

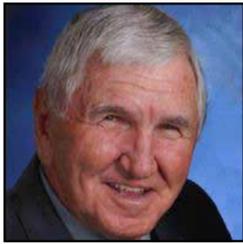


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Sandy Stark

Sanford "Sandy" Elmo Stark, age 86, of Weatherford, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 22, 2026. He was born on September 17, 1939, in Higden, Arkansas, to Franklin Lee and Ida Mae (Bailey) Stark.



Sandy was the youngest of seven children and was raised on a farm in Higden, Arkansas. He greatly enjoyed his school years and became an outstanding student and basketball player at West Side High School, graduating with the Class of 1957. He later attended one semester at Harding Christian College in Searcy, Arkansas, before moving to Oklahoma in 1959 to work on a harvest crew for his cousins, Jimmy and Opal Majors, in Hydro, OK.

During that harvest season, Sandy met his first wife, Marylin Dobrinski, on a blind date. They were married on November 28, 1959, and shared 42 years of marriage. Their union was blessed with five children: Chris, Teresa, Steven, Matthew, and Sara.

One of Sandy's first full-time jobs in Oklahoma was working for the fire department at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, OK. In the early 1960s, he accepted an opportunity with Schlumberger, where he worked for the next 17 years. His oilfield career required the family to move throughout the state before eventually settling in Weatherford, OK. In 1982, Sandy and his partners started their own wireline company, American Casedhole Specialists, which was later sold in 2001. In 2005, he and his partners founded Casedhole Solutions, building it into a thriving and successful business.

On October 24, 2003, Sandy married his second wife, Coleta Nusz, in Watonga, OK. After selling Casedhole Solutions in 2012, he retired from the oilfield and began farming, a pursuit he truly loved-especially his time spent driving the tractor and combine.

Sandy faithfully served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Weatherford for 37 years. He was also actively involved on the Southwest Baptist Assembly Committee. Additionally, he served for many years on the Board of Directors for Prairie West Golf Course, where he enjoyed playing golf with family and friends.

Sandy loved traveling with Coleta, spending time with his children and grandchildren, and attending their many sporting activities. He will be remembered for his positive outlook on life and for being an encouragement to all who knew him. Sandy was truly a "glass half full" kind of man. His family was blessed beyond measure by the strong Christian example he set, and he will be deeply missed by all who loved him.

Sandy was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Marylin Stark; his sister, Nedra Thomas; and his brothers, Leo, Bly, Keith, Ernest, and Bruce Stark.

He is survived by his wife, Coleta Stark, of the home; sons, Chris Stark and wife Kathy of Weatherford, Steven Stark and wife Krista of Weatherford, Matt Stark and wife Patsy of Weatherford, and Russell Nusz and wife Margo Renee of Hitchcock; daughters, Teresa Luetkemeyer and husband Thomas of Custer City, Sara Cloud and husband Rodney of Elk City, and Annetta Jennings and husband Jeff of Weatherford; 15 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren: Jeff and Kari Stark and their children, Kira and Kaleo; Jordan and Greg Adams and their children, Lawson, Aceyn, and Duce Adams; Luke and Taylor Stark and their son, Wyatt; Macy and Peyton Crispin; Ryan Stark; Nathan Stark; Tyler and Bradyn Stark and their son, Bryler Stark; Jacob and Moxie Luetkemeyer; Samantha Cloud and fiancé Joe Robinson; Joseph Cloud; Grant Cloud; Emerson Cloud; Colton Nusz; Josey Nusz; Dylan Reeves; and Holden Jennings.

Kim Grossman

Kim Michael Grossman came into the world on Saturday, November 10, 1951, at the Elk City, Oklahoma Hospital. He was the fourth of six children of George and Lorene (Kamphaus) Grossman. He grew up and helped on the family farm southwest of Canute, Oklahoma. As a child, Kim attended Canute schools, where he graduated in 1970.



Upon graduating high school, Kim had many jobs while exploring what to do with his life, including working at a laundromat. He met the love of his life, Errol Potter, dragging Main Street in Elk City, and they began dating on Memorial Day 1971. He followed her to Weatherford to attend Southwestern State College in the fall of 1971, where he majored in the pool hall for the first year and decided college wasn't for him and began working at Harrell Meats.

