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# upfront

I usually write my Upfronts the day before we go to print, as I am tonight on October 23 at 10:30 p.m. I do this so I can reflect on what Christy and I did to put together *bMonthly Magazine* for you, our incredible readers, in three-and-a-half weeks.

Welcome to November, friends. As of tonight, we have 36 days until Thanksgiving and 63 days until Christmas. Where did the year go? It seems like just yesterday when our “Back to School” issue came out. For us, since our first November issue back in 2017, November represents Veterans. We decided then that we would always focus on our Veterans and the sacrifices these men and women made for this great country. We made it our responsibility to honor them in *bMonthly’s* November issue every year.

The cover I designed was inspired by the iconic photo from the Battle of Iwo Jima, where six Marines raised the U.S. flag on top of Mount Suribachi. This battle lasted five weeks and a total of 70,000 Marines fought in this battle. Close to 7,000 were killed and another 20,000 were wounded. This photograph was taken just minutes after these brave men raised the flag and were trying to secure the flagpole on the bloody, bombarded rubble. The title I chose says it all — it simply and humbly says “Thank You.”

Christy and I love the month of November. We are right in the middle of college football, the beautiful fall leaves, crisp mornings with frost on the grass, and the smell of turkey in the oven on Thanksgiving Day! This is my favorite month and holiday. I have to say Christy puts together a Thanksgiving feast like no one else. We usually have over 30 family members at the house. Thanksgiving is when we get to have all of our kids here at the same time. That is the most important part of that day — our FAMILY is together. We pray that each of you can spend time with your family and loved ones as the holidays grow closer.

For this month’s feature story, which is now sponsored each month by Sutterfield Financial Group, I had Mike Wilt write about five of the major WWII battles and the local men who fought in them. Mike began with the attack on Pearl Harbor, then on to Europe with the Allied Invasion of Sicily, storming the beaches of Nor-

mandy on D-Day, and the Battle of the Bulge — one of the war’s bloodiest battles. Mike then moved across the Pacific Ocean with the Battle of Iwo Jima. Of the five battles we featured in this month’s issue, we had a total of 55,000 American casualties, which is larger than the population of Washington County. Of the 16,000,000 Americans who served in WWII, we have over 350 WWII veterans die each day in the United States, and we have less than 480,000 WWII veterans alive today. In the state of Oklahoma, we have less than 5,800 alive today. We honor all veterans of every war, but in this issue, we feel honored to tell the story of the “Greatest Generation” and how they saved the world.

Finally, I want to say, as Thanksgiving draws closer, that Christy and I are so blessed to be able to put this magazine in your hands each month. We truly believe you hold the best city magazine in the state, and we work countless hours each month to uphold that level of quality. There are many moving parts to create this magazine each month, and there are many people behind the scenes that never get credit. However, we want to thank you now for what you do for us each day and each month ... you know who you are. Everyday I wake up and know it is a blessing that God has allowed me one more day to love Christy, to be the best father and most importantly to bring light and hope into someones dark days. Life is a gift so open it up and share it with others. Happy Veterans Day to all who served, so we may be free! God Bless, Keith



# b

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# Arvest Names New Regional Manager

## Joshua Randolph Took Over New Position in October

by Lori Roll

**b** *Tell us a bit of your history. Where did you grow up, go to school and college?*

**A:** I was born and raised in Nowata, Oklahoma and graduated from Nowata High School in 1990. I attended Oklahoma State University, graduating in 1994 with a B.S. in Business Administration, with a Major in Finance with a Commercial Bank Management emphasis and a minor in Accounting. I was also a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, a social fraternal organization.

**b** *Do you have siblings? Were your parents or are your siblings in the financial services industry?*

**A:** I have two sisters, one younger and one older. Both were born in Nowata but live and work in Bartlesville today, raising their children. My mother is a retired OB nurse from Jane Phillips Hospital and lives in Bartlesville. My father is a retired machinist who also lives in Bartlesville.

**b** *When did you get into the financial services industry?*

**A:** My first opportunity to work in the financial services industry was an internship working at WestStar Bank, in the Credit Administration & Loan Review Department the summer of 1993. The Oklahoma Bankers Association awarded positions to select students from OSU and OU and placed them in banks around Oklahoma that sponsored an internship. I was fortunate to get an internship with WestStar Bank and work with people like Jim Bohnsack and Charles Baxter, among others at WestStar at that time.

**b** *When did you start at Arvest Wealth Management and in what position?*

**A:** After I graduated from college, Jim Bohnsack asked me to work at Weststar in Bartlesville, but I wanted to be in the big city, so I went to work for the Federal Reserve Bank in Oklahoma City. About nine years later, I saw Jim at an OU/OSU baseball game and he said I should come back and work for him. I was surprised when my wife said we should do it. We moved to Bartlesville in August 2003, and I worked for Jim in the Trust Department. I began as a Trust Officer working and training with my colleague, Scott Thompson, who is a seasoned member of the AWM team.

**b** *What do you like about your work?*

**A:** More than anything, I enjoy working with our customers and helping them with all phases and areas of their financial lives. I get the opportunity to work with individuals, families, businesses, and non-profit organizations. It's very rewarding to be a part of assisting customers in attaining their lifelong financial goals. Secondly, I enjoy working with my teammates within Arvest Wealth Management as



well as the Bank. It's a lot of fun going to work each day.

**b** *How are you involved in the community?*

**A:** I love the Bartlesville community and want to see us thrive as a city and region. I have been involved in several non-profits like Eldercare and the Bartlesville Public Schools Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Bartlesville, along with volunteer efforts through Arvest. I serve on the Board of Spirit Church as the Treasurer and lead the Financial Peace class at our church.

**b** *What would you like to tell us about your family?*

**A:** I have been married to my wife, Jodi, for 23 years. We met in Oklahoma City after being introduced by mutual friends. We have a son, Joshua Jr., who recently graduated

from OSU as a Wildlife Specialist and in June married Loren Giles, who was a Bartlesville graduate. Although she graduated from OU, we are still happy to have her in the family. They make their home in Oklahoma City where he works for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and she is a teacher in the Putnam City School District. We have two daughters, Ainslie and Addison. Ainslie is a sophomore at Bartlesville High School and Addison is in 8th grade at Madison Middle School. They are both straight-A students and are amazing athletes, currently participating on a competitive cheer team. They are also active participants of the Spirit Church youth group. As a family we enjoy spending time together watching OSU sports, having cookouts and swimming at grandmas, going out to eat, golfing, fishing, and watching movies.

**b** *As a Regional Manager, what are your duties?*

**A:** I now get the opportunity to lead an amazing group of individuals that help people build, manage, protect, and transition their wealth. Our region includes Bartlesville, Dewey, Nowata, Vinita, and Caney. My new role continues to include business development along with leading, coaching and mentoring others on the team.

**b** *What are your goals as Regional Manager of Arvest Wealth Management?*

**A:** When people think of Arvest, they think of a 100-year-old bank. Our challenge is brand awareness of what we do at Arvest Wealth Management versus Arvest Bank. We are involved in trust and estate planning, financial planning, investment services, and insurance relating to life, long-term care, and annuities. We are relationship-based rather than transaction-based. Our job is to help people build a financial legacy by creating a comprehensive financial plan. When that plan comes to fruition and is successful, that's rewarding.

# Joe Todd

by Kelsey Walker

Longtime historian Joe Todd wants to ensure the stories of veterans are preserved for future generations. He has spent thousands of volunteer hours over the past two decades interviewing veterans from across the region — and around the U.S. — and listening to nearly-forgotten war stories.

Saving these stories comes naturally to him. After all, he's a third-generation Army veteran himself.

The Bartlesville native, born in 1946, remembers the pure fun of growing up in the country with his older brother and sister. He recalls attending Highland Park School, and holds especially fond memories of the final two Christmas programs that oilman Frank Phillips held for the community children.

"We had a really good childhood here," he said. "Bartlesville was just a neat town."

His father operated an auto salvage shop on West 14th Street, and Todd spent countless hours there tinkering on old cars, taking them apart piece by piece. But as he finished his education at College High, his father advised him to look beyond the salvage yard.

"He said, 'You going to college or are you going to be a salvage man your whole life?'" Todd recalled. "I said, I think I'll go to college."

He attended Oklahoma State University for two years, but, uncertain of his future career path, he joined the Army in 1966 in the midst of the Vietnam War. It wasn't a shocking decision — both his father (World War II) and grandfather (World War I) had served in the Army. Todd attended Basic Training at Fort Bliss before receiving orders for Vietnam.



His grandfather, wary of the ongoing conflict, offered his grandson a ticket to Canada to avoid serving in Vietnam. Todd declined.

“I said Grandpa, I can’t do that,” he recalled. “So I went to Vietnam and, after being there a few months, I thought, What are we doing here? We’re not here to win this war.”

He served in Vietnam for 19 months as a helicopter mechanic crew chief with the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The climate in Southeast Asia was unforgivingly hot and humid, with a monsoon season that would bring nonstop rain for weeks on end. There were weeks of complete boredom and restlessness, Todd said, then “all hell would break loose” for a few hours.

“You never knew what was going to happen day to day,” Todd said.

When he returned home in March of 1969, his grandfather explained the similarities he had noticed from his own service in Siberia during World War I, and the Russian Revolution in 1917.

“He said, ‘To me, Siberia’s like Vietnam — a civil war that we shouldn’t be in,’” Todd recalled. “But I was young and stupid. I wasn’t paying attention to what was going on.”

Todd decided he wanted to pursue an archaeology degree at the University of California Los Angeles, so he moved to California. It didn’t take long for the country boy from Oklahoma to decide the Golden State was not for him.

“I looked around and thought, What in the hell am I doing in Los Angeles?” he laughed. “I came back to Oklahoma and went to the University of Oklahoma.”

While attending OU, he volunteered at the Oklahoma Historical Society. Six months later, Todd was offered the job of curator of collections — with the stipulation that he must finish his degree. So he stepped into the role, completing his degree in anthropology in 1974. He stayed until 1976, and then worked at the newly-opened 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City. He moved to Texas for a few years before returning to the Oklahoma



*Joe Todd during his service in Desert Storm.*

Historical Society in 1982 to serve as oral historian.

“I was hired to go out and interview senior citizens across Oklahoma,” Todd said. “I interviewed people that witnessed the Land Rush of 1889; people that came here by wagons, living in a sod house — the early days of Oklahoma.”

He interviewed hundreds of Oklahoma’s senior citizens, focusing on getting “details, details, details.” Their stories stuck with him — of crossing the Red River in wagons, early farming techniques, World War I veterans who served overseas and in the trenches in France, and so many others.

In 1990, Todd joined the Army Reserves 486th Civil Affairs Battalion in Broken Arrow. He spent 15 months in Iraq and Kuwait during Desert Storm. He returned home to a new job with the Historical Society, that of manuscript archivist, responsible for sorting through a “goldmine” of manuscripts and stories that had not yet been catalogued by the society.

He retired in January of 2001, but not before making plans to volunteer his oral historian skills with the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, Kansas. The director there asked Todd if he would interview a “few” Bartlesville veterans as part of a new project.

“He said, ‘We’re losing these World War II veterans and not getting their sto-



*Joe Todd during his service in Vietnam.*

ries,” Todd recalled. “So after I retired, I came to Bartlesville to interview about 20 veterans ... But the situation was, you interview one guy, he’s going to know six veterans. Those six each knew six. And it just mushroomed.”

Since that time, Todd estimates he has interviewed nearly 1,300 veterans for the project. He travels across the four-state region and spends between 15 minutes and six hours interviewing each person. Todd often asks about family life and childhood; details of basic training or boot camp; and memories of the ship on which they traveled overseas.

“There’s just some phenomenal people around here,” Todd said. “The World War II veterans, they’re all humble; ‘I didn’t do anything. I was just doing my job.’ One of the first guys on the beach at Normandy told me, ‘I was just a small cog in a big wheel.’”

But the underlying theme, he said, is, “I did this for my country and I’d do it again.”

Todd has since branched out to interview veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and other recent military conflicts. Those interviews are sent to the Oklahoma Historical Society for safekeeping.

“It gives me a good feeling,” Todd said, “that maybe I’ve saved a little bit of history for future generations.”



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# Trip to Bartlesville a Special One

## Popular Photographer's Trip to Area Was Memorable

by **Jesse Edgar**

My experience in Bartlesville was a special one. Words really can't describe it. I was contacted by Keith McPhail of *bMonthly Magazine* and he asked if I would like to come up and shoot some photos for the cover of the October issue and I quickly responded with an enthusiastic YES!

I hopped in the trusty Subaru and started heading North.

Really far north ... 190 miles north.

I drove 190 miles and ended up at Price Tower. This is where I met Keith and his beautiful wife, Christy. They are two of the nicest people you'll ever meet. I also got to meet their sweet daughter, Grace. She was practicing her photography skills, and I was more than happy to show her a few pointers.

We spent some time taking pictures of the Cherokee Street Bridge that crosses the Caney river, the Frank Phillip's Tower, the Conoco Phillips building, historically influenced murals, an abandoned hospital, and the beautiful original Washington County Courthouse.

After we left the downtown area, Keith took me out to Tyler Irwin Farms, where I got to see an old cemetery with headstones dating in the 1800s. The entire time, Keith was telling me the most amazing stories about the history of Bartlesville, Frank Phillips, and the cemetery. I could literally have listened to Keith's stories forever.

After we left the cemetery I was informed that we'd be making one last stop. We drove about 15 or 20 minutes southwest and ended up at the Woolaroc Museum and Wildlife Preserve. A 3,700 acre ranch that was established in 1925 and originally owned by Frank Phillips himself.

This place was absolutely breathtaking.

I saw buffalo, zebras, rams, and alpacas. I got to see a replica vintage Phillips 66 gas station, as well as the Woolaroc museum and Pioneer Woman statues. It was an incredible experience.

I want to thank Keith for choosing me to take these photos for him. I want to thank his wife for being so incredibly kind. I also want his daughter Grace to remember to keep her ISO settings on her camera as low as possible when shooting in the daylight. She's going to make a heck of a photographer one day.

I can't wait to go back to Bartlesville.

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# Giving Thanks for Veterans

## American Citizens Owe Veterans a Debt of Gratitude

by **Dr. Darryl Wootton, Pastor Spirit Church**



DR. DARRYL WOOTTON

“Thank you.” These words seem inadequate to describe the deep gratitude all United States citizens should express

for our veterans. Young men and women, often in their teenage years, enlisted in our U.S. armed forces to protect the freedoms of our great country. They left the comfort of home and the familiarity of friends. Without knowing to what part of the world they would be deployed, they said “Yes Sir” and respectfully accepted their assignments. These heroes fought the regimes of brutal dictators, evil tyrants, and brutal communists.

The Gospel of John records these words of Jesus, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).” It has been said that a veteran is someone, who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to the ‘United States of America’ for an amount up to and including their very life. Veterans are

brave men and women who were willing to lay down their lives for the freedom of others. Many of them did give their lives on foreign battlefields. There is no greater love.

Several years ago, I had the honor of interviewing Jewel Stewart, one of our local Bartlesville veterans. Jewel received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Just before he passed away, he recounted epic stories of World War II. His tale included long days at sea, epic battles in the South Pacific, cannibals in Borneo, being wounded in battle, combat in the Philippines, and warfare in Japan. A young newlywed who called Bartlesville home risked everything to save the world from dictators and to protect the freedoms we enjoy in the United States.

All of our veterans have their own unique courageous stories to share. Whether they served during a historic conflict or during a season of peace, each veteran can easily recount tales of bravery. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom to vote, and all of our other precious freedoms came at a high price. Our veterans paid that price.

During our upcoming Veteran’s Day and Thanksgiving holidays, would you extend extra effort to express your gratitude to a local veteran? Many of them lost fellow soldiers on the battleground of yesterday. Many of them still carry physical, emotional, and spiritual scars from their assigned duties. We owe each of them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

This November, find a veteran. Express your thanks. Buy them a coffee or a meal. Listen to their stories. Offer them a prayer. Although the words seem inadequate, most of all, just say “Thank you!”





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# Help United Way Fight Hunger

## This Year, 41 Million Americans Will Worry About Next Meal

by David Austin

The Bartlesville Regional United Way and its member agencies know what it means to fight hunger.

Non-profit organizations such as Mary Martha Outreach, Agape Mission, and the Boys & Girls Club of Nowata regularly provide meals to those less fortunate in Washington, Osage & Nowata Counties. Last year alone, the United Way delivered more than 28,000 sacks of food to children in Bartlesville and the surrounding communities.

The fact that the United Way and its member agencies fight hunger means that children like “Susan” don’t have to come up with creative ways just to avoid going to bed hungry. Prior to getting assistance from the United Way, Susan taught her younger brother and sister how to wrap leftover food in napkins at school and take it home for dinner so they would not go hungry.

In addition to meals for children, United Way and its member agencies provide safe out-of-school programs that offer tutoring, nutritional snacks, and strong character-building opportunities to more than 2,000 children.

Unfortunately, stories of families struggling in the Bartlesville area are not uncommon. However, neither are stories of people being assisted by non-profit member organizations of the Bartlesville Regional United Way. The United Way provides funding to support the programs of its member agencies. So, when you give to the United Way, you are helping ensure that organizations such as the Richard Kane YMCA, the Family Healthcare Clinic, the Westside Community Center, and the Samaritan Counseling & Growth Center — just to name a few — are there to offer their services to those in our community who need them.



How significant is the need in our area? An estimated 48 percent of families who seek the services of a United Way member agency report having to choose between paying for food or basic necessities because they don’t have enough money to pay for both. In fact, more than 19,000 area families received food and/or basic necessity assistance last year from member agencies of the Bartlesville Regional United Way.

