canyon, TX. She is the daughter of Wallace Reeves and Ella May (Crane) Clark.



Florence went to hold the hands of her Lord and Savior on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at Bell Avenue Nursing Home in Elk City surrounded by her loving family.

Florence graduated from West Texas Teacher's College with a degree in vocal music at age 19. She taught vocal music to students in the first grade through senior year at Hooker Public Schools for 30 years.

Florence married James Parker Flanagan on January 18, 1946 in Guymon, OK. Together, they spent 64 wonderful years of marriage together before his passing on October 18, 2010.

Florence loved volunteering her time with the American Red Cross. During World War II she was a USO entertainer singing and dancing. Florence was a longtime member of Hooker and Elk City's Methodist Churches.

Florence treasured spending summers with family at their family cabin in Cuchara, Colorado and going to her grandchildren's event's. Florence was an avid bridge player and was a sports fan of PGA golf and women's softball and basketball, and the Dallas Cowboys. She will be deeply and greatly remembered by all who knew and loved her.

Florence was preceded in death by her husband, James Parker Flanagan; one son, James Wallace Flanagan; her parents, Wallace Reeves and Ella May Clark; and two sisters, Beatrice Russell, and Francis Alice Nelson.

Cherishing her memory is her two daughters, Patricia Lewallen and her husband, Randy of Foss Lake, OK, Alice Flanagan of Claremore, OK; two grandchildren, Randi Elizabeth Hayes and her husband, Kelly of OKC, PJ Lewallen and his wife, Lacey of Elk City.

Jimi O'Hara

Jimi Lou Burch O'Hara, 72, of Elk City, passed away on March 23, 2025 at Integris Health Baptist Medical Center in OKC, surrounded by family.



Jimi was born January 17, 1953 in Sayre to her parents Dean and Nelda (Patten) Burch. She graduated from Elk City High School in 1971 and she was crowned Miss Elk City the same year.

Jimi married Robert Anthony O'Hara on July 1, 1972. They enjoyed 53 beautiful years together. In 1977, they made their home on the O'Hara Family homestead and remained there the rest of her days.

Jimi's lifelong passion for education began at SWOSU where she earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in education. In her career spanning 40 years, she taught music, reading and social studies classes for both 3rd and 4th grades at Pioneer Elementary, was an instructor for Great Expectations, and received Teacher of the Year honors. In 2002, she became principal at Fairview Elementary 3rd-4th grade center where she continued until her retirement. It wasn't long, though, until a new creative outlet called and she became Children's Director at Elk City United Methodist Church until 2024. She delighted in developing Bible lessons and teaching little's about Jesus.

The only thing Jimi loved more than teaching was her family. Her greatest joys in life came from being a wife, mom and "Lou Lou" to her seven active grandchildren. She was a member of Elk City United Methodist Church.

Cherishing her memory is her husband, Robert, of Elk City; son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Toni O'Hara of Elk City; daughter and son-in-law, Traci and Kent Morgan of Elk City; grandchildren: Luci, Gus, Molli, Henry, Georgi, Jack, and Rex; sister and brother-in-law, Patti and J.R. Dies of Buffalo, OK; brother-in-law Dan Cocannouer and wife, Rona, of Cheyenne, OK; sister-in-law, Linda O'Hara of Kansas City, Missouri; brothers and sisters-in-law, Mary Ann and Richard Wynne of Temecula, CA, and Pat and Laura O'Hara of Edmond, Oklahoma; and numerous other loving family members.

Jimi was preceded in death by her parents, sister Jeri Lyn Cocannouer, aunts: Jeri Patten, Carolyn Sanders, Ruth Harris, and Janita Patten; uncles: Jerry Sanders and Joe Harris; brother-in-law, Paul O'Hara; and nephew, Rodney O'Hara.