Kim and Errol married on May 24th, 1974, in Elk City, Oklahoma, but continued to make their home in Weatherford. They welcomed their first child, Autumn Michelle, on June 28, 1977. Jeremiah Michael followed on December 18, 1978. Finally, the family was completed with the addition of Zachary Scott on January 9, 1984. At that time Kim and Errol determined their family was complete because they had children from A to Z. In May of 1998, Kim and Errol welcomed their first grandchild Alexis Buchelle (Ruchelle) Hoskins which brought out a new tender side of Kim. Andrew Jacob, Kaleb Michael, Victoria Madison, and Lillian Elizabeth completed his heart and really made his family complete.

Kim worked for Harrell Meats until the fall of 1978, when he started at 3M working as a line worker before eventually moving into Maintenance. During this time, Kim went back to school and achieved his degree in Engineering Technology from SWOSU in 1987. Kim stayed at 3M in the photo division through the transition to Imation and eventually Ferrania until its closing in the fall of 2006. He returned to work for Imation until its closing in 2011. In 2004, Kim and his brother Joe started raising cattle on their childhood farm with their dad. Kim kept running cattle with his wife, Errol, until his passing.

During his life, Kim was an avid hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman. He enjoyed coaching soccer for 2 generations of his family, his son Zachary and his Granddaughter Alexis. He gained multiple surrogate sons when he started coaching Zachary's U6 team and continued to coach them throughout high school.

When Kim wasn't at the soccer field, Kim could have been found supporting his children in all their activities, hunting, fishing, playing rancher, or sharing stories with his family and friends.

Kim left the world on Sunday February 22, 2026, at his home in Weatherford, OK with his wife by his side. He is survived by his wife, Errol, of almost 52 years, his daughter Autumn Hoskins and spouse Jacob Hoskins, his son Jeremiah Grossman and partner Jennifer Dugan, son Zachary Grossman and spouse Ana Colchado, grandchildren Alexis, Andrew, Kaleb, Victoria, and Lillian, brother Joe Grossman and spouse Sharon, sister Jane Crabtree and spouse Jackie, and sister Lorri Baden. Kim is survived by numerous nieces and nephews and special friends and family members. He was met after death by his father and mother, two older brothers Rick and Randy, his in-laws Jack and Ernestine Potter, his grandniece Ashley Crabtree, and his grandnephew Henry Schattmeier.

In Lieu of Flowers, please make donations to Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation for pancreatic cancer research.

Willie Harris

William "Shark" Harris was born August 23, 1963, in Vero Beach, FL to Saul Harris II and Shirley (Ross) Harris and passed away February 17, 2026, in Weatherford at age 62.



A proud graduate of Vero Beach High School, Willie was a key player on the school's 1981 Football State Championship Team - an achievement he cherished throughout his life. In Weatherford, he opened a restaurant on March 9, 1999 (for more than 20 years.) He loved the people and the community of Weatherford. Cooking was his passion! He once stated, "The best way to show my love is to cook for them and make them happy!"

His is survived by his brother, Saul (Les) Harris III and wife, Brenda, along with their children, Saul Harris IV and Brianna Harris; and sister Rosalind Harris; Aunts, Willie Mae Anderson, Betty Brown, Ella Brown and husband, Johnny, Jessie Ross, and Bernice Relford and husband, Tom and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. He is also survived by a special friend, Denise Sprinkle and a cherished "grandson" Davien "Dae Dae" Stanley. He was preceded in death by his beloved grandparents, Willie and Rosa Lee Ross, and his parents, Saul Harris II and Shirley (Ross) Harris.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the many friends, neighbors, and members of the community for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support during this difficult time, especially Denise Sprinkle, Scott Hoffman, Rouben Tourian, Ric Freeman, Trey Minton, Trinity Smith, Richard and Kenny Caskey, DB Bailey, Emma Williams, and the entire Weatherford community. Your kindness, comforting words, and thoughtful gestures are deeply appreciated.

Lew Lowrance

Lew Wentz Lowrance, 89, of Clinton, OK, was born on May 9, 1936, in Willow, OK, to Miles Osborn and Esther Lee (Usrey) Lowrance. He passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2026 at the Veterans Center in Clinton.



Lew attended school and graduated from Ocina High School with the class of 1954. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from September 9, 1956 to August 13, 1960 and was honorably discharged.

Lew married the love of his life, Ruby "Charlene" Wimberly in 1960, at Wheeler, Texas. Together they built a life filled with love, devotion, and cherished memories as they raised their four children, Randy, Sherri, Steve, and Mark. Their years of marriage were marked by commitment and family-centered joy until Charlene preceded him in death.