How can you help those in need? You can do so by visiting the Bartlesville Regional United Way’s website at [www.bartlesvilleuw.org](http://www.bartlesvilleuw.org). There, you can learn more about its impact on the community, its member agencies, and ways to give.

The Bartlesville Regional United Way is focused on assisting people in three foundational areas of their lives — education, income, and health. Its member agencies offer services to those at all points in their lives — from infancy to late adulthood.

The problem of hunger is one that sadly spreads far beyond Bartlesville’s borders. This year, 41 million Americans will worry about where their next

meal will come from. Hunger can lead to issues such as malnourishment, impaired development, and chronic diseases. In particular, hungry children often have learning issues which can lessen their chances for success in school, work, and ultimately, in life.

An estimated one in eight families in America are hungry, which equates to approximately 12.3 percent of all U.S. households. The problem is especially pervasive within families classified as “the working poor,” who earn about \$25,000 annually for a family of four.

But with your help, the United Way will continue to fight for families in need throughout Green Country, including children like “Susan” and her siblings. It will look to put an end to hunger to help all of those within our community live happy, healthy, and productive lives.

When you support the Bartlesville Regional United Way and the programs of its 13 non-profit member agencies, you help everyone to live better lives.

Give today. Change our tomorrow. Live United.



The 9th Annual

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# Remembering and Honoring

## Several Local Heroes Remember Big Battles of WWII

by Mike Wilt

*“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”*

*-President Harry S. Truman*

The World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. recognizes the ways Americans served, honors those who fell, and celebrates the victory they achieved to restore freedom and end tyranny around the world. Many Bartlesville area soldiers were a part of that “greatest generation.” Some were among the 405,399 who made the ultimate sacrifice and never came home. Those who were fortunate to return rarely talked about their service feeling that “I was just doing my job.” However, in their later years, many locals agreed to share their war experiences. As part of our observance of Veterans Day, we share some of their stories.

The **Attack on Pearl Harbor** in Honolulu, Hawaii occurred on December 7, 1941. President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed it “a date which will live in infamy” because the attack happened without any declaration of war by the Japanese. It led to the United States’ formal entry into WWII.

Originally from Syracuse, NY, Don Baldrachi of Dewey was a member of the U.S. Army’s 3rd Engineer Battalion.



**DON  
BALDRACHI**



He and some buddies were at a submarine base not far from Honolulu that fateful morning.

“We got up early on December 7 and had breakfast. I was reading the newspaper around 7 o’clock and looking out over Pearl Harbor. Everything was so quiet.”

All of that changed at 7:48 a.m.

# Our Local WWII Heroes



“We heard something and looked up to see a big wave of planes. Some guy looked at them and yelled, ‘Hell, those are Japanese planes! We’re at war!’”

Bombs rained down on Battleship Row in the water and Japanese fighter planes strafed anything and everything on land. Lines and lines of unmanned American fighter planes were blown to pieces before pilots could even get close.

Born in Grainola in Osage County, Bill McCrory was part of the Navy’s Machinery Division aboard the *USS California* at Pearl Harbor.

“I had experience with engines. I didn’t want to kill anyone, and if I was in the engine room I wouldn’t have to fire a gun.”

Like Baldrachi, McCrory was reading a newspaper when he heard a commotion just before 8 a.m.

“I looked out a port hole and saw airplanes bombing Ford Island. At first, I thought it was the Army Air Corps dropping water bombs, but then I saw the explosions.



**BILL  
McCROY**



About this time, General Quarters (battle stations) was sounded and I went to the Engine Room.”

McCrory was changing out of his Navy “Whites” to his “Dungarees” when the first bomb hit the battleship.

“It was an armor piercing bomb and destroyed my quarters on the ship. There were two other hits in succession.

We could tell they were torpedoes because their explosion was muffled, but they shook the entire ship.

McCrory managed to find his way to his ship's deck only to witness the capsizing of the *USS Oklahoma*.

"I felt sorry for the guys on board her."

The *USS California* began to sink and "Abandon Ship" was sounded.

"I went over the side and began swimming to Ford Island. Some guys couldn't swim, so I helped several of them get to shore. We had to swim through heavy fuel oil. When we got on land, I got a pair of pants that were too big, a shirt that was too small, socks that didn't match, and a piece of rope for a belt."

Panic. Confusion. Fear.

"We thought the war was already lost because there were rumors the Japanese had invaded Hawaii."

While those rumors proved to be false, great damage had been done as over 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded.



**L.G.  
BEARD**



The **Allied Invasion of Sicily** (July 9 - August 17, 1943) was a major campaign of WWII that resulted in the ousting of Italian leader Benito Mussolini.

L.G. Beard of Dewey was part of an artillery regiment in the U.S. Army's 45th Division, which invaded Sicily under heavy fire.

have anticipated the invasion, they would have knocked us back off that beachhead," Beard said. "By the time I got off the ship, there was no danger. The Germans had been cleared for several miles."

"If the Germans would have anticipated the invasion,





**ROBERT  
NEPTUNE**



Part of Beard's duties was to survey the landscape in order to provide superiors with military information. In fact, several times he was assigned to deliver messages into areas with which he was unfamiliar.

"I had to memorize the map and terrain features."

Seared into Beard's

memory is the sight of his first German soldier.

"He was dead and wasn't over 14 years old. He was a pink-cheeked, handsome boy lying by the side of the road. I was nauseated by the fact he was so young, so



innocent. They were so desperate that they were putting kids in a situation like that."

The Allied forces at Sicily were led by British General Sir Bernard Montgomery and U.S. Lt. General George S. Patton.

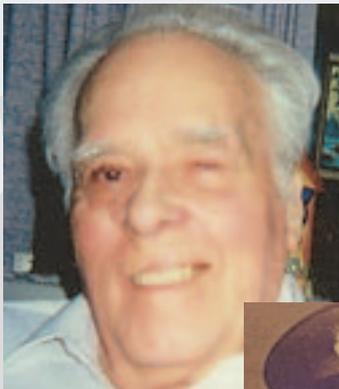
"Patton had illusions of glory," Beard said. "A lot of the men hated him, but you came to respect him. He wanted to get to Messina before that conceited so-and-so Montgomery. We got there before the British. When Montgomery arrived, we were there, and he stopped dead in his tracks. I wasn't in the square like it shows in the movie [*Patton*], but I was in town.

Robert Neptune and Louis Bowdre also fought for the U.S. in Sicily. Neptune was assigned to the Army's 82nd Airborne while Bowdre was part of the Army's 77th Field Artillery Regiment.

Neptune's plane made three runs at an airport before getting the green light to jump.

"It was reported the airport was in American hands, but the Germans had taken it back," he said.





**LOUIS  
BOWDRE**

After landing, Neptune found a few American soldiers and they came up on an American sentry.

“I had been given the wrong password, but the sentry recognized I was American. He quickly stuck his bayonet in my stomach and told me to tell him something that would prove I was an American. I began to



rattle off everything I could think of. I finally convinced him.”

Neptune was disheartened to learn that instead of having 556 soldiers they only had around 200.

The first day Bowdre and his fellow soldiers hit the beach at Sicily they didn't lose a single man.

“The Germans were retreating fast,” he said.

After progressing about five miles inland, Bowdre was ordered to climb a hill and open fire.

“I fired ten rounds at nothing, no targets. We had men looking for flashes from the German guns. I was to draw enemy fire from the German artillery. When we saw the flashes, we fired back with guns that were made in Tulsa, Oklahoma.”



**WALT  
SIRES**

“Operation Overlord” was the code name for the Allied Invasion of Normandy, but it is better known as **D-Day**, June 6, 1944. Walt Sires was there as part of the Army's 146th Engineer



Combat Battalion while Ray Holman was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division also known as “The Big Red One” after its soldier patch.

Before reaching France's Omaha Beach, Sires and members of the 146th had to get off the Liberty cargo ship and into a landing craft.

“That was tough because we had swells of 15 to 20 feet high on the English Channel,” Sires said. “Several men were killed climbing down the rope ladder only to be pinched between the two ships.”

Trained in demolition, Sires was among those who carried 80 pounds of Tetroyl, an explosive 1.5 times more powerful than TNT. The soldiers also had a rifle, a gas mask, and a bar of chocolate.

“You cannot believe the machine gun fire, artillery, and bombers. The Germans also had barbed wire entanglements on the beach. I didn't see any way that I could survive.”

Earlier, Sires had seen a landing craft next to his that took a direct hit from a German 88mm gun, killing all 21 soldiers including one from Nowata.





Sires removed his bulky ammunition belt once he reached shore because the Germans were strafing the water with machine gun fire.

“You couldn’t go under the water with that belt on. At the slant the bullets were hitting the water, they would ricochet and not go under the water.”

It took the troops 10 days to do what was supposed to be done in 30 minutes. After about two full weeks, Omaha Beach was finally secured by the Allies.

Like Sires, Holman also hit Omaha Beach early that June 6 morning.

“As far as you could see in any direction were ships and landing crafts,” said Holman who was part of the very first wave of soldiers.

“Both ramps were blown off the ship and the Executive Officer was killed before we even got off. We just jumped into the water and headed toward the beach. I think I was the only BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) man to get his gun ashore.”

Holman said the noise was deafening.



**RAY  
HOLMAN**



“There was a lot of boom and banging going on. Some of them hit pretty close. We saw half-tracks hit and men hit mines and just fall over dead. There were whole sides of ships blown out and I could look in the ship and just see mangled bodies.”

Holman recalled the warm greeting he and his fellow soldiers got upon reaching a small French village.

“They were tickled to death. Girls would come out with U.S. and British flags. We never did know where they got those flags.”





**RICHARD  
FREIERMUTH**

The last major German offensive on the Western Front during WWII was the **Battle of the Bulge** (December 16 - January 25, 1945). Fighting occurred in eastern Belgium, northeast France, and Luxembourg. U.S. Army soldier Richard Freiermuth was in an abandoned convent six miles south of Bastogne, Belgium

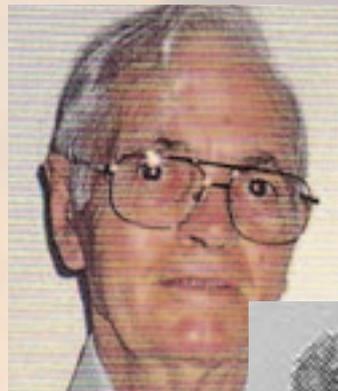
when the battle started just before Christmas. He was in charge of radar units and received orders to take all equipment to Bastogne and destroy it.

“The Germans were coming fast and we had to destroy the units so they wouldn’t capture them.”

However, the destruct mechanism failed to work properly.

“An infantryman offered his assistance and had mortar rounds fired into the equipment.”

Freiermuth was one of the last to escape Bastogne on the only remaining open road. Not long after, that road was surrounded and cut off by the Germans.



**LEON  
BRIGGS**

Leon Briggs of Dewey was assigned to the 324th Infantry Regiment of U.S. Army’s 44th Division. When the Battle of the Bulge broke out, the order to retreat was given.



“We were not far from Liege (Belgium) and were told the Germans were on the way. Everything was thrown out of the back of

trucks and men loaded up and took off. I was left behind because my truck wouldn’t start. It was so cold. I thought I was going to be killed or captured everything was moving so fast. Another truck stopped and I got in. I thought I would get in trouble for leaving my truck, but I didn’t.”



**The Battle of Iwo Jima** (February 19 - March 26, 1945) is arguably best known for the iconic photograph showing the raising of the U.S. flag on top of Mount Suribachi. Two Bartlesville soldiers were on Iwo Jima at the time.

Robert Radebaugh was with the 5th U.S. Marine Division that landed on the small Japanese island some 750 miles south of Tokyo.

“I was part of the eleventh wave and the beach was rough,” Radebaugh said. “I stepped on the beach and sank halfway up to my knees in that sand. Actually, it was volcanic ash.”

There were three tiers to the top of the island and Japanese soldiers were shooting down on the American forces.

“The thing is they only fired in one direction. If you got out of their line of fire you were alright.”

That’s not to say Radebaugh didn’t witness the horrors of war.



**ROBERT  
RADEBAUGH**



“A hand grenade hit close by and a buddy of mine’s face was covered with fine shrapnel and blood was pumping out of his neck.”

Radebaugh pulled out some battle dressing and had his comrade transported back to the beach. Remarkably, the soldier survived.

When his fellow Marines started up the mountain, they wanted Radebaugh to go with them. But he was towing a 30-caliber machine gun, ammunition, and a tripod.

“I said ‘No.’ I wasn’t going to pack that machine gun up that mountain. But I did give them cover so they could get up there.”

Not long after, six soldiers of the 5th Marine Division raised the American flag.



R.J. George was part of the 4th Marine Division at Iwo Jima, but he was too far away to see the flag go up.

“We were looking around and someone asked what was on top of the mountain,” George said.

But not being able to see a flag was the least of George’s worries. He was a passenger in a Higgins Boat (a watercraft used extensively during the war for amphibious landings) when he and others were dropped into the Pacific waters well in front of the beach.

“The water was up to our armpits. (The driver) could have taken that boat in and put us on the beach, but he didn’t. He was scared.”

When George finally hit the beach, he began to dig a foxhole only to discover a dead body. He started digging another foxhole and found another dead body.

“I finally just laid down.”

The Americans were surprised that they encountered so much heavy enemy fire because the island had taken a pummeling from U.S. warships and fighter planes.

“Before we hit the beach, we could see the *USS Missouri*. She laid those big guns down and shot into the side of that mountain, round after round after round. Marine pilots flew overhead and dropped Napalm. I wondered how anything could be alive there.”

A number of other battleships and aircraft carriers surrounded the tiny island, which was only eight square miles.

“It looked the whole Navy was there.”



**R.J.  
GEORGE**



What the Americans didn’t know was the mountain and island was honey-combed with an extensive network of caves and tunnels that allowed the Japanese to withstand the brutal naval bombardment.

Prior to landing on Iwo Jima, George participated in a series of briefings during which soldiers were told how long to expect to

be on the island. The last estimate given was less than a week.

“We were there for some 25 days. A lot longer than we were told.”

Indeed. The battle lasted 36 days. While it was an American victory, the toll was extensive with some 26,000 casualties including 6,800 dead.

Sadly, nearly all of the men quoted here are no longer with us. Only 95-year-old R.J. George of Bartlesville remains. But their dedication to freedom and liberty will long be remembered.

*~ Editor’s note: The author gratefully acknowledges the work of Joe Todd for his contributions to local military history and assistance with this article.*



# Sutterfield Financial Group

## Honors Our Fallen Heroes

by Joe Todd

### LEE W. STONE June 28, 1917 - March 1, 2019



Interviewed in Bartlesville on June 18, 2006. Born in Smithville. Graduated from high school in 1935 and enrolled at the University of Oklahoma Law School. Began working for Phillips Petroleum in 1941 and was drafted in May 1942 and sent to Fort Warren, Wyoming for basic training. OCS at Fort Lee, Virginia and commissioned December 1942. Assigned to the Forth Worth, Texas Quartermaster Depot. Transferred to the Air Corps and assigned to the 1221st Quartermaster Company, 84th Air Service Group at Gossfield, England. Was Commissary Officer and provided rations for the mess halls in the 356th Fighter Group. Landed at Utah Beach three weeks after D-Day and sent to Airfield A-7 at Cherbourg, France. Crossed France to Mons, Belgium when the Battle of the Bulge broke out. After the Bulge, he was sent to Cologne. He was being sent to the Pacific when the war ended, and was discharged November 1945 and returned to Bartlesville.

### JACK STEPHENSON July 12, 1924 - June 3, 2019



Interviewed in Bartlesville on March 11, 2005. Born in Drumright, Oklahoma. Quit school in the 10th grade and moved to California to work in the Kaiser Shipyards on a rivet crew. Drafted July 23, 1943 and sent to Camp Fannin, Texas for basic training. Left the U.S. on the SS *Simmons* on December 27, 1943 and assigned to 2nd Infantry Division. He landed at Omaha Beach on June 7, 1944 under U.S. and German artillery fire and saw stacks of dead Americans and Germans. Hedgerow fighting broke out. He was wounded on July 27, 1944 and evacuated to England. He returned to the U.S. on the hospital ship *USS Chateau Thierry*. Discharged on October 27, 1945 and began working for Phillips Petroleum in 1952 and moved to Bartlesville.

### HUGH B. FRASER March 9, 1924 - March 14, 2019



Interviewed in Bartlesville on May 18, 2017. Born in Gibson, New Mexico. Attended Texas A&M in 1942, then inducted into the Army and sent to Camp Roberts, California for basic training then to Fort Benning, Georgia for officers training. Commissioned in 1943 and assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. Sent to New Jersey and crossed the Atlantic on a converted liner. Landed at Marseilles, France and traveled in the 40 & 8s to the Rhine River, where the Germans were on one side and the Americans on the other side. He saw combat with the German soldiers and remembered capturing towns and cities. Toured Dachau. Crossed into Austria and the war ended. Returned to Texas A&M and went to work for Phillips Petroleum.

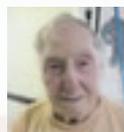


### JACK LEISURE October 1, 1924 - November 17, 2018



Interviewed in Bartlesville on March 29, 2016. Born in Coffeyville, Kansas. Joined the Marines on August 19, 1943 and sent to San Diego, California for boot camp. After boot camp, he was sent to Memphis, Tennessee to Aviation Mechanic School. After the school, he was sent back to San Diego and put on a troop ship headed for the Caroline Islands, north of New Guinea, and was a plane captain on an SBD. Flew as gunner on the SBD. He fought in the Invasion of the Philippines. Discharged October 20, 1945 and returned to Bartlesville and worked for Cities Service.