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WOCS Presents "Nunsense" Musical Production



Get ready for a night of laughter and musical entertainment as the Weatherford WOCS teachers take the stage for Nunsense, a musical comedy by Dan Goggin. The production will take place on April 11th and 12th at Emmanuel Baptist Church, located at 719 N Kansas St.

Nunsense follows the comical misadventures of five nuns as they put on a talent show to raise funds for a rather unusual cause.

The cast features local educators stepping into the roles of Sister Mary Regina (Mandi Cornelius), Sister Mary Hubert (Mikki Penner), Sister Robert Anne (Carey Carter), Sister Mary Amnesia (Meridith Jackson), and Sister Mary Leo (Jordan Blatnick).

The event offers multiple ticket options:

April 11th & 12th Dinner Show – \$25 per person or \$200 for a table, with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.
April 12th Matinee & Dessert – \$20 per person or \$160 for a table, which will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (580) 774-8159 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Payment will not be accepted at the door. All funds raised go directly to the Weatherford WOCS Building fund.

Nunsense promises to be an unforgettable experience full of humor, heart, and high-energy performances. Don't miss this chance to support local talent and enjoy a night (or afternoon) of fun!

HIGHER GROUND

Your Tomorrows



Jim Morrison

We live in a throw-away society. You have heard that phrase used to describe our tendency to discard the slightly used for the new gadgets that promise more excitement or pleasure. One of the few things that last longer in this present day are automobiles. My 16-year-old Toyota that runs like a top would be considered a relic in 1959 when I bought my first car. However, today's cars cost considerably more than those in the 50's.

Dr. Robert Schuller, in his book, Don't Throw Away Your Tomorrows suggests that too often this present generation is prone to do that. He says, "we throw away our tomorrows when we let opportunities pass by. When invitations to growth possibilities are rejected. When our plans are already made."

Joshua told the Israelites, "Sanctify (set apart) yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua 3:5. We don't know what tomorrow will bring but we are responsible for bringing a prepared mind, positive attitude, and skill set so that we are ready when the opportunity arises. Thomas Edison said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Someone asked me how long it took me to write these articles. I said, "About 30 years." I should have said fifty, for they come from a lifetime of reading, taking risks, and seeking to grow with every opportunity.

Even as I approach 88, when I see a conference or retreat advertised, my first impulse is, "I'd like to attend that." Some people shy away from those opportunities because of the risk of losing time from their hobby, not sleeping because of possible discomfort, (my bunkmate might snore) or preference for the status quo.

Stephen Covey is famous for his simple statement, "Look at the end from the beginning." What kind of legacy do you want to leave? What kind of influence do you want to have in your retirement years?

The Internet has great benefits but it also has its challenges. Many young people will never read a book completely through because their attention span has become so shortened that the thought of reading a complete book seems unreasonable. This is not only true of young people but increasingly true of all people. Warren Buffet, a billionaire in his 90's said he still reads 500 pages a week.

Schuller says that many throw away their tomorrows because they lose their vision. They look back and decide that they have done enough. They think of how satisfying it would be when they have no responsibilities, no one is counting on them, only to discover that one of man's greatest need is the need to be needed.

The Old Testament account of the Israelites setting out to conquer the land has 80-year-old Caleb saying to Joshua, "Give me that mountain." He was not ready for the rocking chair. He wanted a piece of the action. Do you want to still be useful, needed and productive in your retirement years? Start now to make every opportunity your chance to grow, "to show yourself approved," and God will open up the doors when your time comes.

To comment: jhn82@outlook.com, 580-302-1142

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“WPLS Pathways” Launches in Western OK



Provided by WPLS

WPLS Director of Digital Inclusion and Social Benefits Sara WhiteShield (right) helps patron Madison Wright navigate resources with WPLS Pathways.

Micaela Marquez
WPLS Marketing Director

Western Plains Library System (WPLS) is excited to announce a new partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) to empower communities through digital access and social support with WPLS Pathways. The program will be led by former Clinton Public Library branch manager Sara Whiteshield who is excited to provide this new resource in communities throughout the system as WPLS' Director of Digital Inclusion and Social Benefits.