Lew enjoyed life in many roles as a son, brother, husband and father. He was a devoted Christian man and treasured spending time with his family and friends. Lew could be found collecting antiques, enjoying nature and listening to music.

His love for life and the people in it will be deeply missed, but the memories he created will continue to provide comfort and joy to those he leaves behind. Lew's legacy is one of love, friendship, and adventure. It will live on in the hearts of everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Cherishing his memory is his children: Randy Hopkins and his wife, Rita of Mount Enterprise, TX; Sherri Talbot and her husband, Ken of New Braunfels, TX; Kenneth Stephen Lowrance and his wife, Shelly of Ada, OK; and James Mark Lowrance and his wife, Jan of Elk City; 10 grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Lew is preceded in death by his parents, Miles Osborn and Esther Lee (Usrey) Lowrance; his wife, Ruby "Charlene" Lowrance; and one brother, Jake Lowrance.

Donna Taylor



Donna Ann (Mitchell) Taylor was born May 28, 1956, to Walter Ord and Essie Laverna (Gregory) Mitchell in El Reno, OK. She went to her heavenly home on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at her home in Weatherford at the age of 69 years.

or checking for "holes in my eyelids," she did it all. She treasured her time spent with them and was known for her quick surprise visits, often carrying juice boxes, coloring books, stickers and sometimes fruit rollups.

She had a playful and light hearted spirit. She carried joy everywhere she went. She had a way of making those around her feel at ease, simply by being herself. She was never one to keep her thoughts to herself and spoke her mind openly. These are only a few of the many qualities that make her so unforgettable. She enjoyed thrifting, quilting, reading, coffee, and giving her sisters a hard time. Most of all, she enjoyed loving her family.

Donna is survived by her sons, Joey Ray and James Taylor and wife, Kayla; her daughters, Larci Robertson and Jara Morris and husband, Nick; her sisters, Betty Payne and husband, Rex and Mary Mitchell Ford; her brothers in law, Mike Taylor and wife, Candy and Scott Taylor and wife, Michelle; 14 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews who loved her dearly. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James Taylor; her brother, Jerry "Fuzzy" Mitchell; and brother-in-law, Bob Ford.

Donna graduated from Binger-Oney High School with the class of 1974. She was the proud mother of three children: Joseph, Larci and Jara. In 1993, Donna married James Edward Taylor - whom she lovingly referred to as both the love of her life and, at times, her "pain in the rear." That same year, they completed their family with the birth of their son, James Edward Taylor II.

She began her career at 3M as a spooler operator. When the company transitioned to Imation/Kodiak, she continued her work as an assistant coater operator and later as a servo writer with Imation Corporation. Her career with the company spanned 26 years, during which she rarely missed a day of work. However, her favorite roles were the years she spent working at Clinton Public Schools as a lunchroom cook and later at Binger Oney Public Schools as a custodian. She loved having the camaraderie she shared with the students and was always willing to help those in need. She was an exceptional granny and loved her grandchildren fiercely. Whether sitting at a table coloring, playing a game of checkers,



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Senate Session Review by Senator Darcy Jech



Sen. Darcy Jech
R-Kingfisher, District 26

The 2026 legislative session is well underway, with two weeks of committee work now completed. The Senate hit the ground running, beginning committee hearings at 9 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the session, following Monday's State of the State address.

I'm pleased to report that five bills I'm carrying this session have advanced from their assigned committee and are now advancing to the full Appropriations Committee or the Senate Floor.

Among my pieces of legislation advancing is Senate Bill 1509, which was unanimously approved by the Senate Energy Committee. The measure seeks to reform Oklahoma's groundwater laws by setting spacing requirements for new wells in order to protect existing well owners and their commercial investments from encroachment. It applies across all groundwater basins, ensuring an extra layer of protection while allowing exceptions only when water cannot be found elsewhere.

Another bill I'm proud to see move forward is Senate Bill 1434, which authorizes the Departments of Public Safety and Transportation to place automated speed enforcement devices at the start of construction zones.

Signs must be posted at least 100 feet before each device to alert drivers that their speed will be monitored, and an image may be captured. Work zones across the state have become increasingly dangerous, with high-speed accidents threatening the lives of drivers, state employees, and other construction workers.