### EMMETT HALLAWAY February 17, 1927 - January 8, 2019



Interviewed in Dewey on February 10, 2017. Born in Bartlesville. At age 16 joined the Kelly-Miller Brothers Circus and traveled throughout the Central United States for two years. Took care of the elephants in the circus. He was drafted June 13, 1945 and sent to Fort Hood, Texas for basic training and additional training for Japan. V-J at Fort Hood. Sent to Germany on the SS *Marine Angel*. He was based in the post office across the street from General Eisenhower's office in Frankfurt, Germany. Discharge and returned to Bartlesville, where he worked for the Smelters and Reda Pump.

### BOB CASE September 12, 1924 - May 22, 2019



Interviewed in Bartlesville on July 1, 2014. Born in Cameron, Missouri. Drafted April 3, 1943 for limited service because he lost an eye at the age of nine. He was sent to Fort Warren, Wyoming for basic training then to Regis College in Denver for ASTP. ASTP cancelled due to the Battle of the Bulge, so he was sent to Fort Sam, Houston and assigned to the 1857th Service Unit. He reconditioned instruments and tools. After the war, he worked for Phillips and was also sent to Norway, where he met people who were there during the German occupation.



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# Choosing the Right Child Care



A program of Washington County Child Care Foundation

## What to Look For When Choosing the Right Fit For Your Youngster

by **Sherry Rackliff**

“I need to find child care for my child.” Many of you have faced that dilemma. More than one fourth of children under the age of 5 are in some type of formalized care. Formalized care means a child care center or a licensed family child care home. Either of these can be good options for your child. There are a lot of resources on the internet; here is a good one that we know and trust from Child Care Aware of America: <https://www.childcareaware.org/selecting-child-care-program/>

I want to share some tips that we, as Washington County Child Care Foundation/Delaware Child Development, feel are good things to look for when choosing the right fit for your child.

The first thing to ensure is that the center or home you are looking at is a licensed facility with the Office of Child Care with the State of Oklahoma. In Oklahoma it is illegal to care for non-related children in your home without a license. Oklahoma has a STAR rating system that indicates a level of quality for a facility. A 3-STAR is the highest rating achievable in the state of Oklahoma. A 3-STAR rating indicates that the center is accredited by a national body governing standards for early childhood programs. It means that teachers are educated and have received ongoing training. It also means that the program has governing standards in place that ensures there are protocols to be followed for enrollment, accidents, emergencies, complaints, etc. It also means that the program has a developmentally appropriate, research-based curriculum in place, develops individualized lesson plans, and that they have some type of parental involvement around your child’s development.

You should ALWAYS visit the center you are considering taking your child before you enroll and take your child to school the first day. You may even visit more than once or hang out in the classroom your child will be in for a while. Meet the director and teacher. Reflect on the visit. Was it difficult to enter the building as a stranger? (Hint: it should have been, for safety reasons.) Did you feel welcomed once you were there and they understood your reason? Did the center or home look, smell, and feel clean? Was the director professional and answered your questions and told you about the program? Did the teacher greet you? It may have been that the teacher was engaged with children (her priority) and was not able to greet you in a manner to give you her full attention if this was an unscheduled visit. If you want to talk to the teacher further, make an appointment.

What is the ratio of teachers to children in the classroom? Are the children engaged in an activity (playing with a toy or a friend is positive)? When in the classroom, what is the teacher doing? Is she engaged with children or setting up something for the children later? Do you observe singing, talking with children, pretend play, movement of children? If you observe these things, chances are, you are in a quality program. Is there a television in the room? The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no screen time for children under 18 months and only very limited screen time such as facetime calls to friends and relatives from 15 to 24 months. They are still recommending a very limited amount of screen time from ages 2 to 5 and limiting it to only two specific pro-



grams where there is limited research that children learn from them. They also recommend that parents be present when watching these educational programs. You should not see children watching a television, even an educational show, in a child care center. Many centers use whiteboards or big screens as a means of movement and music. It is much better to have teacher led music and movement activities with the teacher engaged in the lyrics and movements. I can tell if my granddaughter has learned song from her teacher or another adult as opposed to learning the song from the tape. Her words to the song are much clearer in songs she learns from a live person as opposed to an electronic version.

The interaction and relationship you want your child to have with the teachers in the classroom is the most important thing. To gauge that, you will need to meet the teacher and spend some time. And plan to spend some time before or after the day to discuss how your child did with other children and in group time (if appropriate). Help that relationship to form with your child’s teachers.

Look at the physical makeup of the classroom. Is there adequate space for children to play and engage in play that is meaningful? Are there materials for them to build, to ride on, to climb, to read, to pretend play? Is there paint, an easel, writing materials? Does the room look welcoming? Keep in mind that you are probably visiting when class has been in session for a while that day and some of the toddler classrooms can look quite messy in a short amount of time. Look on the walls for lesson plans, menus, and safety information.

Ask the director if there is an emergency plan in place for fire, tornado, or any other disasters. What is their policy on notifying parents in an emergency?

Please check out the appropriate checklist for more information on what to look for in choosing a quality program for your child to spend 5 days a week. This is a very important decision for you and your child. Parents should be encouraged to take the time to find the exact fit for their child. You and your child care provider should be partners in guiding your child’s young mind to achieve his maximum potential!

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR SPONSORED BY



## SAFARI SMILES

CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY

**1 Yee Haw VBS**  
6:00 PM; East Bartlesville Christian Church  
November 1 & 2. Saddle up for a trailblazing weekend of fun! Kids'll kick up their heels at Yee Haw VBS as they stampede through the wild frontier and celebrate the greatest truth of all—Jesus! Invite your friends!! Pre-K - 5th grade. Register by at <https://vbspro.events/p/c97fd>.

**OKWU Wrestling vs OCU Dual**  
7 PM; OKWU Gym

**Trick or Treat Night**  
5 PM; Pro Mortgage  
Come Join us from 5-7. We will have candy, games, popcorn, and a costume contest!

**Teens! Native American Basket Weaving**  
6 PM; Bartlesville Public Library  
Dora Smith-Patzkowski, District 12 Representative of the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council, will lead teens in the art and craft of Native American basket weaving. Participants will be creating their own small piece. Space is limited. Call 918-338-4170 to reserve your spot.

**2 Battle in the Ville**  
10 AM; St. John School  
Open Style Martial Arts Tournament.

**4 Bartlesville Math and Science Night**  
6 PM; Madison Middle School

**JV Bruin Football vs Muskogee**  
6 PM; Custer Stadium

**8 Bruin Football vs Shawnee-Senior Night**  
7 PM; Custer Stadium

**9 Thanksgiving Tea Dance Party**  
10 AM; Stage Art Dance  
Come have a Tea Dance Party with us!! Dress up, dance, tumbling, crafts. Cost is \$20 Sibling discounts. Ages 3-9 Registration required. [Stageartproductions@hotmail.com](mailto:Stageartproductions@hotmail.com).

**Veterans Day Parade**  
11 AM; Downtown Bartlesville

**Osage Hills Hay Rides**  
12 PM; Osage Hills State Park  
Fall is here, and it is time to get outside with your family and enjoy the beautiful weather. Hayride runs until 6 p.m.. The cost is \$5 per person, which includes a hayride, s'more fixin's, and hot chocolate. The crafts and bounce houses are free as usual. This year we are adding a new feature. We will have live music from Wayne Cantwell of Traditional Music of the Open Prairie. To volunteer, call 918-336-4141.



**Bruin Swim vs Fort Gibson/Stillwater**  
5:30 PM; Phillips 66 Aquatic Center

**14 Bruins 9th Grade Boys Basketball vs Sand Springs**  
6 PM; Bruins Fieldhouse

**OKWU Wrestling vs Central Baptism Dual**  
7 PM; OKWU Gym

**16 OKWU Basketball vs Bacon College**  
3 PM; OKWU Gym (W)  
5 PM; OKWU Gym (M)

**18 Bruins 9th Grade Boys Basketball vs Union White**  
6 PM; Bruins Fieldhouse

**19 Bruin Swim vs Enid/Bishop Kelley**  
5:30 PM; Phillips 66 Aquatic Center

# Extended Hours

**Monday - Thursday**  
8:00am - 8:00pm

**Friday**  
8:00am - Noon

**Saturday**  
9:00am - Noon

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## 20 OKWU Women Basketball vs Bethany

6 PM; OKWU Gym

### Fantasy Land of Lights

6 PM; Johnstone Park  
The annual drive-through Christmas light display is open nightly, from 6-10 p.m. through December 30.

## OKWU Basketball vs York College

3 PM; OKWU Gym (W)  
5 PM; OKWU Gym (M)

### Dancing with the Bartlesville Stars

6:30 PM; Bartlesville Community Center.  
Bartlesville's most entertaining fundraiser, Dancing with the Bartlesville Stars, will be held on from 6:30-8:30.

## 29



### Woolaroc Wonderland of Lights

9 PM; Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve  
A wonderful holiday tradition returns again this year at Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve with the spectacular Wonderland of Lights. The grounds and buildings of Woolaroc will be covered with over 750,000 lights as the historic ranch transforms itself into a magical winter wonderland! The lights will be on every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 5-9 p.m., through December 22nd. Admission to Wonderland of Lights is \$6 for adults and \$1 for children, and 3-under admitted free.

## 23



### Teens! Cupcake Baking and Decorating

2 PM; Bartlesville Public Library  
On November 23rd, Dusty Hardester of Dusty Rose Cakes will lead a baking class for teens. Participants will bake yummy cupcakes and learn fun cake-decorating techniques. Space is limited. Starting November 9, call 918-338-4170 to register.

## 25

### Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Break

Bartlesville Public Schools will be closed for Thanksgiving Break through November 29.

## 28



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# Thanksgiving Family Night

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 • 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm



Join us for a fall craft and visit with the Chick-fil-A Cow. Kids that dress like turkeys will receive a free Kids Meal 4-count.



Bartlesville  
602 SE Washington Blvd  
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# b NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Know of an upcoming event you would like to see on our calendar? Visit us at [www.bartlesvillemonthly.com](http://www.bartlesvillemonthly.com) to submit a free listing!

## Fri, Nov 1

8 AM

### The Mystery and Appeal of Shin'enKan Exhibit

Bartlesville Area History Museum  
401 S Johnstone, 5th floor

The exhibit will run daily through November 29, during normal museum hours, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

9 AM

### Oklahoma Heritage Farm Annual Fall Festival Final Weekend

Oklahoma Heritage Farm  
Hwy 75 between Ramona & Tulsa

The 2019 OHF festival theme is "Heartland USA." Friday & Saturday, 9-9, and Sunday afternoon 1-5.

### Caregivers Support Group

Hopestone Cancer Support Center  
206 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.

10 AM

### The Woolaroc Retrospective Art Exhibit & Sale

Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve  
1925 Woolaroc Ranch Road

The exhibit & Sale will run during normal Woolaroc hours, through December 29.

10 AM or 6 PM

### Handbuilding with Clay Class - Mishima Bowl

Price Tower Arts Center  
510 S Dewey Ave.

During this 2-day class you will make an easy fold square/rectangular plate/bowl then design using wax and Japanese Mishima technique to carve intricate designs in greenware. Once glazed it will be food-safe and perfect for holiday entertaining. Feel free to bring your own zentangle designs.

5 PM

### Trick or Treat Night at Pro Mortgage

Pro Mortgage  
2114 SE Washington Blvd.

Join Pro Mortgage for an evening of games, candy, popcorn & costume contests, from 5-7 p.m.

7 PM

### Movie Night with Bartlesville Film Society

Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey

7:30 PM

### Jersey Boys Presented by Broadway in Bartlesville

Bartlesville Community Center  
300 SE Adams Blvd.

Go behind the music and inside the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in the Tony Award-winning true-life musical phenomenon, Jersey Boys. The show has a PG 13+ rating.

9 PM

### Live Music

Solo Club  
408 E 2nd. St.

### Live Music

Osage Casino Bartlesville  
222 Allen Rd.

## Sat, Nov 2

10 AM

### Bartlesville Artisan Market

Washington Park Mall  
2350 SE Washington Blvd, Ste 218

Held every Saturday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.



6:30 PM

### Hops for Hope Benefitting Ray of Hope Advocacy center

Bartlesville Airport Hangar 5  
Bartlesville Municipal Airport

Hops for Hope is a home-brewing competition benefiting Ray of Hope Advocacy Center. This fun and casual event features beer tasting (attendees are the judges), pub grub, live music, raffle and silent auction items. Tickets are \$40 and include dinner, a commemorative taster, bottle caps for voting, wine tickets, and a beer guide with one round of beer tasting.

7 PM

### LMAO Comedy Show

Hilton Garden Inn  
205 SW Frank Phillips Blvd.

### Murder Mystery Theatre

Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey

8:30 PM

### Trivia Night

Tinker's GlassHouse  
600 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.

## Sun, Nov 3

2 PM

### Living, Praying & Rejoicing: Living a Well Lived Life

Bartlesville Community Center  
300 SE Adams Blvd.

Presented by the Bartlesville Choral Society.

3 PM

### Life Drawing with Model

Price Tower Arts Center  
510 S Dewey Ave.

## Mon, Nov 4

10 AM

### Eldercare Open House Tour

Elder Care  
1223 Swan Dr.

## Wed, Nov 3

7:30 PM

### Songbox

Tinker's GlassHouse  
600 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.

Music + Bingo. Free to play! Win prizes!

## Fri, Nov 5

12 PM

### Cooking with Susan Miller

Bartlesville Public Library  
600 S Johnstone Ave.

This free program runs from noon until 2 p.n. There are also sample tastings of each demonstration.

"Friendly dealers, great showroom and vehicles, very accommodating. Really appreciate being called by name." — Matt from Wichita, KS

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# EVENTS CALENDAR

## Thu, Nov 7

10 AM

**Martha's Task Annual Open House**  
*Martha's Task*  
718 S Johnstone Ave.

Join Martha's Task for a fun day of festive shopping refreshments and catching up with friends.

1:30 PM

**Nutrition & Herb Study Group**  
*Hopestone Cancer Support Center*  
206 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.

Study the uses, both medical & everyday, of different herbs and good nutritional practices.

5 PM

**Business After Hours**  
*Price Tower*  
510 S Dewey Ave.

6:30 PM

**Advance Directives Presentation**  
*Bartlesville Public Library*  
600 S Johnstone Ave., 2nd floor

Hosted by the Bartlesville Women's Network. What you always wanted to know about advance directives and were afraid to ask, with Dr. John Hatchett and Retired District Judge Jan Dreiling. Event is free, light refreshments will be available.

7 PM

**Stray Kats Car Club Movie Night (Open to the Public)**  
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery*  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey

7:30 PM

**Paranormal Cirque**  
*Washington Park Mall*  
2350 SE Washington Blvd.

Paranormal Cirque is an innovative horror themed story for MATURE audiences featuring our exclusive magical fusion of theatrical circus arts, comedy, and cabaret. Must be at least 13 years to attend, minors require a chaperone 21+. Adults need photo ID with date of birth.

## Fri, Nov 8

10 AM

**Bartlesville & Dewey Holiday Open House Boutique Crawl**  
*Buttercup Market, Moxie on Second, Lubella's Market, Saddoris Specialties, Vintage Loft, Once Again & Rustic Pony.*

Visit the above boutiques for the first annual boutique crawl for the holidays. From 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

10 AM or 6 PM

**Handbuilding with Clay Class - Mishima Bowl**  
*Price Tower Arts Center*  
510 S Dewey Ave.

See November 1 event for info.

6 PM

**Salvation Army Red Kettle Kick-Off**  
*Adams Boulevard Church of Christ*  
3700 SE Adams Blvd.

The 3rd Annual Red Kettle Kick-Off Dinner begins the Salvation Army's season of giving and bell ringing.

7 PM

**Family Movie Night**  
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery*  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey

7:30 PM

**Paranormal Cirque**  
*Washington Park Mall*  
2350 SE Washington Blvd.

See November 7 event for info.

9 PM

**Live Music**  
*Solo Club*  
408 E 2nd. St.

**Live Music**  
*Osage Casino Bartlesville*  
222 Allen Rd.

## Sat, Nov 9

10 AM

**Bartlesville & Dewey Holiday Open House Boutique Crawl**  
*Buttercup Market, Moxie on Second, Lubella's Market, Saddoris Specialties, Vintage Loft, Once Again & Rustic Pony.*

See November 8 event for info. Today until 4 p.m.

**Jingle & Mingle**  
*Vintage Loft*  
410 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey

Join Vintage Loft as it hosts its 7th Annual Holiday Open House, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Waxing Poetic: Painting with Cold Wax & Oil**  
*Price Tower Arts Center*  
510 S Dewey Ave.

Explore the liberating medium of cold wax and oil pigment to paint layers of color, texture and shape. The class, taught by Lori Roll, will utilize patterns and mark making, layering and reduction to create abstract or representational art.

11 AM

**Veterans Day Parade**  
*Downtown Bartlesville*

Parade will start in the Phillips Parking lot and travel East on Frank Phillips Blvd then turn South (right) on Osage then go West (right) on 6th St. then South (left) on Armstrong to Adams Blvd (right) back to the Phillips Parking lot. The community is invited to attend. Come out for a celebration of our Veteran's and our country!

6:30 PM & 9:30 PM

**Paranormal Cirque**  
*Washington Park Mall*  
2350 SE Washington Blvd.

See November 7 event for info.

7 PM

**Improv Comedy Night**  
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery*  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey

## Sun, Nov 10

5:30 PM & 8:30 PM

**Paranormal Cirque**  
*Washington Park Mall*  
2350 SE Washington Blvd.

See November 7 event for info.