“I'm excited about the opportunity to return to a role that I am truly passionate about: helping people find the assistance they need,” said Whiteshield. “Prior to my time at WPLS, I accumulated 10 years of experience in the social services field, working with individuals of all ages, from foster care to adult social services and elder care. Through that experience, I have developed the necessary skills to locate resources, both large and small.”

WPLS Pathways will help community members access digital and internet services through both public and residential resources, will guide patrons through application processes for OKDHS programs and support them in identifying and accessing tribal resources among other generalized assistance to help community members locate resources that will help meet unmet needs. This new service is funded through a pilot block grant provided by ODL

“WPLS has been part of the concept development team for this grant for over a year and I am proud to see this project come to fruition,” said WPLS Executive Director Tim Miller. “As government agencies reduce their public contact hours, or revert to completely online service, libraries are filling in the service gaps for citizens who need assistance accessing governmental programs.”

WPLS Pathways is one of the first of its kind in the state with only two other library systems receiving funding to provide similar services. Whiteshield, a native of western Oklahoma, says she is excited for the opportunity to help the community she calls home.

“What excited me even more than the opportunity to be back doing what I love is the chance to work in the communities where I grew up,” she said. “I graduated high school from Thomas- Fay-Custer Unified Schools in 2003 and then continued my education at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Now, I proudly call Weatherford home and where I am raising my family.”

Whiteshield will spend time at libraries across the WPLS system throughout the week and her full schedule can be found on the WPLS website's event tab at wplibs.com. She can also be contacted at 580-323-0974 to schedule appointments as needed.

“If a patron needs assistance outside of the posted schedule, I can also meet by appointment, expressed Whiteshield. “I understand that some situations in life are beyond our control, so I strive to accommodate the needs of others as much as possible.”

CORRECTION: WEATHERFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP, CITY RECYCLING EVENT

In a previous issue, we covered the annual “City Recycling Event” for Weatherford on April 12, 2025. That article included inaccurate information regarding Glass Recycling in Weatherford. As of October 2024, the Weatherford Environmental Group announced on Facebook they will no longer be accepting glass for recycling, citing a price increase by the vendor's new owner. The closest recycling plant to Weatherford is in Midwest City, OK (8730 SE 15th Street). We would like to sincerely apologize for this mistake.

ELK CITY / EXIT INTERVIEW - Elk City school officials are entering the third year conducting exit interviews with graduating senior students said Superintendent Mike Sparks. “We work with our kids on how to go into an interview, whether that be for college entrance exams, career tech, or employment,” Sparks explained. “The part I think I look forward to the most is that I asked our seniors...what are things that Elk City public schools is really doing a good job at?” Sparks said students have consistently bragged on both district teachers and community. Additionally, Sparks says some of the things students would like to see changed would be a longer lunch and a longer amount of time between classes.

HYDRO / 2024 AEL FATALITIES - The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has released its final report on an Air Evac Lifeteam (AEL) helicopter crash that killed three people on board near Hydro last year. NTSB officials say the helicopter encountered a large flock of geese while on the way back to Weatherford Air Base. The helicopter was about 500-600 feet above ground level when the bird strike occurred, resulting in the crash. The crash occurred around 11:20pm on January 20th, 2024, after dropping off a patient at Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City. Pilot Russell Haslam, Nurse Adam Tebben, and Paramedic Steven Fitzgerald were all killed in the crash.

BECKHAM CO / ALEGRIA - A man has been charged in Beckham County District Court with rape in the first degree by instrumentation and kidnapping. 42-year-old Carlos Alberto Alegria allegedly sexually assaulted a female youth when she was 7 years old while holding her against her will in her bedroom. The victim told the authorities she did not tell anyone about the incident until several years later. Earlier this month, detectives located Alegria at his place of employment in Edmond, but he was able to escape. Efforts to locate the suspect have been unsuccessful.