I hope to see this bill continue to advance through the legislative process and eventually become law to make our work zones safer for everyone and give law enforcement additional tools to hold those endangering others accountable.

One piece of legislation I'm working on related to the Pardon and Parole Board also passed out of Committee this week. It will strengthen victim notification procedures by allowing notices regarding pardons, paroles, and commutations to be sent to a victim's last known email address in addition to first-class mail at their last known physical address. This modernization will enhance the process, making victim notifications faster and more dependable. I appreciate my colleagues in the Judiciary Committee for their unanimous support on this bill.

In addition to policy measures, we are continuing our work to craft a balanced state budget for the upcoming fiscal year. We're taking into account the governor's executive budget and call for flat spending, increased agency requests due to inflation and higher costs of goods, and additional investments we'll need to make in core services and infrastructure. The Board of Equalization's certified revenue figures indicate that we have approximately 4.5% less to spend than we did last session. Although we will have less to appropriate, we will invest strategically to ensure Oklahomans' tax dollars are being used effectively to fund the services they depend on most.

Along with work at the Capitol, I was grateful for the opportunity to join a few of my colleagues on a panel during the 121st annual American Farmers & Ranchers Convention. We discussed current agricultural policy efforts, as well as initiatives being championed by the Rural Caucus.

If I can assist you with a legislative matter, feel free to contact my office at 405-521-5545 or Darcy.Jech@oksenate.gov. We would also love to welcome you to our state Capitol and invite you to visit our office in Room 234.



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Thomas-Fay-Custer Student Pages for Pro-Tempore



Tricia Pemberton
House Republican Comms

Preston Payne, a senior at Thomas-Fay-Custer Unified High School, paged for House Speaker Pro Tempore Anthony Moore, R-Clinton, from Feb. 9-12 at the State Capitol. This was his second year to page for Pro Tem Moore.

House pages have the opportunity to attend House session and committee meetings during the week, Moore said, giving them an opportunity to hear questions and opinions on all sides of legislative issues. They also participate in a mock session with peers from across the state, electing their own officers and writing, presenting, debating and voting on their own legislation.

Preston is the son of Rick and Jennifer Payne. He had the distinction of being elected by his peers to serve as speaker for the Pageville session. "This is quite an honor," Moore said. From seventh to 12th grade, he's remained on the Superintendent's Honor Roll and is valedictorian of his class.

He also serves as president of Student Council; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); and Business Professionals of America. He's on the Academic Bowl and in FFA, where he was on the milk judging state championship team in 2025. He also took first in state in the FCCLA job interview competition.

After high school, Preston plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to obtain a degree in entrepreneurship and venture management with a minor in accounting. He'll also be following the pre-law track.

After college, he plans to attend law school and then return home to help with his father's CPA office and open a law firm.

"Preston is an incredibly intelligent and articulate young man with a great future ahead of him," Moore said. "I couldn't be more pleased to host him at the Capitol again this year. He's making his family, his school and his community immensely proud."

CORDELL / ADAMS LAKE - Cordell Mayor Phil Kliewer provided an update on ongoing improvements at Adams Lake. "We got a new bridge in. I think 3 vehicles could go across that bridge versus a rickety old wooden bridge that was there probably 30 or 40 years old," explained Kliewer. "Eventually we'll have a gate, most likely automated. Soon, we're going to have 2.5 miles of trails and we'll be putting a guy out there for assistance and also a little bit of supervision of people that are coming in. That'll be in the next week or so." Kliewer also revealed that the city of Cordell was denied a \$60,000 TSET (Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust) grant for the lake. Despite this, the city plans to re-apply.

CLINTON / UAS FIRE DRONE OPERATORS
Three more Clinton firefighters have passed the written portion (Part 107) of Small Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Regulations Test, allowing them to operate the department's drone under federal guidelines. Interim Fire Chief Mark Switzer says six department personnel are now certified to operate the drone. "We use the drone on all types of different calls. We've even taken it on some task force runs for the event that the fire is larger than what you can see with your eyes," expressed Switzer. "We've also used it in partnership with our police department [and the OHP] for missing persons, and we've had success on that also." During severe weather, the drone can be used to assess damage, search operations, and identify hazards without endangering firefighters.