## Mon, Nov 11

**Veterans Day**

## Tue, Nov 12

5:30 PM

**Women's Cancer Support Group**  
*Hopestone Cancer Support Center*  
206 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.

6 PM

**Canvas Paint Party**  
*Pawhuska Business Development Center*  
1225 Virginia Short Street, Pawhuska.

Join Elaine Wilson and Tri County Tech for a fun evening of painting in Pawhuska. What's more fun than creating your own artwork? Doing it with your friends! Using a canvas, you'll learn how to paint an adorable painting. The completed masterpiece will catch anyone's attention and would be great for gift giving. Supplies will be provided. Reserve your spot today!

## Wed, Nov 13

7:30 PM

**Songbox**  
*Tinker's GlassHouse*  
600 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.

See November 3 event for info.

## Thu, Nov 14

6 PM

**Shin'enKan Evening Event with Mary Winn Dills**  
*Bartlesville Area History Museum*  
401 S Johnstone, 5th floor

Mary Winn Dills, who served as the former curator/caretaker of the Joe Price home, will present program. A film By RSUTV will be shown as well. 6-7:30 p.m.

**ADPA Parkinson's Caregivers Support Group**  
*JPMC Lower Level classroom*  
3500 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.

7 PM

**The Hound of the Baskervilles**  
*Theater Bartlesville*  
312 S Dewey Ave.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson investigate the legend of a supernatural hound, a beast that may be stalking a young heir on the fog-shrouded moorland that makes up his estate. On his uncle's death, Sir Henry Baskerville returns from abroad and opens up the ancestral hall on the desolate moors of Devonshire. All tickets are general admission, and available for \$20 per person. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

## Fri, Nov 15

3 PM

**Holiday Shopping the Bartlesville Art Association Winter Gallery**  
*Bartlesville Art Association*  
500 S Dewey Ave.

Shop artwork, gifts, and unique items handcrafted by local artist members of the BAA from 3-8 p.m.

7 PM

**Live Theatre - Hillbilly Heaven with Joe Sears**  
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery*  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey

**The Hound of the Baskervilles**  
*Theater Bartlesville*  
312 S Dewey Ave.

See November 14 event for info.

9 PM

**Live Music**  
*Solo Club*  
408 E 2nd. St.

**Live Music**  
*Osage Casino Bartlesville*  
222 Allen Rd.

**Christkindl Market**  
LIVE MUSIC • SHOPPING • GERMAN FOOD • GLUWEIN • KID'S ACTIVITIES  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 10AM - 4PM  
BARTLESVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER • BUY TICKETS AT OKMMUSIC.ORG

**Sat, Nov 16**
**9 AM**
**Holiday Shopping at the Bartlesville Art Association Winter Gallery**
*Bartlesville Art Association  
500 S Dewey Ave.*

Shop artwork, gifts, and unique items handcrafted by local artist members of the BAA from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**7 PM**
**Live Theatre - Hillbilly Heaven with Joe Sears**
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey*
**The Hound of the Baskervilles**
*Theater Bartlesville  
312 S Dewey Ave.*

See November 14 event for info.

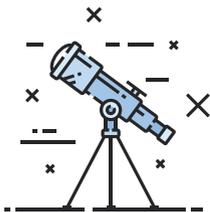
**Sun, Nov 17**
**2 PM**
**The Hound of the Baskervilles**
*Theater Bartlesville  
312 S Dewey Ave.*

See November 14 event for info.

**Mon, Nov 18**
**8 AM**
**Green Country Christmas Daily Prize Drawings Begin**

*Tickets available at various locations around Bartlesville.*

Check your ticket numbers by visiting bartlesvillerradio.com, call 918-336-2900, or listen to KWON 1400/93.3 KYFM 100.1KRIG 104.9 KPGM 1500/99.1.


**7 PM**
**Barting Young Astronomers Meeting**
*Our Savior Lutheran Church  
300 Madison Blvd.*

BYA is open to ages 7 through high school. For safety reasons, children under age 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Setup/social time will begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Tue, Nov 19**
**7:30 PM**
**Timothy Chook presented by the Bartlesville Community Concert Association**
*Bartlesville Community Center  
300 SE Adams Blvd.*

Timothy Chooi (violin w/ piano accompaniment) is the First Prize Winner of the 2018 Joseph Joachim international Violin Competition in Hannover, Germany and the recent winner of the Schadt Violin Competition here in the US. A genial and talented performer, he has a solid technique and an easy, effortless way of playing. Timothy is a young artist of great promise who's joyful presentations are filled with energy and vivacity.

**Wed, Nov 20**

**6 PM**
**Fantasy Land of Lights Opens**
*Johnstone Park*

Fantasy Land of Lights is an annual, drive-through Christmas light display at Johnstone Park that has become a holiday tradition. There is no admission fee, however, donations are accepted and very much appreciated. The light display runs through Dec. 30

**7:30 PM**
**Songbox**
*Tinker's GlassHouse  
600 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.*

See November 3 event for info.

**Thu, Nov 21**
**1:30 PM**
**Nutrition & Herb Study Group**
*Hopestone Cancer Support Center  
206 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.*

Study the uses, both medical & everyday, of different herbs and good nutritional practices.

**5 PM**
**Gifts Marketplace**
*Bartlesville Community Center  
300 SE Adams Blvd.*

The 4th annual local woman-owned small business marketplace. Lots of door prizes, food, and vendors! Come support the brilliant women in our community! 5-8 p.m.

**Parkinson's Support Group**
*Elder Care  
1223 Swan Dr.*

The Parkinson's Support Group meets monthly, and is open to those with Parkinson's disease and their families. Includes guest speakers, break-out sessions, and socialization.

**7 PM**
**Kitchen Table Jam**
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey*
**Fri, Nov 22**
**7 PM**
**Open Mic Comedy Night**
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey*
**9 PM**
**Live Music**
*Solo Club  
408 E 2nd. St.*
**Live Music**
*Osage Casino Bartlesville  
222 Allen Rd.*
**Sat, Nov 23**
**7:30 PM**
**With Honor and Thanks Presented by Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra**
*Bartlesville Community Center  
300 SE Adams Blvd.*

A musical celebration of gratitude for our many blessings and especially for those who have fought and died to make them possible. A variety of powerful music is in store, including Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" and John Williams' "Hymn To The Fallen."

**Tue, Nov 26**
**12:30 PM**
**Monthly Seniors Fellowship**
*Greater First Baptist Church  
216 W 10th St.*
**5:30 PM**
**Women's Cancer Support Group**
*Hopestone Cancer Support Center  
206 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.*
**Wed, Nov 27**
**7:30 PM**
**Songbox**
*Tinker's GlassHouse  
600 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.*

See November 3 event for info.

**Thu, Nov 28**

**Fri, Nov 29**
**All Day**
**Black Friday**
*Throughout Bartlesville*

Make sure to visit our local retailers and take advantage of some great Black Friday deals!

**5 PM**
**Woolaroc Wonderland of Lights**
*Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve  
1925 Woolaroc Ranch Road*

The grounds and buildings of Woolaroc will be covered with over 750,000 lights as the historic ranch transforms itself into a magical winter wonderland! In addition to the lights, you can enjoy wagon rides, live entertainment, Santa Claus in the Museum, hot cider/hot chocolate and cookies for sale in the Lodge. Again this year, the main drive to the campus will be reversed, allowing guests the unique view, seen only this time of year, of the buildings across from Clyde Lake, outlined in lights. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$1 for children. 3-under admitted free. The display will run through December 22.

**7 PM**
**Live Music with Jimmie Johnson**
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey*
**9 PM**
**Live Music**
*Solo Club  
408 E 2nd. St.*
**Live Music**
*Osage Casino Bartlesville  
222 Allen Rd.*
**10:30 PM**
**Live Music - Jennifer Marriott Band**
*Angelo's Tavern  
130 S Cherokee Ave.*
**Sat, Nov 30**
**7 PM**
**Karaoke**
*Heritage Theatre - Gizzy's Eatery  
306 E Don Tyler Ave., Dewey*

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**Matt Spence, Agent**

124 SW Frank Phillips Blvd  
Bartlesville, OK 74003-6607





# RECURRING EVENTS



**2nd Street Flat**  
118 A W. 2nd St.



**Angelo's Tavern**  
130 S. Cherokee Ave.



**Bartlesville Art Association**  
Price Tower Design Center  
500 S. Dewey Ave.



**Bartlesville Artisan Market**  
Washington Park Mall  
2350 SE Washington Blvd.



**Bartlesville Public Library**  
600 S. Johnstone Ave.



**Bartlesville Weight Watchers**  
Bartlesville Community Center  
300 SE Adams Blvd.



**Bartlesville Yoga**  
MON/THURS: Bartlesville  
Civic Ballet Studio, 110 W. 2nd  
TUES: Hillcrest Country Club,  
1901 Price Road



**Bliss Studio**  
319 S. Dewey Ave.



**Elder Care**  
1223 Swan Dr.



**Osage Casino**  
222 Allen Road



**Painted Horse Bar & Grille**  
110 SW Frank Phillips Blvd.



**Solo Club**  
408 E. 2nd St.



**Upper Room Noon  
Worship Service**  
Johnstone/Sare Bldg. - 3rd Floor

## MONDAY

9 AM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

10 AM

**Citizenship Class**

Bartlesville Public Library

4:30 PM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

5 PM

**Vinyasa Yoga**

2nd Street Flat

5:30 PM

**Spanish Class**

Bartlesville Public Library

## TUESDAY

8 AM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

9:30 AM

**Gentle Yoga & Meditation**

Bliss Studio

10 AM

**Fine Art Class**

BAA Price Tower Design Center

**Caregiver Support Group**

Elder Care

6 PM

**Prana Vinyasa Flow Yoga**

Hillcrest Country Club

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

7 PM

**Tuesday Trivia**

Painted Horse Bar & Grill

**Darts**

Solo Club

## WEDNESDAY

9 AM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

9 AM

**Tapestry Weaving Class**

Price Tower Design Center

10 AM

**Babies & Toddlers Storytime**

Bartlesville Public Library

11 AM

**Preschooler Storytime**

Bartlesville Public Library

1 PM

**Open Studio**

Price Tower Design Center

4:30 PM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

6 PM

**REFIT**

Bartlesville Public Library

**Vinyasa Yoga**

2nd Street Flat

**Citizenship Class**

Bartlesville Public Library

## THURSDAY

8 AM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

9:30 AM

**Prana Vinyasa Flow Yoga**

Bartlesville Civic Ballet Studio

**Gentle Yoga & Meditation**

Bliss Studio

10 AM

**Babies & Toddlers Storytime**

Bartlesville Public Library

**ESL Conversion Class**

Bartlesville Public Library

**WW Wellness Workshop**

Bartlesville Community Center

11 AM

**Preschooler Storytime**

Bartlesville Public Library

1 PM

**Beginning Watercolor Art Class**

Price Tower Design Center

5:30 PM

**WW Wellness Workshop**

Bartlesville Community Center

6 PM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

7 PM

**Nightshift Karaoke**

Osage Casino

9 PM

**Angelo's Karaoke (21+)**

Angelo's Tavern

## FRIDAY

5:30 AM

**Power Yoga & Meditation**

Bliss Studio

9 AM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

10 AM

**Fine Art Class**

Price Tower Design Center

11 AM

**Power Yoga & Meditation**

Bliss Studio

12 PM

**Eat Healthy, Be Active**

Bartlesville Public Library

9 PM

**Live Music**

Solo Club

9 PM

**Live Music**

Osage Casino

## SATURDAY

8 AM

**Bartlesville Farmers Market**

Frank Phillips Park

8:30 AM

**Flow Class**

Bliss Studio

10 AM

**Bartlesville Artisan Market**

Washington Park Mall

**WCSPCA Adoption Event**

Petco

**Gentle Yoga & Meditation**

Bliss Studio

7 PM

**Gentle Stretch Yoga**

2nd Street Flat

## SUNDAY

7 PM

**Gentle Stretch Yoga**

2nd Street Flat



**OUTPOST**  
C O F F E E

200 E 4th Street | Downtown Bartlesville  
Monday - Friday 6am - 2pm | Saturday 7am - 2pm  
[www.outpostcoffeeco.com](http://www.outpostcoffeeco.com)

# 'Regulars' Make Outpost Coffee Their Own

## Stylish Coffee Shop Pouring New Life Into Downtown

by Ann-Janette Webster

It's hard to remember a time before there was a stylish coffee shop pouring new life (flavor) into the heart of downtown Bartlesville. Its doors have only been open since April of 2018, but to most it feels like the beloved Outpost Coffee Co. has always been here ... offering premium craft coffee, a refuge from the busy work-day, and a gathering place to meet old and new friends alike.

Bartians are passionate about this place, and it comes with good reason. Owners Tony Phillips and Wes Lantrip are on a mission to create an open, inclusive, casual environment with the highest quality coffee.

"We were frankly tired of the stuffy shops where you felt judged for putting milk in your coffee. We made that idea our core value and I think it comes out in our employees, their warmth, and in the environment of our store," said Phillips.

With a year and a half under their belts, Wes Lantrip attributes Outpost's success to efforts to be a true 'community coffee shop' — made possible by their quality barista team, expertly led by manager Jude Henry, and their loyal customers and friends.

"Bartlesville has been great to us, and it's our responsibility to give back to the community. I think that's the reason people take pride and ownership in Outpost, because of that symbiotic relationship. They see how our growth affects downtown positively and brings people together, and there's a sense of pride and ownership."

On any given day, people of all ages and walks of life can be found sipping on something delicious while working, reading, meeting with co-workers or friends — or just popping in to grab a little extra energy to power through the day. Some of the same faces are there almost daily, and are proud to call Outpost "their coffee shop."

Outpost regular Amos Radlinger, a real-estate agent for Chinowth & Cohen, is almost always in "his seat" by 9 a.m. every Monday through Saturday, enjoying his favorite beverage — mocha, 1 pump of chocolate, iced or hot depending on the weather. He considers



the shop his "satellite" office, using it to catch up on work and meet up with clients.

"Outpost is more than a coffee shop — it's a place community can be found and where you can choose your co-workers," said Radlinger. "Where else can you work alongside your funeral director, fitness coach, philanthropic advisor, city manager, district judge, heart doctor, nonprofit director, film producer, and real estate agent all at the same time," said Radlinger. "I consider it my coffee shop, because ... Well, I'm there everyday and sometimes my drink is ready before I order."

Jason Elmore, pastor of Friday Nite Church, often walks across the street from his downtown office to arrive just under the wire before the 2 p.m. closing to order his "usual," a small decaf americano. He loves that Outpost is right in the middle of downtown, and looks forward to chatting with the great employees and the variety of interesting people there sipping at the time.

"It's so cool having a great coffee shop in the bustling downtown district. It's such a nice fit in our tapestry. I love the setting and the Saturday morning vibe. It's very pub-like, in the European sense of the public house," said Elmore. "Multi-generations of every demographic stopping in before or after some family event and staying to connect and enjoy coffee, read or play low-key board games. Outpost is unlike any other coffee shop."

Weekday regular Kaleigh West, an IT Analyst at ConocoPhillips, an owner/coach at Pure Health Performance, and a self-proclaimed Outpost addict, stops in for her beloved black coffee at least once a day.

"As a previous Heartland Roasters coffee fan, I was thrilled to find they were opening a coffee house. Since then, I've come in once, if not twice a day, for my regularly scheduled pick me ups," said West. "The culture and atmosphere are my favorite aspects of Outpost, because it makes it easy to grab coffee with a friend, work remotely, or write — which is a major passion of mine."

Jeremy Little is truly a coffee aficionado, who was first drawn to Outpost as they were a local coffee roaster. After ordering beans from all over the country, he was thrilled to buy high quality beans roasted right here in Bartlesville.

"I love the opportunity to support locally owned business and I also love their COFFEE! They know how to make great coffee at Outpost," said Little. "They have some unique drinks, and I love the fact that they have a "Slow Bar" where I can get a pour over if I want, but my go-to is the Cortado. It's perfect and no one makes it quite like Outpost does."

Jeremy, often with wife Melissa, stops by Outpost after lunch during the week for an afternoon Cortado pick me up.

"It's a great break in the middle of the work day. On Saturdays, I love to go and stay for awhile to hang out and relax. Every time we try a new shop in another city, we judge their coffee solely by asking if it measures up to Outpost. Outpost has become our gold standard for coffee shops."

The entire Outpost crew continues to be grateful they've become a favorite gathering spot in the hub of downtown. Their commitment to creating a stylish and welcoming atmosphere and passion for serving up the finest craft coffee and espresso drinks are stronger than ever. They're working hard to attract even more new 'regulars' who will also call Outpost Coffee their own.

# Yum!



by Keith McPhail

Our “yummy” dining guide continues - by popular demand! We hope you have been inspired to enjoy some of the best local food you could want, and continue exploring the great restaurants our city has to offer as we add more each issue. Whether you’re looking for a barbecue feast, or just hometown cuisine, we hope to help guide your taste buds to some good eatin’ and keep our local dollars here to support these businesses and the jobs they create.



## PAINTED HORSE BAR & GRILLE

COFFEE BAR: MON-FRI 9AM-9PM, SAT 10:30AM-9PM

KITCHEN: MON-FRI 10:30AM-9PM

\* LIMITED MENU AVAILABLE FRI & SAT 9-10 PM

BAR HOURS

MON - THU 10:30 AM - 10 PM

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# A Look at George Rhodes

## Excerpts from a 2009 Interview with the WWII Veteran

by **Roseanne McKee**

Over coffee one morning recently, George Rhodes, a resident at Green Country Village, shared his military service during World War II.