BECKHAM CO / HOWELL - Attorneys for a western Oklahoma man have filed a tort claim in Beckham County District Court naming the Sweetwater School Board of Education and Superintendent Casey Reed. Michael Scott Howell is seeking more than \$125,000 in damages. Court records show that Howell claims Reed filed a complaint against him that resulted in criminal charges that Howell was found not guilty of in trial.

CLINTON / CAMPUS SOLAR PROJECT - Clinton Schools Superintendent Tyler Bridges announced the district is looking at a possible solar project for the district's Nance Elementary School following a re-roofing project. “We've got the opportunity to get Nance Elementary about 80-85% off of the electrical grid with solar energy for a project that will pay for itself in less than two years,” said Bridges.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!



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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 April 2 - Jackie Basler, David Cleek, Rita Dowty, Lauren Ellis, Angel Gorshing, Brandon Lee, Jordan Mahan, Stacey Purintun; **April 3** - Angie Brodrick, Mildred Cobb, Betty Easley, Terri Hines, Chris Johanning, Troy Oliver, Jay Snowden, Joi Wilson; **April 4** - Steven Austin, Jessica Bekas, Ted Boone, Kim Cook, Adam Hampton, Jessica Hinojosa, Josh McCollom, Edward Padelecki; **April 5** - Stephanie Bridgeman, Mike Davis, Jaden Harris, Mary Beth Henschel, Baleigh Hutchison, Jessica Lent, Kathleen Gay Monahan, Brent Reed, Julie Ricks, Stacy Runnels, Dan Sanders, Amy Vaughn, Terri Villines, Cash Yoder; **April 6** - Scot Barker, Gary Bell, Arian Braswell, Cindy Hunnicutt, Krew Kirkland, Amber O'Neale, Loretta Pollman, Eric Ratterree, Billie Russey, Stacey Winters; **April 7** - Linda Boatwright, Heath Goodall, Joleen Jackson, LaWana Manos, Sandra Miller, Aaron Schantz, Lindsay Smith, Jimmie Lee Smith, Alice Switzer, Krissy Vaughn; **April 8** - Opal Boyd, Daniel Lamar, Quinda Lane, Cory Price, Ebony Smith, Vincent Sperle, Floyd Winn Jennifer Williams

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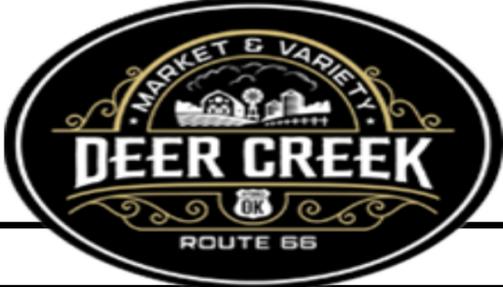
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Deuna Miller and Kylie Morton Named the Latest Bulldogs of the Week



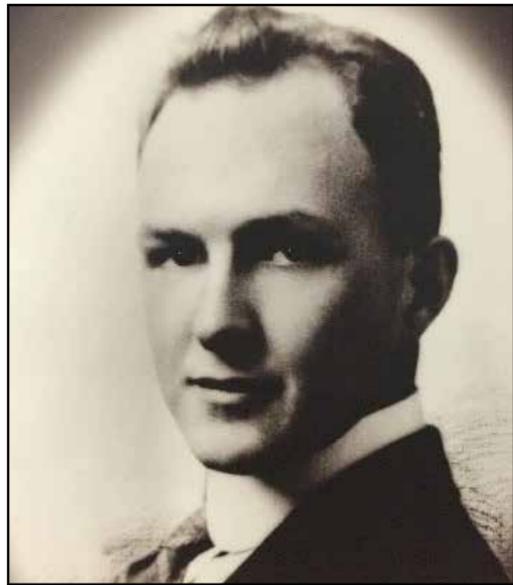
Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Track & Field Athlete
Deuna Miller and Softball
Player Kylie Morton have been named the latest Bulldogs of the Week. This weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media – the home for SWOSU Athletic livestream events and radio broadcasts.