SWOSU / HODGE CENTER DEDICATION
Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) will hold a private dedication ceremony in March for the Jerry and Margaret Hodge Center for Pharmacy and Rural Health. University President Dr. Joel Kendall explained that the event will mark the completion of the new facility, with the Hodge family expected to make an appearance. Additional public open houses are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

WASHITA CO / LAKE INVESTIGATION
The Washita County Sheriff's Department is working with authorities in California surrounding a murder for hire criminal case. "Our deputy worked with their investigators to do a search of the area and our deputy found an item that they were looking for and we're sending it to California to those investigators to be DNA tested," explained Washita County Sheriff Kevin Rozell. "And then OHP came out with the lake patrol and used their side scanning radar sonar that found some [potential] anomalies." Two suspects have been arrested, as authorities believe they stopped at Clinton Lake and disposed of evidence in the lake while on their way back to Alabama.

WEATHERFORD / SPACE CITY DAY - The Oklahoma State Capital will be hosting a "Space City Day" on March 10th. Various Weatherford city councilmembers and businesses are expected to attend. "[Economic Director] Yolanda Creswell has sent out emails to businesses, and we really need your help, so if you've gotten that e-mail, we want you there," expressed Weatherford Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kim Silman. March 10th will also be "Economic Development Day," with an event also being planned at the capital.

CLINTON / MEET & GREET - A Meet & Greet event with new Clinton Route 66 Museum Director Cory Cart will be held next month. The event will be held March 10th from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Director Cart will make remarks at around 12:15.

WEATHERFORD / SCHOOL INCIDENT
Weatherford Schools Superintendent Mark Harmon recently put out a message to families, saying the district was made aware of a concerning social media post by a minor involving one of the district's school sites. The situation was immediately addressed by school administration in coordination with local law enforcement. After a thorough review, the matter has been handled. As part of student and staff safety, Weatherford Police have conducted an increased patrol presence at Stafford Elementary. However, at no time were students or staff in any immediate danger.

WRH / AUDIT - The Weatherford Hospital Authority recently received the audit presentation for fiscal year 2024-25 that ended last September. "You had \$1.9 million of operating income, which is fantastic. Expenses in total went up, but not as much as your revenue went up," Forvis Director Jessica Elsberry presented. "[Weatherford] did a good job of controlling those expenses, probably again, bringing the billing in-house." Auditors are waiting on the cost report, which will determine if any adjustment will be made surrounding Medicare claims.

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.

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March 5 - Koltan Kardokus, Calvin Lowrance, Betty Lyle, Zachary Maddox, Justin McCloy, Ryan Parman, Whitney Smith;
March 6 - Kyle Albert, Brenda Bass, Maranda Bray, Ron Ferguson, Kelly Hoffman, Michelle Landry, Sarah Lilly, Margaret Nelson, Darrien Reinschmiedt, Billy Shirey, Kaelib Simpson, Cassie Trevino, RRron Weaver; **March 7** - Maxine Adams, Chandler Basler, Georganna Edwards, Caden Gates, Colton Gates, Kimberly Hinds, Judy Payne, Kale Sawatsky, Judy Sisson, Brian Thompkins, Jade Visnieski, Jeanna Vontungeln; **March 8** - Sheila Altland, Donna Birkenfeld, Tanner Boyd, Tamra Harper, Zel Harrell, Chip Helm, Phillip Hubert, Kelly Maddox, Braxton McConnell, Craig Meacham, Scott Mitchell, Sheila Mouse, Mike Pickett, John Smith, Jocelyn Thomas, Patrick Williams; **March 9** - Benjamin Badgett, Michael Berrong, Michael Butcher, Sharon Butcher, Amy Chrismon, Misty Courtney, Janet Gomez, Chris Jensen, Haley Kliewer, Sam Lackey, Rhonda Lovell, Bruce McLemore, Teresa Payne, McCary Rodolph, Leya Smith, Lynn Stephenson, Jim Tull, Talon Watkins, Gary Wilson; **March 10** - Anjali Grogan, Brian Hamar, Charlene Harrington, Dale Heinrichs, Trent Keasler, Teddy King, Brent Miller, Brad Perkins.

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Antique Lamp Table - \$50. Call 580-774-4000.

China Solid Wood Hutch - \$300. **Rolling Top Desk** - \$200. **Wood Night Stand** - \$30. 580-774-4000.

8-Drawer Dresser - In good condition. 3ft tall, 1'8ft deep, and 4'11" wide. \$75. 580-613-0108.

Furniture! 7-Piece Tiger Oak Dinette Pioneer hutch buffet table and 4 chairs. Devilled glass and mirrors fruit motif. \$2,000. Call 580-772-4297.