Rhodes, who is 96, said, “I was in the military when I was 17. I was supposed to be 18, and they took me in at 17.”

Rhodes signed up in Sperry, Oklahoma, in August 1939, where he joined the National Guard and was assigned to 160th Field Artillery.

Good in math, Rhodes was promoted to sergeant. As such, he surveyed, obtained coordinates, and set up guns. After training at Fort Sill and other locations stateside, his unit traveled on the *USS Calvert* in June 1943 to North Africa and then on to Sicily, an island that is part of Italy, where his unit invaded.

“That was the first battle we had. We took in every city from Sicily to Germany — we did battle in them,” said Rhodes, remembering his unit making its way across Europe — sometimes on foot.

“We went into Auschafenberg and Nuremberg and were just entering Munich when we were informed the war was over,” Rhodes told historian Joe Todd, during an interview in 2009 for the Eisenhower Library.

“I was called up for Korea in September of 1950 and went to Japan, then to Seoul, Korea. I had been promoted to captain and was the artillery liaison officer to a Korean Infantry regiment. It was kind of hectic but we had a good interpreter. I stayed there, then came home in 1952,” Rhodes told Todd.

Rhodes married, accepted a position at Phillips 66 in petroleum marketing, pricing, and supply covering a territory from the Mississippi to the west coast, and had two daughters, Rhodes told Todd.

After his wife passed away, Rhodes continued to live in his home for five years, then began to consider making a lifestyle change. He and his daughters visited Green Country Village twice, and after some consideration decided to move to the independent living apartments that are a part of Green Country Village.



Rhodes during WWII.

Rhodes has been there for about seven years, he said during the interview.

Some of the benefits of living there are that three meals per day are served in the large dining room, there is house-keeping provided, and 24-hour security. The one-, two- and three-bedroom units have kitchens with washer and dryer hookups in each.



George Rhodes with Residency Director Casey Williams.

In addition to the quality of the restaurant-style food served, some of the things Rhodes enjoys are the exercise class offered by Elder Care three times per week in the common living room area. The exercise classes with music focus on balance, agility, and stamina, Residency Director Casey Williams said.

Rhodes also attends the men’s monthly breakfasts, which have guest speakers, and the guy’s nights with brews, snacks, and movies.

He has made new friends and reconnected with old friends, such as Jim Middleton, who recently moved to the Village.

Another thing that made Green Country Village attractive to Rhodes was the convenience and safety of having two elevators and six sets of stairs to the apartments.

Regarding transportation, Rhodes noted that residents can drive their own vehicles or, if they prefer, Green Country Village has a bus and driver to shuttle residents as needed.

“Residents are given transportation to all of the cultural activities in Bartlesville — the symphony, ballet, concerts, and other performing arts events,” Williams said.

Residents like to go out back and walk the 26-acres. “The pond has fish,” Rhodes added. “When one of my daughters comes, she always grabs my fishing pole and goes to fish.”

One of the things Williams is most proud of is that Green Country operates as a nonprofit and is overseen by a local board of directors.

“The money received goes right back into the communities,” Williams said. “And we work for our residents, not a corporation.”

~ The author gratefully acknowledges the work of Joe Todd for his contributions to local military history and assistance with this article.

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# Cloud Dancing at Home in the Osage

## From Primetime to the Countryside of Osage County

by Kelly Bland

From the moment I stepped in the front door of Larry Sellers' country home, I felt welcomed, honored, and at ease. He welcomed me into his kitchen, where he had the coffee already brewing. We poured ourselves a cup of strong, dark java and sat down for what turned into an almost two-hour visit.

From the get-go, I could tell that Sellers was a man who pulled no bones about his beliefs and convictions. He also came across as humble and authentic; and my first impressions were confirmed as we began discussing his time playing Cloud Dancing on the TV series "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."

While Cloud Dancing may have been Cherokee on the show, Sellers is both Osage and Cherokee. That day we were seated in the living room of his home in Osage County, way out in the country, miles and miles from Hollywood or Colorado Springs. He had penciled me into his schedule on this particular morning, and sat there giving me his time and attention as if we were old friends. He told me that during his time as part of the cast, he also served in a technical advisory position, due to his extensive knowledge of the history, spirituality, and culture of indigenous people. Because of Sellers' insight, "Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman" became one of the first, if not *the* first, to portray the frontier from the perspective of the Native American. History was presented on the show in a way that opened up to its viewers an understanding of the suffering many tribes went through due to prejudices and greed. Sellers was the man responsible for that story being told — and here he was, telling it again to me as I sat on his couch sipping coffee.

After a bit, our conversation turned to family. Sellers was raised in Osage County in a large family of six children, and has gone on to have his own large family. In addition to his own six children, he has adopted and mentored many more "sons" along the way. His oldest biological son is Jerry Wolf, better known as "Wolf Man," and is following in his father's footsteps as a producer, actor, model, and personal trainer. Wolf Man is also the host of the TV show "Card Sharks," he told me with a smile on his face. It was obvious it was a "chip off the old block" moment of fatherly pride.

Next, we took up the subject of the upcoming movie about Osage County history in the 1920s and '30s. When I asked Sellers about his view on the book "Killers of the Flower Moon," he thoughtfully replied, "It's not a Cinderella story." Silence hung in the air for a few moments. Then he went on to thoughtfully say he views it as a historical trauma that needs to be shown for what it was. When I asked him if he would consider playing a role in the movie, he said he would; but, during our visit, Sellers made it clear that his spiritual principles come first. He told me of roles he turned down, such as one in "Dances with Wolves," due to his desire to hold true to his beliefs. As we visited about this issue and I watched his countenance and heard his intentional comments, I had the thought that Sellers would make a very good technical advisor for the movie production of "Killers of the Flower Moon" to ensure Osage perspectives were well-portrayed.



Larry Sellers, who played Cloud Dancing, is pictured on the right, with Joe Lando, who played Sully on "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."

Like Ben Johnson, another Osage County native, Sellers rodeoed in his younger days and was offered a job as a stunt man at one point. He took them up on their offer, and from that beginning one thing led to another, and he made his way into starring in the unforgettable role of Cloud Dancing on "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."

"The cast and crew were like family," Sellers said with a twinkle in his eye. His oldest son grew up with Jane Seymour's oldest. He said he still keeps in touch with many from the show, including Joe Lando (Sully) and Jane Seymour (Dr. Quinn).

When we finished our conversation, and my cup of coffee had proven good to the last drop, he walked me out to the porch and we parted ways and exchanged smiles. If I were to sum up Larry Sellers, or Cloud Dancing, as he will always be to me — he is a man whose beliefs run deep, and who walks them out in his life. He is a man who values others. No pretenses, no bragging — just good coffee and friendly conversation. But what else would you expect from someone who was raised in the Osage? 🍵 The locals have become famous, and their fame may take them around the world — but they always come back home to Osage County, where #TheSmilesAreAlwaysFree!

For more information about what's happening around Osage County check out the website, VisitTheOsage.com, and download the free Visit the Osage app.

# Barnsdall's Naval Family

## Three Brothers from Barnsdall all Served in WWII

by Roseann McKee

Three brothers from Barnsdall — Raymond, Loyal, and Robert Henson — each served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. This is their story. With the potential for their parents, Nathan and Pearl Henson, to lose all of their children in war, a review of the U.S. military's policy on the simultaneous service of siblings is relevant.

According to the website [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil), the military had a policy against siblings serving on the same ship or unit. This policy was expressed in a Bureau of Naval Personnel "Information Bulletin," July 1942, Number 304, World War II Command File, Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.:

"The Bureau considers that it is to the individual family interest that brothers not be put on the same ship in war time, as the loss of such a ship may result in the loss of two or more members of the family, which might be avoided if brothers are separated. An instance of this was the loss of three brothers on the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, T. H. [Territory of Hawaii], on December 7, 1941. In view of the above, Commanding Officers will not forward requests for brothers to serve in the same ship or station."

Although they couldn't serve on the same ship or unit, the U.S. military did not have a policy against siblings serving in the same war.

But, if all but one sibling died during military service, the remaining sibling could be returned to service within the continental limits of the United States upon the request of the immediate family.

The [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil) website, in U.S. Navy Circular Letter, No. 345-44 44-1285 about the Return to the United States of Sons of War-Depleted Families, dated Nov. 15, 1944, addressed this situation:

"In recognition of the sacrifice and contribution made by a family which has lost two or more sons who were members of the armed forces and has only one surviving, and he is serving in the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, consideration will be given to his return to, or retention in, the continental limits of the United States, except when he is engaged in nonhazardous duties overseas."

The Henson brothers did not serve on the same ship or unit, but they were all in the U.S. Navy at the same time during WW II.

Per a May 23, 2018 article by Robert Smith about the brothers published in the Pawhuska Journal-Capital, the brothers did encounter one another during their service.

*"There were good times and bad times ... we fought for what we believed in, and that is why you don't have a dictator telling you what to do."*

— Robert Henson, on his WWII Naval service



Robert Henson is shown on the left, when he served in the US Navy during WWII, and on the right in 2004.

Robert Henson, who served on the USS *Saratoga*, encountered his brother, Raymond, during an island stop for supplies. The brothers were able to have dinner together before the USS *Saratoga* departed.

On another occasion, the USS *Saratoga* and the USS *Minneapolis*, a heavy cruiser on which Raymond and his brother Loyal Henson served, were at the same location. According to the Pawhuska Journal-Capital article, Robert Henson heard a message on the loudspeaker, "Robert Henson is wanted at the gangplank."

Providentially, all of the brothers survived their service in World War II and returned to Oklahoma to live out their lives as civilians, each marrying and raising families.

An obituary in the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise stated that eldest brother, Raymond Henson, who served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946, married Laura Robina Lytle in 1942 after graduating from Barnsdall High School in 1939.

The couple had two children, Ronald Henson and Peggy Henson Maldonado. Raymond Henson became a minister in 1952, serving as pastor at Lynn Baptist Church in Pawhuska, Labadie Heights Baptist Church in Bartlesville, and finally at the First Baptist Church in Avant from August 1971 until June 2016, when he retired. Raymond Henson was an avid hunter and fisherman who lived to the age of 97, according to the obituary. He passed away on June 12, 2019, at his home in Avant.

Middle brother Loyal Henson also served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946, and lives in Barnsdall.

Youngest brother Robert Henson, who turned 94 on July 27, was interviewed by historian Joe Todd for the Eisenhower Library on Aug. 12, 2004. Here are some highlights from that interview detailing his military service.

Robert Henson graduated from high school in Barnsdall in 1943. In June of 1943 he went to Tulsa and volunteered for the Navy, joining on June 23.

Asked why he joined the Navy over the Army or Marines, he replied, "I had two brothers already in the Navy, and they said as long as you were in the Navy you had a clean bed and good food. They told me if I went to the Army, I would wade in mud and get cold food."

He attended boot camp in San Diego and then was assigned to the USS *Saratoga*.

"I was assigned to the 2nd Division, shift four on the 40 mm guns. I was there about three months. Then I was transferred to the 4th Division because they needed gunners there," Robert Henson said. "We went to Bougainville. That was the first battle. The USS *Saratoga* was in nine battles, and I was in six of them."

"There were a bunch of Japanese ships at Bougainville. We had fighter planes, bomber planes, and torpedo planes, and they took off after they bombed those ships in the harbor."

Henson was at General Quarters on the 40 mm, serving as a loader and dropping shells into the gun.

Asked about the airplanes sent out during the battle returning, Henson said, "A lot of them didn't come back, and a lot of them came back all shot and broken up. When I was in Boot Camp, they wanted 15 men to go to Dive Bomber School at Norman, Oklahoma. I wanted to come back to Oklahoma and tried to be one of the 15, but they just chose 15 and sent them. When I saw those airplanes come back all shot up, I was tickled to death I wasn't one of those 15."

Describing the planes on the USS *Saratoga*, Henson said, "the fighter was the F6F, the bomber was the SDB and the TBF was the Torpedo plane."

"During the battle we just made two runs then we went back to Espiritu Santo to refuel and take on ammunition," Henson said.

After this battle concluded and replacement planes had been procured, the USS *Saratoga* departed.

"We went to New Georgia," Henson said. "We did the same thing there. We bombed ships there."

Battles at the Gilberts and the Marshals were among the battles that followed.

Henson described the battle at Iwo Jima:

"We had a pretty good fleet there. The Japanese always said they were going to sink the USS *Saratoga*, and they sent us in as a guinea pig, I think, to draw the Japanese out. The Marines were on ships ready to land on Iwo Jima when we went in. Ninety suicide planes came out and a Betty [a twin-engine plane] was leading them. The suicide planes didn't have any instruments. The pilots in those suicide planes had their last



*The USS Saratoga, on which Robert Henson served, was hit by Japanese kamikazes on February 21, 1945, but did not sink.*

rites before they took off. We got hit with one torpedo, two bombs, and five suicide planes," Henson said.

Again, Henson was on the 40 mm gun.

"We shot down all the planes except the ones that hit us. The Betty got too close, and we shot it down also, but they didn't sink us," he said.

He described his thoughts as the Kamikazes approached.

"You didn't have time to think; you were trying to knock them down," Henson said. "Some hit in the water just a hundred yards out from us. The ones that hit the ship were right across the flight deck from us. We buried 250 guys off the ship at one time. The crew of the 40 mm guns on the side where the suicide planes hit were killed or they jumped overboard. The ones that jumped overboard survived."

The *Saratoga* was hit on February 21, 1945 and returned to Bremerton, Washington under its own power for repairs, Henson said. After repairs were finished, he was given leave and returned to Barnsdall. After this leave, he returned to the USS *Saratoga*, which headed to Tokyo, where they made raids and were not attacked again.

Henson described V-J Day.

"We jumped and hollered. We had just come out of the Indian Ocean and got word the war was over, and headed back to Pearl Harbor. We unloaded the ammunition and brought Marines back to the states. I just made two trips, bringing troops home, and I was put off the ship at San Francisco."

After a delay, Henson was discharged on December 1, 1945, and returned to Barnsdall. His daughter was born on December 15, just 14 days later.

When asked about WW II, he said, "there were good times and bad times ... we fought for what we believed in, and that is why you don't have a dictator telling you what to do."



# Dewey's Boys of Fall

## A Look Back at the 1947 State Champion 'Doggers

by Bill Woodard

*They didn't let just anybody in that club,  
Took every ounce of sweat and blood,  
To get to wear those game-day jerseys  
down the hall,  
The kings of school, man, we're the boys  
of fall.*

There have been many special Bulldogger football teams. The 1947 team would have to be at the top of the list. Almost 72 years ago, on December 12, 1947, the Dewey Bulldoggers, coached by L.D. Bash, won the Class B State Championship — the only state football championship in the school's history.

Football in 1947 was very different from the football of today. In those days, the players were tougher but not as violent. Most played both offense and defense. Uniform padding was minimal. Helmets didn't have a bar to protect the face. Loose teeth and bloody noses were not uncommon. Concussions were. Players were not nearly as big. The state champion Bulldogger line averaged 170 pounds. One of their opponents in the playoffs averaged 155 across the line.

Early on, the 1947 season didn't look

as if it would be anything special. It began, as did the 1946 season, with a loss to the Bulldoggers' fiercest rival, the Class A Bartlesville College High Wildcats. The second game



The 1947-48 Dewey High School Year Book is dedicated to the following:

1st Row, Left to Right: Orval Webber, Ferral McClure, Bob Schooler, Bill Bird, Frank Vargas, Lovelle McClure, Lloyd Swan, Bob Claibourne, Bob Brims, Glen McCartin, Everett Hunt.  
2nd Row: Kenneth Delosier, Jimmie Webber, Melvin Lemmons, Dick Allton, James Toalson, Phillip Sprague, Frank Thomson, Dean Williams, Bernard Davis, Frank Magana, William Bullen, Lester Cunningham.  
3rd Row: Coach L. D. Bash, Bob Powell, Jr., High Coach Seth Beach, Jimmie Crocker, Ralph McClure, Loren Davis, John Rupp, Stanley McWhirt, Earl Ice, Everett Anderson, Jack Spanking, Raymond Magana, Assistant Coach Jack Sutliff.

of the season was to have been with the Broken Arrow Tigers, but for some unknown reason, the 'Doggers forfeited that game. Broken Arrow had defeated Dewey 6-0 in 1946. Dewey then had a very successful run through their 12-B District, winning the next five games by large margins and cinching the district championship with a 40-0 victory over Fairfax. Next came a loss to Class A powerhouse Vinita, who was undefeated at the time. The final regular-season game was a district contest against Pawnee that ended in a 13-13 tie. The 1946 'Doggers had a better record, but in 1947 they were district champs and headed for the playoffs.

The Bartlesville Examiner front-page headline on November 21, 1947 declared, "Dewey Game Postponed." The 'Doggers' scheduled opponents for that evening, the Morris Eagles, were in a court battle to determine the winner of the district 11-B title. Despite the headline, the game

was played as scheduled, with Dewey coming out on top, 38-0. Their opponent in the quarterfinals was none other than Broken Arrow, the team the 'Doggers had forfeited to early in the season. Dewey won, 20-9. In their semifinal match-up, Dewey faced the Fairview Yellowjackets. With temperatures dipping into the '20s and the Fairview visitor stands filled with Dewey faithful, the Bulldoggers prevailed in a hard-fought contest, 13-6.

The merchants of Dewey were closed all day in order to make the 2:30 kickoff for the championship game in Shawnee. The Bulldoggers would be up against the Elks of Elk City. The 1944 'Doggers were defeated in the quarterfinals. The 1945 team in the semifinals. This team was not to be denied, defeating the Elks, 33-18, for the championship trophy. The play of the game was a guard-eligible pass from Andy Davis to All-State guard Bob Claibourne on the first drive of the second half.