Miller (Frederick, Oklahoma) set a new school record in long jump at the OBU Invitational with a distance of 5.66m, notching a top five finish overall in the event. It was one of two top five individual finishes she had at the meet after she also claimed fourth place in the 100m with a time of 12.23 seconds.

Morton (Ennis, Texas) was a tough out over the weekend for SWOSU Softball, finishing with a team best .750 batting average and on-base percentage. In SWOSU's series win against East Central, she went 6-for-8 at the plate with two doubles and four runs scored.

Oklahoma History: How J.C. Karcher Changed the Field of Energy



from the Petroleum Museum

Headshot of J.C. Karcher (1916), who was inducted into the Petroleum Museum in 1999.



From the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)

Eileen Martin (pictured, right) was the 2024 recipient of the J. Clarence Karcher award. This honor recognizes significant contributions made by young Geophysicists like Karcher himself.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

John Clarence “J.C.” Karcher grew up on a farm near Hennessey, Oklahoma and went on to revolutionize how we find underground riches. A century ago, Karcher’s groundbreaking invention – the reflection seismograph – made it possible to “see” oil hidden deep beneath our feet.

Karcher was born in 1894 in Indiana but moved with his family to Oklahoma Territory as a young boy. He proved to be brilliant in science, earning degrees in physics and electrical engineering from the University of Oklahoma by 1916.

During World War I he served as a technical aide in France, using experimental equipment to pinpoint enemy artillery by sound. That wartime work planted an idea in his mind. If listening for shock waves could locate big guns, perhaps a similar method could locate oil.

After the war, he returned home eager to test this bold idea on Oklahoma soil. By 1919, Karcher had designed an early seismograph device and secured patents for the concept. He teamed up with former OU professors and local oilmen to give it a try.

In the summer of 1921, on a farm just north of Oklahoma City, they carried out a daring experiment. The team set off dynamite charges in the ground and deployed sensitive seismographs to record the echoes bouncing up from underground rock layers. As the dust settled, the instruments’ squiggling lines confirmed what Karcher had hoped – the reflections revealed the hidden shape of geologic structures below.

For the first time, scientists could map potential oil traps without drilling a hole. It was a eureka moment for geophysics on the Oklahoma prairie.

After that success, Karcher and partners scrambled to turn the invention into a practical oil-prospecting tool. In 1925 he joined forces with legendary oilman Everette DeGolyer to form Geophysical Research Corporation, based in Tulsa.

They sent seismic crews out to survey promising areas. The method paid off dramatically on December 4, 1928, when a well in Seminole County struck oil exactly where Karcher’s seismic data indicated a likely underground dome.

It was the world’s first oil discovery guided by reflection seismograph—proof that Karcher’s “gadget” could find black gold. As one historical tribute later noted, the results “far surpassed the wildest dreams of the men who observed the first seismic reflections in the search for oil.” In field after field, seismic surveys found oil that ordinary prospectors might have missed.

Karcher wasn’t just an inventor in the lab; he became an industry entrepreneur. In 1930, he left GRC and co-founded a new venture called Geophysical Service Incorporated (GSI). Headquartered in Dallas, GSI was the first independent company dedicated to oil exploration geophysics.

Karcher served as its president, offering seismic prospecting as a service to oil companies worldwide. GSI grew quickly. A little over a decade later, the company would evolve into Texas Instruments – the now famous electronics firm – after new owners expanded into microelectronics. In a twist of fate, an Oklahoma oil-finding invention even paved the way for innovations like the semiconductor (through Texas Instruments), though Karcher by then had moved on to other oil ventures.

He spent the rest of his career leading various petroleum companies, always rooted in the oil business that his ideas had helped transform.