Gold Gym Treadmill - Excellent condition. \$300. NO PHONE CALLS. Text 580-340-3501

Coleman Powermate 5500 - running bolts electric generator. \$425. (770) 722-0609.

23 Dinner Plates - 75 cents each. 580-613-0108.

Large, Framed Mirrors - \$45; Full length: \$10. 580-613-0108

2 Lean Barstools - 30" tall. Seat back has horseshoes. \$75 for both. 580-890-0004.

Microfiber Love Seat - Brown, comes with console and drink holder. 580-330-0225.

Baby Walker - Bounces, comes with mobile and music. \$35. Call 580-613-0108.

3 Handheld Vacuums - \$30 each. 580-613-0108.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL! **93" Smart TV** - Mitsubishi. \$250. 580-772-7997 or 580-774-5771.

Curio Cabinet, Bottom Storage - \$50. Please call 580-774-4000.

Sofa & Loveseat - Both new. Gray. \$400 each. 580-302-2780.

80s Riverside Rolltop Oak Desk \$300. 580-772-7357.

Brothers Sewing Maching - Portable. \$50. 580-445-6765

Large Copper Skillet - \$35. Call 580-613-0108.

Thomasville Bed - Comes with frame, mattress, and five-drawer chest. \$450. 580-774-4000.

Good Coffee Table - Pictures available. \$25. 580-613-0108.

Composite Double Kitchen Sink - \$75. 580-772-5541.

92pc. China Set - Serves 12. \$100. 580-309-4045.

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8N Ford Tractor - Good condition. \$1,500. Call me at 580-729-0001.

30 Gallon Electric Tank Sprayer - Comes with 3 ft. boom. \$100. 580-772-5541.

Craftsman Riding Mowers 6 mowers/\$600. 580-886-2960.

5 Riding Mowers - \$700. Call 405-639-9667.

Sportsman Generators - \$150 for all three. 405-639-9667.

(3) Dixon Lawnmowers - \$300 for all three. 405-639-9667.

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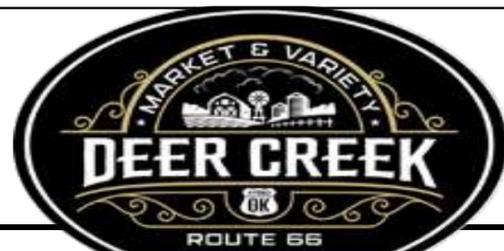
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ost Cereal (Asst. Varieties) \$3.99	Pink Lady Apples \$1.29 lb.
tar Kist Chunk Light Tuna, 5 oz. (All Varieties) \$0.79	Broccoli Crowns \$1.79 each
ood Club Split Top White Bread, 24 oz. \$1.59	Large Red Bell Peppers \$0.99 each
ood Club Potato Chips (All Varieties) 2 for \$5.00	
ood Club Pie Fillings (All Varieties) \$2.99	Frozen
ibby Corn-Green Beans-Peas 4 for \$5.00	Van De Kamp Fish Sticks or Fillets 2 for \$9.00
ood Club Wheat Sandwich Bread, 24 oz. \$1.59	Hot Pockets, 12 count (All Varieties) \$12.99
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ood Club Baking Chips (All Varieties) \$3.59	Ore Ida Potatoes (All Varieties) \$4.59
ood Club Hamburger Sliced Dills, 24 oz. \$1.99	
ood Club Oats, 42 oz. (All Varieties) \$3.99	Meat
og Cabin Syrup, 24 oz. \$3.99	Boneless New York Strip Steak \$13.69 lb.
in-The-Border Tortilla Chips \$2.99	Colorado Premium Corned Beef \$5.99 lb.
	Boneless Top Sirloin Steak \$8.99 lb.
Dairy	Pork Spare Ribs \$2.99 lb.
ood Club Whipping Cream 16 oz. or Half & Half, 32 oz. 2 for \$5.00	Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops \$2.99 lb.
ood Club Butter, 16 oz. 2 for \$7.00	Wrights Sliced Bacon \$6.99 lb.
ood Club Texas Style Biscuits, 10 count 2 for \$3.00	Eckrich Smoked Sausage, 10-14 oz. (All Varieties) \$3.99
lains Fruit Drink, 128 oz. (Al Varieties) 2 for \$4.00	
lains Chocolate Milk, quart 2 for \$4.00	Dry Grocery
ood Club Dip, 12 oz. (All Varieties) 2 for \$4.00	Simply Done Facial Tissue, 144 count \$1.69
ood Club Shredded Cheese, 32 oz. (All Varieties) \$5.99	Viva Towels, 6 roll package \$9.99
	Simply Done Fabric Softener Sheets, 40 count \$1.29

Western Oklahoma Basketball Teams Crowned Regional/Area Champions



Provided by Kelley Schmidt Photography

The Weatherford Lady Eagles were crowned Regional Champions after defeating the Bethany Broncos 50-47 in overtime.