### Starting Lineup

Dewey	Pos.
P. Sprague	LE
E. Hunt	LT
B. Claibourne	LG
M. Lemmons	C
F. Vargas	RG
J. Toalson	RT
F. Magana	RE
O. Webber	QB
A. Davis	LH
D. Williams	RH
J. Webber	FB

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# Skills Gap vs. Education Gap

by Lindel Fields

Historic unemployment rates have brought significant attention to the “skills gap.” The Skills Gap is the difference between the number of available skilled jobs compared to the number of skilled workers available to fill those jobs.

One of the main contributors to the gap is that the “craftsmen” working population is retiring in droves. Another contributor is the lack of people in the workforce.

The Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce, Sean Kouplen, recently shared that there are more than 145,000 job openings in Oklahoma. He went on to say that only 61 percent of Oklahomans are in the workforce. With statistics like these, it’s not hard to understand why the gap exists.

One challenge gaining attention as a skills gap contributor is the number of high schoolers entering college ill-prepared for the demanding curriculum. However, this challenge pales in comparison to the reality that only around 50 percent of high school graduates go on to post-secondary education.

Fifty years ago, a high school diploma meant a person was job-ready. This is no longer the case.

Some high school graduates attend career-tech, others join the military, and a small percentage attend private and

out-of-state colleges. However, too many of our youth are graduating from high school without a skill, which leads to dead-end jobs. I refer to this as the “education gap.”

We must first fill the education gap if we want to supply the skills gap. Our traditional systems aren’t doing the job sufficiently, and unfortunately, this is not a new issue.

In 2002, a group of local dentists approached Tri County Tech because they were struggling to find dental hygienists. After a little research, we discovered this was a state-wide problem, especially in rural Oklahoma.

We were eager to help, but there was a barrier. To become a dental hygienist meant earning a degree, and Oklahoma Technology Centers do not issue degrees. If we were going to help our community solve the workforce issue, we needed to innovate.

In a matter of 13 months, we partnered with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center to bring a degree training program to Bartlesville. The two organizations agreed to share facilities, share faculty, and use distance learning technology to deliver instruction between Oklahoma City and Bartlesville. The program has since expanded to the Ardmore and Weatherford communities.

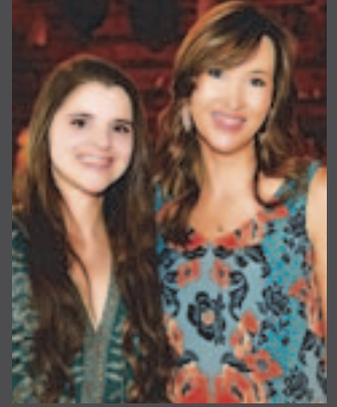
Together, the University of Oklahoma and Tri County Tech have graduated 154 students. The average annual salary of the 2019 class was \$76,800.

Addressing the skills gap means addressing the education gap, and that means getting more youth in the post-secondary pipeline.

For this to be accomplished, more partnerships between tech centers, community colleges, and universities need to be created. Partnerships between these entities would ensure a seamless transition from k-12 to career-tech to college. The use of distance technology can bring talent and expertise from one part of the state (or the world) to another where resources may not exist. Distance learning can be done at a fraction of the cost of providing human capital.

The use of distance technology at the k-12 level can provide access to high school courses that aren’t available in some parts of the state. Access to these courses will help increase the pipeline of students into career-tech and college. Distance learning can also be used to bring concurrent college offerings to high school students, allowing them to earn college credit in high school. The use of technology and the sharing of educational resources is an opportunity for Oklahoma to make significant strides in closing the education gap and, ultimately, the skills gap.

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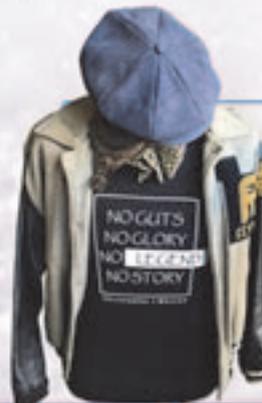
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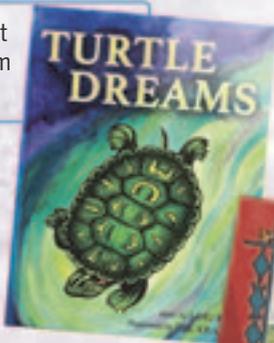
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# Baughn's Prayers are Answered

## Bartlesville Man Gets Information on Brother's WWII Death

by Mike Wilt

**It is March 6, 1945.** Richard Baughn is a long way from Beggs, Oklahoma. The 23-year-old U.S. Army private is in Cologne, Germany as an infantryman in the now-legendary 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division. The U.S. is on the verge of a long-awaited end to the war in Europe. But the fighting continues.

In the shadow of large, bombed-out buildings, tanks and armed soldiers cautiously proceed down streets amidst rubble, smoke, and fire. Baughn and his squad leader, Malcolm "Buck" Marsh Jr., find cover in an abandoned, disheveled flower shop. A 19-year-old fellow soldier has just been killed by a sniper holed up in a crumbling three-story factory across the street. Buck and Baughn want revenge.

Gripping their M1 rifles, the men aim their weapons hoping to catch a glimpse of their German foe.

*Gunfire!*

Baughn takes a bullet to his neck. Buck tries to catch him, but Baughn hits the dusty floor. A medic arrives. He curses and shakes his head. Baughn dies the next day leaving behind a wife, a one-year-old daughter, a mother, a father, and 10 siblings.

Germany surrenders to the Allied Forces 62 days later.

**It is June 22, 2019.** E.L. "Tug" Baughn is at his home in Bartlesville when the phone rings. It's a longtime friend with a question.

"He wanted to know if my brother's name was Richard whose wife was Opal and whose daughter was Carolyn," Tug said. "I knew right then



TUG BAUGHN

that he had information that I didn't."

**It is December 27, 1944.** It's very cold at the train station in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, 15 miles north of Beggs. Richard "Joe" Baughn has just boarded a "troop train." Bundled up in a heavy coat, 11-year-old Tug stands motionless as the train pulls away carrying his "hero."

Spotting Tug amongst the crowd, Joe leans out of a window and yells to his sibling.

"I want you to make that high school basketball team! And I don't want you to do any smoking or drinking!"

Those would be the last words the Baughns would ever hear from their beloved Joe.

**It is mid-afternoon, June 22, 2019.** Tug Baughn, now 85, brushes away a cobweb of memories from

that day in Sapulpa. A random phone call had temporarily transported him back in time 75 years.

"I was absolutely stunned."

His friend had been reading *Spearhead*, a national bestseller, when he came across a soldier named Baughn from Oklahoma. He immediately called Tug.

With the help of his son, Stan, Tug began doing some research on the internet. That would have been handy decades ago when Tug tried in vain to learn something — *anything* — about his brother. The family knew nothing other than Joe had been killed by a sniper.

"I had given up a long time ago."

*"I had given up a long time ago ... This was not happenstance. This was put together by God."*

— Tug Baughn

The book weaves WW II stories from the perspectives of three men including Buck

# More than 74 Years Later

Marsh. The Baughns' research eventually pays off. A week or so later, Tug places a call of his own. The voice he hears belongs to Buck Marsh, now 96 and living in Alabama.

"It's simply improbable after all of these years to find someone who not only knew Joe, but who was with him from the day he landed until the day he died."

Joe first met Buck upon arriving in Belgium on January 4, 1945. They would be brothers in arms for the next 63 days.

In several phone conversations over the past five months, Buck has told Tug many stories about Joe not contained in the book.

On March 1, 1945, Buck, Joe, and their comrades find themselves in a large, open field six miles outside of Cologne. They suspect there are Germans hiding in a farm silo, so they can't risk crossing the pasture with no cover. At dusk, they sprint across the land, zig-zagging to avoid enemy fire. Buck is stunned that Joe is one of two soldiers to reach the silo some 15 seconds before the others. An outstanding basketball and softball player back home, Joe went stride for stride with a soldier who was a college track star.

Joe and his squad captured 40 German soldiers that day.

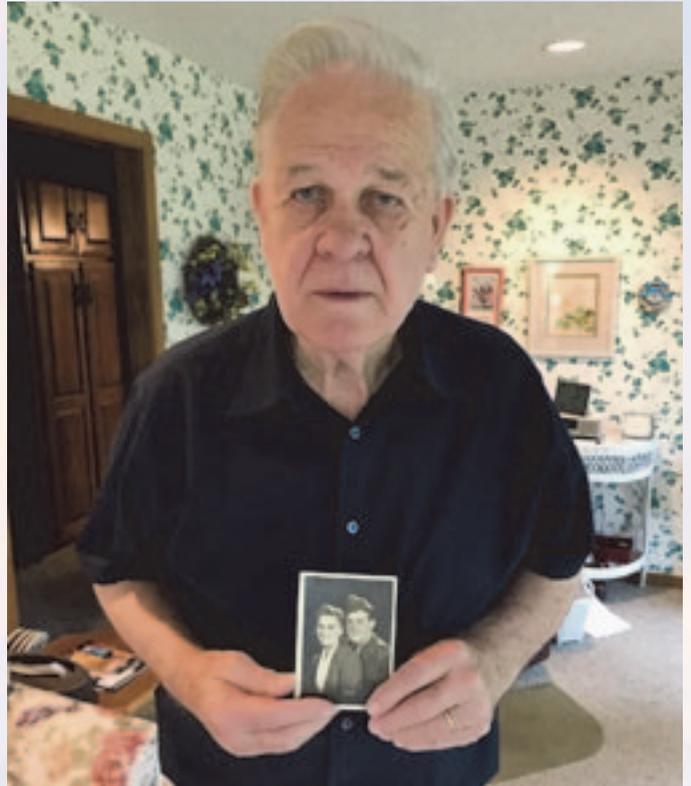
Knowing Joe was a man of faith, Buck worried that Joe might not be able to kill.

"But he always responded just like a soldier should," Buck said.

Buck suggested Tug log onto the internet again. He found sobering black-and-white videos of that battle in Cologne. The twin towers of the city's world-renowned cathedral could be seen at the end of a war-torn street. Joe had died just two blocks away.

"I felt like I was walking down that street right behind him," Tug said.

**It is October 1, 2019.** Tug Baughn has wrapped his brain around all that he has learned and the remarkable chain of events that transpired.



*Tug Baughn holding a picture of his brother, Joe, with Joe's wife, Opal.*

"This was not happenstance. This was put together by God."

Tug had long prayed for any word about his brother. While amazed how those prayers were answered, he still had questions.

"Yes, I wondered why I got the information and my siblings didn't. But I got to thinking about it, and I realized that they've known for years after they met Joe in Heaven. I'm actually one of the last to know," he chuckled.



*Bombed-out Cologne, Germany, where Joe Baughn was killed while serving in the Army during WWII.*

Following his brother's last words, Tug made that basketball team, and he's never sipped a drop of alcohol. He had a successful career with Phillips Petroleum Company, and he is in the Bartlesville Sports Hall of Fame after 51 years as a sports official and a highly-acclaimed baseball coach.

Joe Baughn was Tug's hero. Now he's a hero to many who know his story.



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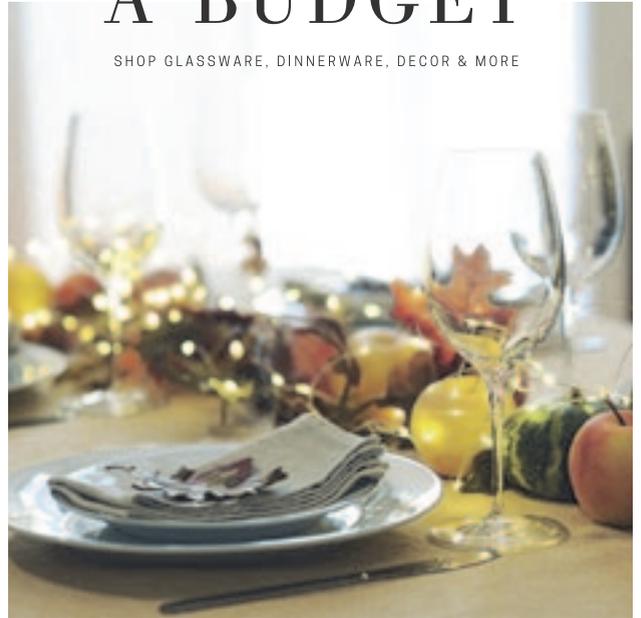


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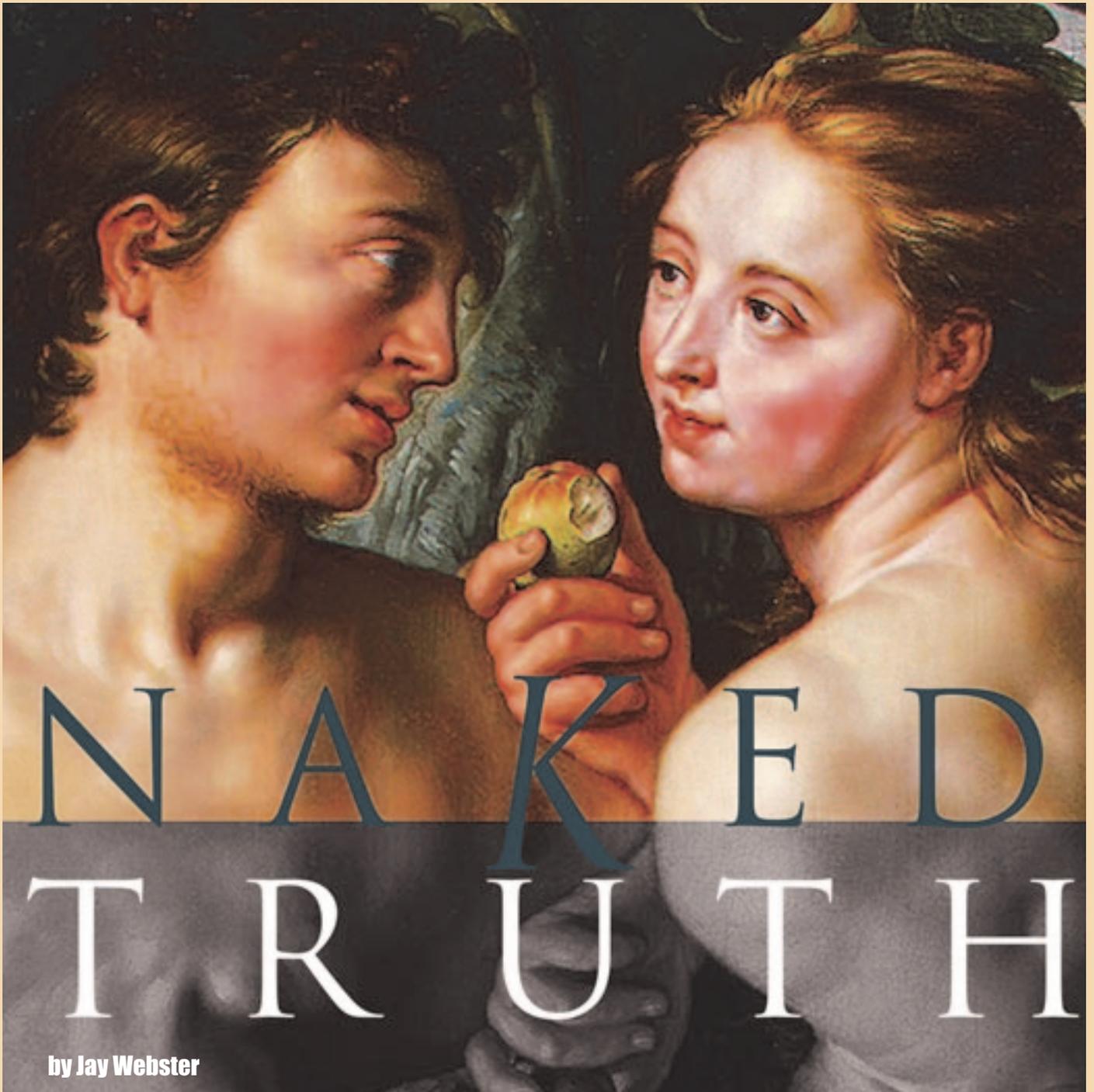


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# NAKED TRUTH

by Jay Webster

Hello my friends, and welcome to November.

Without stating the obvious, the holidays are upon us and that's got me thinking about something: nudity. See, you're not the only one.

Nudity. What a polarizing topic. As soon as I say it, most of you are reacting in one of two ways: panic or excitement. The variable seems to be whether you're thinking about yourself naked (panic) or others (excitement).

Right now, I am suddenly aware that my mom will eventually be reading this. But more critical than that, our 99 year old Baptist friend, Georgia Pearl, who reads every one of these columns, will be seeing it too. I'm sorry in advance, GP.

Georgia is famous for her love of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." She has her favorite reoccurring dancers and literally keeps a handwritten list of the contestants with potential odds on their success. In fact, her only complaint about the nearly perfect show is, "Why do they always have to be so naked?"

And, maybe it's a valid question. Do you have to compete nearly nude to be a winning athlete? What if other reality shows did that? It might make for a very different "Top Chef." And how much skin *is* sin? Or, is it more about context?

For example, you might go to the pool and, unless you're swimming in a Pentecostal-length denim skirt, you'll be in a bathing suit. And so will the others present. You're essentially walking around in your underwear. We've just all agreed to call

it a “swim suit” instead, because declaring its function makes it more presentable. But if those same people leave the pool and put on a very short mini-skirt, suddenly the context has changed and now their appearance is “questionable” despite the fact that they are covering twice as much skin.