The reflection seismograph became the backbone of oil exploration around the globe. Most of the giant oilfields of the mid-20th century – from Texas to the Middle East – were found using seismic methods that descended from Karcher’s 1921 experiment. He received plenty of honors for this legacy.

In 1976, the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers awarded him the Anthony F. Lucas Gold Medal, one of the highest accolades in petroleum engineering. The Society of Exploration Geophysicists established the J. Clarence Karcher Award in his honor, given annually to outstanding young geophysicists. Not bad for a farm boy from Hennessey who simply loved science.

Karcher lived to see his invention’s 50th anniversary. In April 1971, a granite monument was unveiled on the lawn of Oklahoma City’s Belle Isle Library, near the spot where his team first tested the device.

The inscription calls Oklahoma the birthplace of reflection seismography and proudly declares: “The shot has virtually echoed around the world.” Indeed, that echo can be heard in every corner of the planet where oil or gas is found using modern seismic surveys.

J.C. Karcher passed away in 1978 at age 84, and he was laid to rest back in Hennessey. His story is a cool reminder that a big idea from Oklahoma didn’t just strike oil – it sent shock waves through history, changing the landscape of energy exploration forever.

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Silent auction has been replaced by an online auction ending on April 3
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How You Can Attend the 2025 Weatherford Junior-Senior Promenade

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The map shows the event location at Stafford Elementary. A red line indicates the 'STUDENT ENTRANCE ROUTE' starting from W Davis Ave, turning south on N 6th St, then west on W Kee Ave, and finally south on W Huber Ave. A blue line indicates the 'VIEWERS WALK TO AVAILABLE SEATING' area near the 'PROMENADE VIEWER PARKING' lot. 'NO ACCESS' signs are shown at W Davis Rd and Weatherford Childhood Center.

Weatherford High School's 2025 Promenade is fast approaching. Below is some handy information for both students and spectators who wish to attend in-person, complete with a marked map. Student introduction will also be available via livestream on Weatherford Eagles TV at wright.media/one.

STUDENT ENTRANCE ROUTE
Travel on Davis Ave. until you reach the Pioneer Event Center, then turn south onto 7th Street. Keep your eyes peeled for Huber Ave., about two blocks past the First United Methodist Church. When you see Huber Ave., turn right (west). After passing Thacker Park, you'll need to turn right (north) down an alley road entrance. Someone will be ready to guide you from there.

PROMENADE LINE INSTRUCTIONS
Students may begin lining up after 7:00 p.m., but no earlier. Students will begin exiting their cars to be introduced starting at 7:45 p.m.

SPECTATOR PARKING
Do not park in the CrossPointe Church parking lot, which will be reserved for student valet parking. Please park in the field west of the church by entering from East Bergen Dr. off of Highway 54.
Parking is at your own risk. The land owner is not liable for any damages to vehicles or injuries sustained while on the premises.



Lori Flansburg / Connections Executive Director
"Daisy Exchange" co-owner Josh Adkinson (left) presents a \$2,800 check to Assistant Director Eddie Bennett (center), and Volunteer Coordinator Crystal Hamons (right). The donation was raised by Josh and his wife, Sarah, through a garage sale at the Connections warehouse.



Provided
Congressman Frank Lucas (pictured, right) recently spoke on the topic of regulating artificial intelligence. While he recognizes the clear dangers AI can have on employment opportunities and, in extreme cases, personal freedoms, he also worries that too heavy of regulations will inhibit its ability to help humanity.

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Lady Bulldogs Claim Series over East Central



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Asst. Athletic Director

SWOSU Softball claimed its first series victory of the season with a win over East Central in Saturday's game three rubber match. The Bulldogs bounced back from a 9-8 loss in the day's first game to beat the Tigers 9-3 in the finale, winning the series 2-1 in the process.

With no scheduled midweek this week, SWOSU will look to keep momentum rolling when they host Southeastern Oklahoma State next weekend back in Weatherford.