Provided by Wright Media

The Thomas Terriers beat the Okay Mustangs 68-58 and were named Area Consolation Champions, stamping their ticket to State this week.

OAB: Wright Media Awarded for Outstanding Achievements in 2025

Outstanding Achievement
(Non-Metro Radio Division)



News Broadcast Award:
KWEY News: Live & Local



Mike Smith
News Director



Jon Matthews
News Anchor

Outstanding Achievement
(Non-Metro Radio Division)



Commercial Announcement:
C-Four Spraying: Ants/Aunts



Brady Benton
Talent/Producer



Drew Cobb
Talent

Outstanding Achievement (Non-Metro Radio)
Community Service: KWEY - Grand Can Sculpture Competition Radiothon

Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

The Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters (OAB) recently awarded Wright Broadcasting Systems (colloquially referred to as Wright Media) with three awards for their contributions to Non-Metro Radio in 2025. Four individuals were named for their contributions to the station's Outstanding Achievements.

Wright Media earned the 2025 OAB Non-Metro Radio Newscast Award, highlighting News Director Mike Smith and Anchor Jon Matthews. Smith brings hourly local news coverage for all five Wright Broadcasting radio stations. Matthews is currently a co-host of KWEY's "The Morning Show with Val & Jon," alongside Val Yoder.

Wright Media was also named the winner of the 2025 OAB Non-Metro Commercial Announcement Award, with the accomplishments of producer Brady Benton and talent Drew Cobb being highlighted. The ad was for C-Four Spraying in Weatherford and featured a sketch where a potential client inquires if their ant extermination services extends to his Aunt Edna. Brady Benton and Drew Cobb are both longtime contributors to KKZU FM (101.7 The Zoo). Cobb broadcasts live on the Morning Zoo and Benton regularly hosts the Afternoon Zoo.

Wright Media's third award was for their Community Service in coverage of Connections Food & Resource Center's 2025 Grand Can Sculpture Competition. No particular staff members were highlighted for this award.

Alexander Shook / WM

Wright Broadcasting Systems was awarded three awards for Outstanding Achievements in Non-Metro Radio for 2025. Pictured above, alongside the awards, are the staff members credited with the company's contributions to Oklahoma radio.



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Oklahoma History - OKC's Sonic Boom Tests and "Operation: Bongo II"



Provided

The models used for the OKC sonic boom tests were a Convair B-58 Hustler (left) and a Lockheed F-104 Starfighter (right).

In the early 1960s, the United States was racing toward a supersonic future. Aviation experts envisioned passenger jets that could cross the country at twice the speed of sound, but first they needed to know how sonic booms, those explosive shockwaves produced by breaking the sound barrier, would affect communities below. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with help from the U.S. Air Force devised an elaborate experiment in Oklahoma City to measure the booms' impact on buildings and people.

Starting in February 1964, "Operation Bongo II" set out to bombard a mid-America city with sonic booms on a daily schedule. Oklahoma City was chosen in part because of its deep ties to the aerospace industry – local leaders were so optimistic about the test that the Chamber of Commerce even held a celebratory dinner when the city was selected as guinea pig. Residents had been assured this was the sound of progress, a necessary trial to pave the way for future supersonic air travel.

On the morning of February 3, 1964, Oklahoma City's citizens heard the first of what would be many thunderous cracks in the sky. That day launched a six-month gauntlet of sonic booms, eight booms each day, beginning at 7:00 a.m. and rattling into the afternoon. The Air Force flew a fleet of supersonic jets out of nearby Tinker Air Force Base, diving to low altitude to maximize the boom effect. Convair B-58 Hustler bombers and sleek F-104 Starfighter fighters were among the aircraft assigned to slice through the sound barrier over the city.