Here’s another example: On several occasions I’ve shared a hotel room with guys, including my father-in-law, on trips to see baseball games around the country. Space is limited and you end up changing in front of each other (like a locker room). Obviously, by the fact that I have a father-in-law, I also have a wife — who has also seen me change at least once in our more than two and a half decades of marriage. So, I’ve changed in front of my father-in-law, and I’ve changed in front of my wife. But if we’re all in the room together and I start getting naked, suddenly I’m being “inappropriate.” Context.

The Bible, of course, has a long-running relationship with nudity. In the story of Adam and Eve, whether you take it literally or as an allegory, the couple started out nude. Though, since Adam got there first, it sorta feels like it might have been his idea. “See, everyone’s doing it. Lighten up. Let’s get something to eat.” And so they were thread-less, just like all the other animals in the garden. It wasn’t until they ate the forbidden fruit that they suddenly felt body-shame, which led to the first game of hide and seek with God.

Flash forward a couple thousand years and King David, “a man after God’s own heart,” got so carried away dancing with the slaves out in front of the temple that he nearly danced himself right out of his robe. He danced himself clean. Something tells me that wouldn’t fly at most Sunday services this weekend. Not that someone might not try it.

As most of you know, a recent court ruling in Colorado has made it legal for women in the heart of America to go topless ... for pretty much any reason, as long as you don’t acknowledge that they’re topless. *And you thought the coasts were liberal.* So far it’s only resulted in outlandish protests, which as far as I can tell has only resulted in spreading the word about the new law and daring more women to go topless. Well-played, outraged protestor.

Now, as a citizen reporter myself, I felt like it was my duty to study this case and find out all I could, so that I could pass my findings on to you — the valued reader. My wife, on the other, hand doesn’t share my journalistic integrity. She suggested I spend my time in other pursuits lest I find myself with *all* my time free (and alone). Some people just can’t recognize compelling stories.

I know a lot of other countries are more comfortable with nudity as a whole than we are. And maybe that’s a good thing. If it’s more common, and everyone is more comfortable with it, maybe it’s less of a deal when it happens. I’m sure there’s research out there (by unmarried scientists) that can show the correlation between prude-ishness and healthy or unhealthy behavior.

For me personally, I go back to the golden rule. No, not that one. The other one, from Jerry Seinfeld — “there’s good

naked and bad naked.” I don’t personally need a lot more nudity in my life, it’s too distracting. I also don’t want to sit on park benches or in a coffee shop and wonder if the person before me was, you know — covered.

And let’s be honest, given the tight fashion choices many of you make, it says your own self assessment might be (way) off. Clothing comes with pre-marked sizes for a reason. They’re the law, not just suggestions.

Don’t get me wrong. I wish I had more confidence in my personal appearance. I wish I was literally more comfortable in my own skin. I envy people who care less. And, I try to think of my body as a temple, but right now it feels more like ancient ruins than a house of worship.

And then there’s the other hard reality. When you think of people naked, they’re doing “naked things,” like posing carelessly by beautiful water fountains. But the reality is, most research suggests we spend up to NINE HOURS a day sitting.

First of all, wow! Nine hours. If you consider we spend another six to eight hours sleeping, that makes us the “active” equivalent of a pumpkin. No wonder we’re struggling so much with our weight. Get up and turn the channel every once in a while.

But the bigger point here is I think we can all agree that, save for a select few, sitting is the worst possible position for naked. When you sit, everything gets pushed to the middle like a snow plow clearing a Walmart parking lot. You look like a camel with scoliosis. That’s not “good” naked.

This summer, my wife walked in on me trying to put on my shoes before I had a shirt on. I heard her footsteps and nearly gave myself a hernia wrenching backwards to even out the “snow drifts.” I was breathing so hard, I fell off the bed. She didn’t know whether to call 911 or just apologize and give me some time alone.

So maybe we take a pass for now in America on more nudity. It’s hard to believe we could add anything to this movement versus the French. It’s just too much pressure. Or maybe if you want to go nude, you have to apply for a permit ... sort of a right to bare, well — everything.

I guess when it comes down to it, I still hold to Mark Twain’s famous quote: “Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.”

If you have made the personal decision to bare more skin this holiday season, watch your giblets. The kitchen can be a tough place for breasts. Just ask the turkey.

Cheers my friends.



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# Bartlesville's Forgotten Founders

## Nelson & Sarah Carr Were the Town's First Business Owners

by Kay Little, Little History Adventures

Most of us have heard about Jacob Bartles, a white man for whom Bartlesville is named. We also have heard of his Delaware wife, Nannie. But, another white man and his Cherokee wife, Nelson and Sarah Carr, were the first business owners to settle here in 1867.

Nelson Franklin Carr was born in Yew York. After his father died, Nelson became the "man of the family," even though he was very young. A few years later, Nelson moved west with his mother and sisters to find a better life. They settled at Ft. Scott, Kansas.

At age 17, Nelson joined the Union Army to fight in the Civil War and became part of the Sixth Kansas, of which Jacob Bartles was also a member. During the war, Carr and Bartles had been in this area, so they knew the advantages surrounding the Caney River and that there was oil.

After the war, Nelson moved to Little Town, Kansas, bought a store, became the first postmaster there, and helped rename the town Oswego.

One of his favorite customers, Hilliard Rogers, had a daughter who caught Nelson's eye. After dating Sarah Rogers for a year, the couple married on August 25, 1867. Because he married a Cherokee before 1871, Nelson became a member of the tribe and was entitled to his own allotment of land in this area.

The newly married couple moved to where the Black Dog Trail crossed the Big Caney in Indian Territory, near

what is now Bartlesville, to open a trading post for the Osage and Delaware tribes.

The store did very well, and when Nelson had to go to Kansas to get more supplies, his friend, Austin Dickerman, stayed at the store so Sarah would not be by herself. Unfortunately, during one of those trips, a band of Osage who were still excited after a battle stopped at the store and destroyed it. Carr closed the store and began working in other businesses including timber, corn crops, ownership of a mill on the Caney River, farming, raising cattle, and eventually oil. Nelson also built the first school in the area for his children, hiring Mellie Smith from Kansas to be the teacher.

Sarah Carr was a true pioneer woman, experiencing dangers and loneliness while Nelson traveled north on buying trips. She had a spirit of never-failing courage and cheerfulness, qualities that caused Nelson to fall in love with her. It has been said of Sarah, "To be able to make a home in a cabin as well as in a mansion, to fill it with laughter, to rear children to honor her — this is the greatest work of a woman's life."



NELSON FRANKLIN CARR

Because Nelson was a very committed Christian and lived by the Ten Commandments, he was never critical of people, even in their weaknesses, and was very well liked. He was a quiet, unassuming man who wanted no publicity. After he died in 1925, the family learned he had been appointed a member of the U.S. Secret Service in 1879.

The Carrs helped build the foundations of Oklahoma's industries and saw Bartlesville transform from a lonely frontier town to a beautiful city.

~ Thank you to Philip Blair of Oswego for sharing information with me.



SARAH CARR



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# A Man Without a Country

## A Look at Bartlesville Entrepreneur Armais Arutnoff

by Debbie Neece, Bartlesville Area History Museum



Through the doors of Ellis Island walked a wide-eyed immigrant with a heart full of dreams and a pocket of void. His mind knew the troubled land he left behind and the promises of a new beginning across the sea. America the land of opportunity ... the land of promise.

Armais Sergeevich Arutunoff was born at Tiflis, Russia in 1893 and attended Polytechnic Institute of Petrograd, which is considered one of the top research universities in Russia for applied physics, mathematics and multifaceted engineering studies.

In Russia, he developed electrically powered pumps and formed "Russki Electro Dvigatel Arutunova." Americanized the company became known as the "Russian Electrical Dynamo of Arutunoff," acronym REDA. Fleeing a political crisis and seeking funding, he settled in Germany before traversing the ocean to arrive at Ellis Island, September 15, 1923, with his wife Claudia "Kera" and their two children.

Arutunoff's education was solid but he faced many naysayers while climbing the ladder to success. Described as having a tenaciously inven-

*"In 1923, I with my wife, my four-year-old son and my little one-year-old daughter, arrived in the United States of America as a man without a country. As to the millions of others, before, and after my arrival, this country has been good to me and I can never thank God enough for its existence. Try as I may, I cannot perform services of such value as to repay this wonderful country for granting me the sanctuary and the blessings of freedom and citizenship."*

— Armais Arutunoff

tive mind and entrepreneurial spirit, he was humbled many times before Clyde Alexander, VP of the nine-year-old Phillips Petroleum Company, saw the possibilities of Arutunoff's submersible pump during a 1926 American Petroleum Institute conference in Los Angeles. Arutunoff contracted to "field-test" his pump concept in the El Dorado oil field and shortly thereafter,

the Bart Manufacturing Company was established in Bartlesville, with the support of Phillips Petroleum Company. Two year later, Bart Manufacturing was dissolved and Reda Pump Company was organized with Phillips Petroleum Company as a major investor.

Recovering oil from deep underground reservoirs, Arutunoff's submersible pump revolutionized oil production, allowed millions of barrels to be pumped to the surface and greatly increased profits. Arutunoff held no less than 90 U.S. Patents, including the patent for the invention of the Electro-drill which made possible oil extraction through one and a half miles of Artic ice.

By May 1955, REDA expanded to cover a nine-acre area in Bartlesville's industrial park. Then, in 1968, TRW, Inc. (Thompson, Ramo, and Wool-



ridge) and REDA merged to create one of the strongest energy technology driven companies in the world. By the end of the 20th century, the company was the world's largest manufacturer of electric submersible pump systems (ESPs) and REDA pumps were considered the "Cadillac" of the fluid lifting industry.

After Cities Service moved its headquarters from Bartlesville to Tulsa, TRW REDA purchased their "Masonic Building" headquarters, at the southwest corner of Dewey Avenue and 4th Street, as their offices. In 1988, the entire REDA company was sold by TRW to Houston based Camco, Inc., which merged with Schlumberger Oilfield Services in 1998 and they now occupy the 300,000 square foot building at 509 W. Hensley Blvd. In 2004, Schlumberger sold the Masonic Building to Rogers State University, creating Bartlesville's second four-year higher education opportunity.

A 1970 joint resolution of the Oklahoma State Senate and House of Representatives honored Mr. Arutunoff as an "outstanding Oklahoman whose contributions and personal qualities are

an inspiration and source of pride to all the citizens of this state. This resolution is a token of our great esteem to

*"His scientific contributions are remarkable but his genuine humility and honesty are what made him so well loved in Bartlesville."*

— Mrs. George Bridges

'Mr. Americanism of Bartlesville.'" The inscription on the plaque he received read: "Presented to Armais Arutunoff whose love for this land shines from his heart, rings in his words and girds his daily life-an inspiration to us all."

According to the late State Senator Denzil Garrison of Bartlesville, as "a token of esteem to Mr. Americanism of Bartlesville," and for Mr. Arutunoff's many civic contributions, May 23, 1970 was declared "Arutunoff Appreciation Day" in Bartlesville. The streets were lined with celebrants as a 47 float and 10 band parade

passed Arutunoff's viewing stand, followed by a dignitary

*"For his contributions to his country, his state, and his community, we are pleased to present for induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, Mr. Armais Arutunoff."*

— Need Author Name



banquet at the American Legion that evening.

In 1974, Armais Arutunoff was escorted by his granddaughter, Kyra Stephens, as he was inducted into the state's highest honor, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, for his development of the submersible pump and its oil and water well application.

For Arutunoff, success was 90% perspiration; he was the first to arrive and the last to leave.

And, he worked to create a "team/family environment" with annual employee picnics at Johnstone Park where service awards were presented, Christmas Ham Presentation Day and Christmas events for employees and their entire family. He was an active supporter of veteran and patriotic organizations and most of all a philanthropist.

Armais Arutunoff died February 1978 and our city mourned. Flags throughout the city and at the Bartlesville REDA plant flew at half-mast in his honor and some of Bartlesville's elite gentlemen

served as casket bearers as Arutunoff was laid to rest in Memorial Park Cemetery.



## Did You Know?

The Arutunoff's lived at 1435 S. Keeler before purchasing their stately English Tudor home at 1200 S. Cherokee Avenue, near the homes of Frank and L.E. Phillips. This home has been placed in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

Now You Know\*



**Local Author presentations in November:**

November 14th at 7:00 p.m.

*Author Mark Darrah*

Most recent book: A Catalogue of Common People

November 21st at 7:00 p.m.

*Author John Dwyer*

Books: Mustang & The Oklahomans



**Shin'en Kan event**  
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**Mary Winn Dills**  
**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Nov. 14**  
**City Hall**  
**401 S. Johnstone - 5th Floor**  
**Bartlesville Area History Museum**

# Thank You, Veterans!

While only one day of the year is dedicated solely to honoring our veterans, Americans must never forget the sacrifices many of our fellow countrymen have made to defend our country and protect our freedoms.

~Randy Neugebauer



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# I Christen Thee Bartlesville Victory

## Football Queen Betty Lou Findley Represented City in 1945

by **Debbie Neece, Bartlesville Area History Museum**

Imagine the butterflies felt by 17-year-old Betty Lou Findley when she was selected by her fellow classmates to travel to California to christen the S.S. Bartlesville Victory ship. She had never traveled more than 50 miles from Bartlesville, let alone seen a ship in person.

America faced monumental loss of life and an approximate \$341 billion financial devastation during WWII (1939-1945). A notable part of the expense was the over 2,700 Liberty class ships, which were mass-produced between 1941-1945, at a cost of \$2 million dollars each. Followed by the slightly larger and much quicker Victory cargo ships, constructed beginning January 1944 to replace the Liberties that fell to the war.

A huge “Buy War Bonds and Stamps” advertising campaign was launched throughout the community. In support of the war effort, Americans purchased an estimated \$186 billion dollars’ worth of War Bonds. As part of the campaign, any group that raised \$2 million in war bonds, covering the cost of the ship, could name its own ship. And so it was...

Some 218 American cities claimed their fame to a WWII Victory ship. Bartlesville’s claim came through bond purchases, Phillips Petroleum’s contribution of 100-octane aviation fuel, REDA employees fulfilling WWII aircraft part defense contracts and H.C. Price Company welders building ships. The 10,500 ton, 455 foot long, S.S. Bartlesville Victory was the 408th California Shipbuilding Corporation ship launched since the beginning of the war.

Bartlesville’s 1942 football queen, Betty Lou Findley was overwhelmingly

chosen to represent College High School and the City of Bartlesville based on her leadership, service, personality and character. She flew to Willington, California with her mother, Mrs. Mabel Findley, who served as the Matron of Honor and accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Price.

Being left-handed presents its challenges in a world of right-han-



*A 17-year-old Betty Lou Findley pictured christening the S.S. Bartlesville Victory in 1945, and shown later in life in the inset photo.*



**Keel Laid: November 21, 1944**  
**Launched: January 13, 1945**  
**Delivered: February 13, 1945**

ders. The ship was positioned to receive a champagne bottle christening from a right-handed blow so on Betty Lou’s second attempt, the U.S. flag clad bottle burst sending the christening liquid spraying. And Betty proclaimed, “I Christen Thee Bartlesville Victory” on January 13, 1945.

At 91 years of age, Betty Lou (Findley) Smith, wife of the late Truman Smith and mother of Steve, Brent and Melinda, passed away on March 28, 2019 in Porter, Texas. Truman and Betty both worked at Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville, wed and moved to Texas to raise their family. The family consensus was she “was the example of humility and quiet wisdom” and she always reminded loved ones to “Make Good Memories.”

The Bartlesville Victory was eventually scrapped. A model of the “S.S. Bartlesville Victory Ship” is displayed in a glass case and the flag clad champagne bottle Betty Lou Findley used to christen the ship is on exhibit at the Bartlesville Area History Museum.

Thank you for the memories, Betty Lou Findley Smith.

# Teachers, do you have a co-worker who deserves a little extra credit?

A teacher who goes above & beyond to make a difference in kids' lives?

## Tell us about them!

Send us a message on Facebook with their name, school & grade level taught and let us know in 500 words or less why they deserve to be named Teacher of the Month!

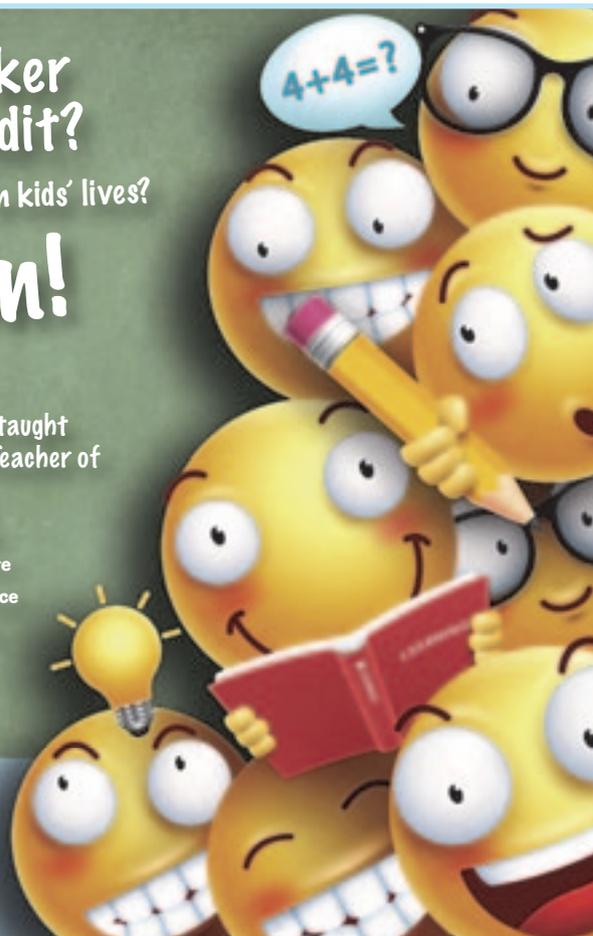
We'll recognize one winner each month now through the end of the school year. The Teacher of the Month will be featured in our next month's issue and receive an awesome prize package. Nominations are due by the 10th of each month. Once nominated, every teacher will remain a contender throughout the school year. All winners will be entered into our Teacher of the Year contest.