Game One - ECU 9, SWOSU 8

CAN ECU six-run second inning, which came immediately after SWOSU scored four runs of their own in their portion of the frame, was the difference maker in the day's first game.

The Tigers produced six runs following a bases loaded walk, a two RBI single, and finally a three run home run.

Trailing 8-6 entering the sixth inning, the Dawgs tied the game with two runs before the Tigers capped off the game's scoring in the bottom half with what would be the go-ahead, game winning run with two outs.

Chesnie Hewitt hit her third home run of the series as one of the two runs that scored in the sixth. Jady Hook and Kylie Morton both finished with three hits in the game.

Riley Lusk doubled in two runs in the second inning with the bases loaded and finished 2-3. She was denied a third RBI on that double after a relay by ECU cut down Taylor McMahon trying to score from first.

Game Two - SWOSU 9, ECU 3

SWOSU finished with 13 hits in the first game and added another 12 in the series finale. They scored all nine of their runs in just two innings, with a four-run second and a five-run fourth.

Alexis Taylor (W, 8-7) and Jaycee McKee (S, 5) helped limit ECU to no big innings on offense. Taylor threw the first four innings to earn the win, while McKee was effective for the final three to earn the long save. Both issued just one free pass each in their outing.

The Bulldogs claimed the lead in the second inning when they produced all their runs in the frame with two outs. Singles from Avery Rempel and Riley Lusk sandwiched between a two RBI double from Chesnie Hewitt pushed SWOSU ahead 4-0.

In the fourth, three doubles and five total hits highlighted SWOSU's second big inning. Kylie Morton led the inning off with an extra base hit. With two outs, Katie Boline and Skyla McPhillips both doubled in runs later in the inning.

Four Bulldogs had multi hit games. Hewitt drove in three runs. Lusk and Boline had two RBI.

Dawgs Drop Saturday Doubleheader vs ECU



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Asst. Athletic Director

SWOSU Baseball suffered a second straight GAC series sweep, this time at the hands of East Central after falling by scores of 9-5 and 7-6 on Saturday.

The Bulldogs will look to bounce back with a home midweek game against Oklahoma Christian on Tuesday, April 1 before traveling to Durant next weekend to face Southeastern in continued conference play.

Game One - ECU 9, SWOSU 5

The Tigers used a big four-run second inning and answered SWOSU's late comeback attempt with two runs in the top of the ninth to beat the Dawgs in the day's first game.

SWOSU scored three runs in the bottom of the eighth to cut their deficit to just 7-5, but the ECU response in the ninth blew the sails out of the comeback.

Sean Monsour went 3-for-4 with three RBI to lead the lineup. Reece Burke doubled twice and finished 2-5. SWOSU was out hit 12-9 in the game.

Sebastian Diaz suffered the loss on the mound. He pitched 4.1 innings before the bullpen was required. Ayden Page (3.1 IP) and Tyler Fortin (1.1 IP) made appearances in relief.

Game Two - ECU 7, SWOSU 6

ECU stunned the Bulldogs in the finale by scoring all seven of their runs in the final two at-bats including a four-run seventh inning to take the lead for good.

The Tigers scored three runs in the sixth to cut into their 4-0 deficit. Leading 4-3 going into the home half of the sixth, Campbell Sullivan had an inside the park home run to give some breathing room.

In the seventh, Jackson Blue could not complete the save after surrendering four hits and four runs in his inning of work. SWOSU managed to get the tying run on base in their final at-bat but could not keep the inning going.

Drew Fifer was handed the no-decision in his start. He pitched six innings, struck out 11, walked just one, and did not allow a run until his final inning.

Bodi Wallar homered for the second time in the series. He also doubled and finished 3-for-4 at the plate with three RBI.

Eight of ECU's 10 hits in the game came in the sixth and seventh innings. SWOSU finished with nine hits.

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