Each time a jet roared by faster than Mach 1, a hard "BANG!" hit the city causing a pressure wave slamming into windows, walls, and eardrums. As Popular Mechanics reported at the time, "the boom is particularly terrifying because it is louder than a thunderclap and comes out of a clear sky without warning". Even so, the booms soon became oddly routine. Because they arrived on a fairly predictable schedule, many folks adapted in small ways. Construction crews learned to time their lunch break to the noon boom, setting down their tools as the shockwave signaled midday. Office workers joked about the "air force alarm clock" that rattled them awake each morning. There was pride at first as Oklahoma City was bravely enduring the sound of freedom in the name of aviation progress. But as the days turned to weeks, the jolts from the clear blue sky didn't get any gentler.

Before long, the toll of the daily sonic onslaught was evident in cracked plaster and broken glass. Storefronts downtown saw their display windows fractured, and, in fact, 147 windows blew out in the city's two tallest buildings during the first 14 weeks of the tests. Homeowners began finding new fissures zigzagging across their ceilings and walls. Many Oklahomans learned to remove precious knickknacks from shelves, after a few cherished plates or picture frames came crashing down from the vibrations. In total, residents lodged 9,594 damage complaints with authorities and filed 4,629 formal claims seeking repairs.

Most reports were for minor property damage, but the sheer volume of claims showed how widespread the disruption was. More alarming to city leaders was the human impact measured by surveys. While almost everyone in the test area experienced the house-rattling jolts, a significant number reported genuine distress. Nearly 40% of those living closest to the flight path admitted the booms startled or scared them as if an explosion had gone off nearby. As the booms kept coming, irritation turned into anger for a vocal minority.

By late spring, organized groups of fed-up citizens were demanding relief. They circulated petitions and even went to court, seeking an injunction to halt the thunderous experiment. A local judge sympathized but ultimately refused to stop the tests, arguing the plaintiffs hadn't proven real harm and that this was a "vital national need" for the country. Thus the daily booms rolled on, but so did the backlash. Community meetings grew heated as letters poured into the offices of Oklahoma's representatives in Washington, detailing the effects on family routines. The pressure was building, and not just in the air over Oklahoma City.

By summer 1964, the strain on the city's goodwill was showing. Even officials who initially supported the test began to waver as complaints piled up. Oklahoma's U.S. Senator Mike Monroney, who was once a booster of supersonic transport, started receiving hundreds of angry letters from constituents and grew furious with the FAA's cavalier response. Faced with mounting political and public pressure (and bad press in newspapers nationwide), the FAA pulled the plug a little early.

On July 30, 1964, the skies over Oklahoma City finally fell silent. The next day's newspaper cheekily declared, "Silence Is Deafening!", capturing the relief of a half-million boom-weary residents.

In the aftermath, federal officials tried to put a positive spin on Operation Bongo II. The University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center had been hired to gauge public tolerance, and their surveys found that 73% of Oklahoma Citizens felt they could eventually "learn to live" with eight sonic booms a day. The FAA trumpeted this figure as proof that supersonic transport might still have a future. But the agency downplayed another telling statistic: roughly 3% of the city's population was upset enough to take action. Around 15,000 people were writing letters, making calls, or even suing over the tests.

Out of thousands of claims, the FAA eventually paid out \$12,845 total across 229 cases – rejecting or dismissing 94% of all claims filed. Many residents who dutifully filled out stacks of federal forms to report a broken window or china cabinet got nothing but a form letter in return. Feeling ignored and betrayed, a group of citizens banded together and filed a class-action lawsuit against the government. The legal battle dragged on for years, but by 1969 the courts ruled against the U.S. government's appeal, essentially validating the residents' grievances.

Beyond the courtroom, Oklahoma City's sonic boom saga had lasting effects on American aviation policy. The negative publicity from the tests echoed all the way to Washington, D.C. Support for the proposed Boeing SST (2707) airliner began to erode, even as France and Britain forged ahead with their own supersonic Concorde. Congress decided in 1971 that funding for the American SST was terminated, effectively killing the project. By 1973 the U.S. government went a step further, outright banning civilian supersonic flights over land due to the sonic boom nuisance.

In the end, Operation Bongo II had demonstrated, in dramatic fashion, the costs of routine sonic thunder. The experiment that Oklahoma City once greeted with optimism ultimately helped doom the very vision it was meant to advance. For decades to follow, the only sonic booms over American soil would come from the occasional military jet, fleeting reminders of that turbulent trial in 1964.

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