 @bmonthly magazine

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# Teacher of the Month: Amanda Daniels

## Hoover Elementary Teacher Claims Monthly Honor

by Tim Hudson

BMonthly is happy to announce that Hoover third-grade teacher Amanda Daniels is our Teacher of the Month for November. We had an opportunity to ask her a few questions.

**b** *Can you tell us a little about your teaching career?*

**A:** I accepted a teaching position with Hoover Elementary in 2014, where I taught Kindergarten for 4 years, as well as served as the co-grade level coordinator for the district. I am now in my second year of teaching third grade at Hoover. Prior to Hoover, I taught in Southeast Oklahoma at Bennington and Talihina. I currently serve as district trainer for Project Lead the Way, and just finished my first season as a mentor for the Bruins on the Run program.

**b** *What made you want to start teaching?*

**A:** After graduating from Oklahoma State University, I worked for the farmer, but working 9-hour days with little interaction with others was not for me. I knew that I had to follow my heart to pursue a career in helping children. Upon getting my certification, I took my first job as a teacher and have never looked back.

**b** *We've been told you organized some fundraisers for a coworker's family. Can you tell us about that?*

**A:** Tori Meijer, one of my 3rd grade team members' husband, Alex, was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer in August. They are a young couple with a sweet little girl; this broke my heart. I am the baby of my family and the only girl, so needless to say, I am a daddy's girl.

The thought of Ember not having her dad to make memories with made



me want to help them as much as I could. I can only imagine the additional expenses that the family is incurring, so I just wanted to do what I could. In my mind, I thought if we could help them financially, that would allow them to make some memories that otherwise they would not be able to make.

We first took donations to help them with expenses to MD Anderson in Houston. After they received the results from those tests, I felt I needed to do more to help. We held one "Day of Difference" and allowed students and staff pay \$1 to wear a hat for the day, and will continue to have a few each month. My hope is that we will be able to cover the daycare costs for their daughter. We have also had shirts made, with the proceeds going directly to the family. So far we have raised enough to cover two months of daycare for Ember. We also have a Meal Train set up for Meijer family. This allows them more time to enjoy each

other and life without worrying about cooking.

Alex has chemo every other week, on Tuesdays. On these days, we will be wearing our "I Wear Blue for Alex" shirts, as well as a "blue out" day at Hoover. We take pictures of students and staff wearing blue on those days and send them to Alex and Tori while he is at chemo. We want them to know that their Hoover family is there for them every step of the way.

**b** *What do you wish people knew about teaching?*

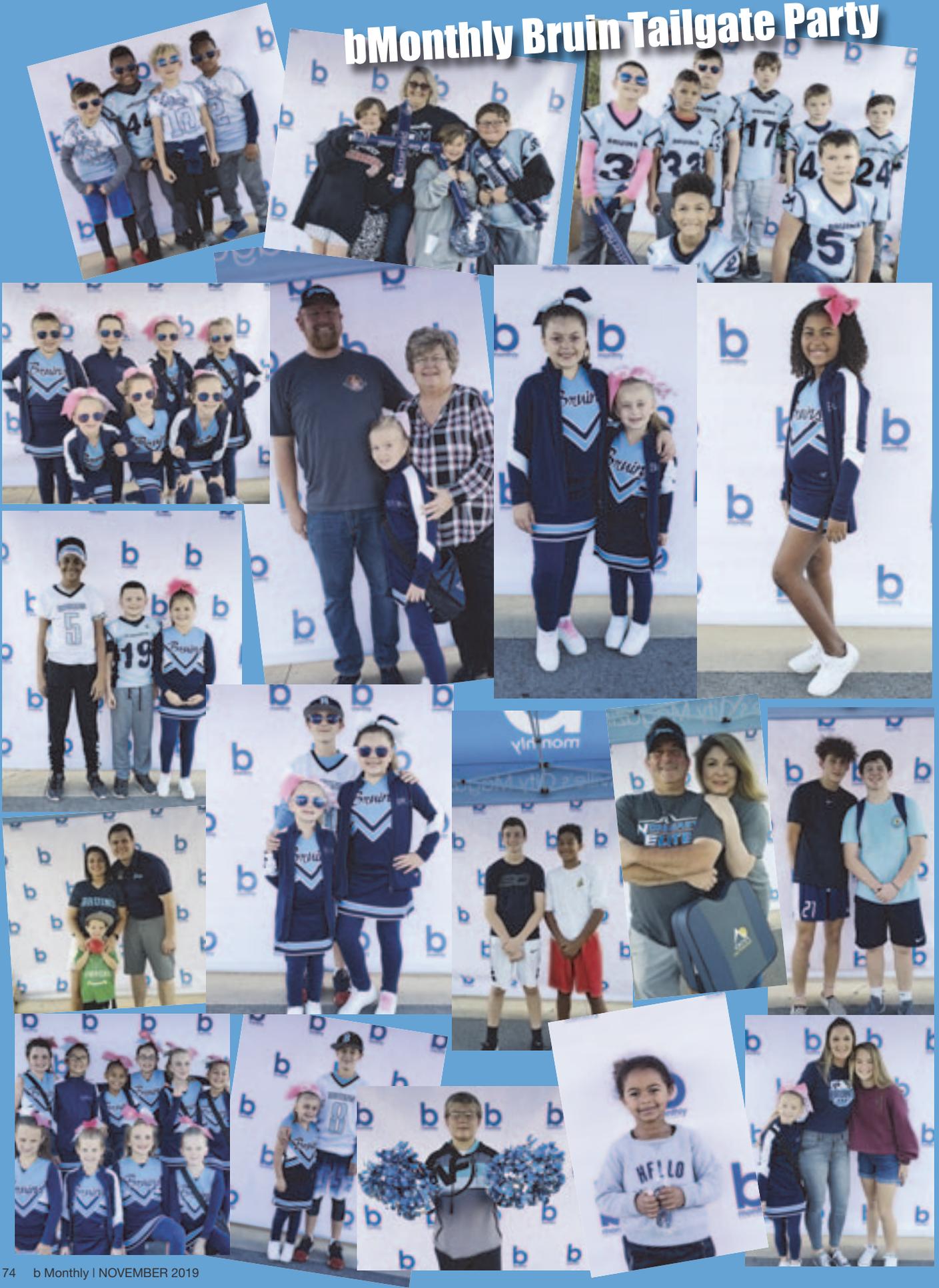
**A:** Teaching doesn't end when the school day ends, or even when the school year ends. Once a student enters your classroom, they enter your heart forever. For me, watching my students grow and succeed is one of life's greatest moments. Teaching is not always reading, writing, and arithmetic as the saying goes. Sometimes all my students need is a daily hug and smile, and that does more for them than I could ever teach them from a book.

**b** *What are your plans for the future?*

**A:** I am hoping to have many more years in the classroom helping educate the future of the world. I hope to continue to instill in the minds and hearts of my students that they are all brilliant and can accomplish anything they choose to.

Once they enter my classroom, I will forever be their biggest fan and supporter. One of the greatest compliments for a teacher is having former students come by your classroom for a hug. I am planning to obtain my administrators credentials, in hopes of one day becoming a principal. Learning is not a time period in your life, but an ongoing season that never ends.

# bMonthly Bruin Tailgate Party



# The First Boy Scouts

## Pawhuska Troop Was the First in North America

by Roseanne McKee



On September 28, Pawhuska held a parade to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the first Boy Scout troop in North America — formed in Pawhuska.

The Cherokee and Cimarron Boy Scout Councils participated in the parade through downtown Pawhuska, then gathered for photos in front of the Osage County Historical Society Museum.

After the parade, at the OCHS Museum, Pawhuska Mayor Roger Taylor announced that September 28, was a celebration of the Boy Scouts in Pawhuska. A reception was held for Eagle Scouts at the Short Community Center, and 110-year commemorative patches were given to each Eagle Scout.

A permanent exhibit resides at the museum about the first Boy Scout Troop, and a sculpture by Pawhuska artist Jim Hamilton on the museum grounds depicts a scout leader and two Boy Scouts around a camp fire.

Many fundraisers were held to raise \$90,000 for the sculpture, called “What It’s All About,” according to Shirley Roberts, OCHS Museum past president and volunteer.

Roberts said the Weigant family served as models for the sculpture. Ellen Weigant confirmed the models for the sculpture were indeed her husband, the late Pawhuska pharmacist Jim Weigant, and their two sons, Timothy and Patrick Weigant.

The Osage County Historical Society Museum has a letter, dated May 26, 1941, from Father John Mitchell confirming that Pawhuska was the very first Boy Scout Troop, and that it was started in 1909. “It’s been in the files. Getting ready for the 110th anniversary event, boxes were pulled out that said ‘Boy Scout’ and in one of those boxes was this letter. So, we immediately took it to Bartlesville and had it framed, and we’re very excited to have it here on display at the museum,” said OCHS Museum past president and board member Garrett Hartness.

From England, Father Mitchell, an Episcopal priest, was in Pawhuska to serve at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church there. “Mitchell

was very good friends with Lord Robert Baden-Powell, who formed the Boy Scouts in England,” Hartness said. “So when Mitchell came to Pawhuska, he had with him a trunk full of Boy Scout items that he brought with the idea probably of starting a Boy Scout troop while he was here. A lot of people don’t realize that the first Boy Scout troop in America was under a British charter, because there were no Boy Scouts of America.”

Bruce Hendren, who got involved in scouting when his son asked to join the Cub Scouts at age 7, has been a Boy Scout leader for 34 years in Pawhuska. Hendren shares Pawhuska’s scouting history with the scouts he leads.

“We tell them the story of Rev. Mitchell coming to town and getting off the wagon and seeing the ruffian kids, so he sent back to Lord Baden-Powell and got the English charter and some uniforms and started a troop in 1909 for boys ages 11 & older,” Hendren said. “The Boy Scouts of America started in 1910. The troops in Pawhuska walked to Bartlesville and helped start the troop over there. It was Troop One in the Cherokee Council. It took them two days to get there. They had a parade and everything when they got there. Then they walked back home.”

Soon, the Pawhuska Troop joined the Boy Scouts of America and became Troop No. 33, Hartness said.

An interesting fact is that the father of Osage Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn, also named Raymond Red Corn, was one of six Boy Scouts from Pawhuska who attended the Boy Scout Jamboree of 1929 in England. While making Indian fry bread during that visit, Red Corn and the other boys were spotted by the Prince of Wales and invited to stay at Windsor Castle.

“I asked him one time at church ‘Raymond, tell me about you going and having dinner with the king and queen of England; what was that like,’ and he was kind of quiet and said, ‘they were very nice people.’ That was all he said,” Hartness said.

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# What I've Learned Eating Pie

by Brent Taylor

On a recent autumn Friday evening, I was playing golf at Hillcrest and I heard the stirring percussions of the Bruins Band just over the river and through the oaks. I love this time of year, because the sound of drums brings back the memories of youth, football games, trick or treating amongst the golden hues of Halloween costumes and swirling leaves, and pie. I grew up eating red, white, and blue food. By that, I mean lots of milk and Wonder Bread, hamburgers with Coca-Cola, and corn on the cob. These foods were as American to me as baseball and the Star Spangled Banner. I'm more sophisticated now. I eat hummus and pork belly. But the one food that won't go away is pie.

Pie cures me of everything ... hunger, self-loathing, anxiety, stress. It's impossible to share a piece of pie with someone and not like them. But, not all of my pie memories are good ones. Once my wife and daughter made nine blueberry pies and froze them. I was home alone and discovered them hidden in the freezer. Not bothering to bake one, or even thaw one, I sawed out a frozen slice with a steak knife and ate it like a popsicle. Impulsiveness, unlike ice cream, does not pair well with pie.

Better memories of pie revolve around the Thanksgiving table. My grandmothers fed their families in the midst of hard times in different corners of Oklahoma, one a coal mining region, the other a dust bowl. Grandma Davis once admonished me at Sunday dinner, taking a gnarled chicken leg from my plate and gnawing it down to the gristle as if it were a sin to leave meat on the bone. Her pies were simple because she grew up in the panhandle of Oklahoma in the worst of hard times. She made a simple cream and custard pie, and she called it Jess Davis pie, after my grandpa. For years I called it Jess Davis pie,

but later found out the real name was Jeff Davis pie. This classic southern pie was loved by the first president of the Confederate States, Jefferson Davis. They named it for him, apparently, not Grandpa Jess.

And on a red dirt road near Caney, Kansas, a coal miner's daughter, Grace Taylor, walked with me and my siblings, teaching us how to pick blackberries from the fence row. Those berries magically migrated from a tin pail to a plate of heavenly blackberry pie, doused with just a touch of half and half or ice cream.

I've learned a lot from my grandmothers ... simple is good, gather berries from the fence row, be content with what you have, and when the time is right, celebrate. Hunker down over a piece of pie and share it with someone you love. These are lovely moments of fullness, pleasure, and comfort. They fill us up, mind, body, and soul.

Enjoy your family this Thanksgiving, and be grateful for those who have gone before us in times that were leaner and simpler. I am thankful for dirt roads and sodden homes, and windswept hard times and for tough souls who persevered and made life taste really good with what was right in front of them. Happy Thanksgiving!

# Branching Out

## New Membership Program to Help Support Iconic Price Tower

by Grace A. Birdman

Since 1956, the skyline of our community has been graced with one of America's most intriguing buildings. The Tower once christened "The Tree that Escaped the Crowded Forest" by its famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, has brought visitors from all over the world to the Oklahoma Prairie. And as Price Tower looks toward the future, that "tree" is branching out into further growth and influence.

Price Tower leadership, under the direction of Executive Director Rick Loyd, is busy launching a new initiative to educate the public on the Tower's future direction and the many ways people can join in. A new membership campaign, "Branching Out" — complete with special member events and a variety of discounts — is making support of the iconic structure more beneficial than ever.

"We're pretty excited about this new program. The nature of our fundraising and support structure make Price Tower Memberships a fantastic opportunity for individuals and businesses to gain new benefits based on their level of support," said Loyd. "Now, members get automatic discounts in the gift shop, Copper Restaurant + Bar, Inn at Price Tower — and every membership level is treated to free gallery admission for all exhibitions and a free tour of our historic floors, which tells the full history of the building."

Loyd says new memberships were created with varying levels of financial investment to include individual community supporters as well as local corporations who want to help further the cause. Periodic members-only events, such as exhibition preview parties, as well as free membership affairs and social gatherings, have been added to create a sense of Tower ownership and community. Members will also receive updated information about the Tower and an opportunity to visit with the executive director in a focus group/ idea generation meeting about future plans.

"With the 'Branching Out' campaign, we want everyone to make the Tower their Tower! We hope people will challenge themselves to make a true commitment to supporting us, and



we want to make them feel like they are part of this amazing facility," said Loyd. "With everyone's involvement and support, Price Tower can continue to be the icon of the prairie, and allow so many more people to experience all its fascinating aspects and architectural amazement."

Price Tower and its many operations — which include an art gallery and exhibitions, museum/gift shop, historic tours, event space, the 19 room boutique Inn at Price Tower, and its contemporary casual dining establishment Copper Restaurant + Bar — are supported solely by individual and corporate support. As the non-profit group approaches 2020 and the completion of Tower Center at Unity Square, leadership wants to position itself as truly a 'Center for the Arts.'

"With the addition of Tower Center at Unity Square, Price Tower will be situated at the center of the Arts District in Bartlesville,"

said Loyd. "This new green space and increased activity downtown will allow us to potentially offer casual dining options on the main level of the building, and outside café/bistro experiences within our south courtyard. We want to be ready to take full advantage of the many visitors and guests the green space will bring."

Details on the Tower's new 'Branching Out' campaign and memberships are available at [PriceTower.org](http://PriceTower.org). Loyd said their team is grateful for ongoing support from the community of Bartlesville, and they are especially hopeful that people of all walks of life will be drawn to help preserve our city's crown jewel in this time of growth.

"As we look to the future and continue to bring art and exhibits to Price Tower, everyone has an opportunity to help make that happen," said Loyd. "Becoming a member and supporting not only the arts within the Tower, but the building itself, is our chance to be a part of art education and the preservation of Frank Lloyd Wright's only realized skyscraper. And it's right here in our backyard."



1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL

# Film Festival WINNERS!



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# Satisfying Bartlesville's Sweet Tooth

## The Candy Basket Is More Than Just a Candy Store

by Lori Just

When you walk inside The Candy Basket, you notice the large glasses filled with colorful candies. You close your eyes and take in a deep breath through your nose and smell the sweetness of chocolate, the sourness of sour cherry colas, and the spiciness of the hot tamales.

Stephanie and Chris Solenberger turned their part-time college job into a career. Ever since working at a candy store while attending the University of Oklahoma, they have dreamed of owning their own store.

"This has been about 15 years in the making," explained Chris. "All the pieces fell in the right spot. We started setting up in early June and haven't looked back."

The Candy Basket had its grand opening on August 31 at their new location in the Eastland Shopping Center. The original store in Norman, owned by Maurice and Gyan Galoob, has since closed due to the previous owners' retirement. For the past several months, the Solenbergers have been grateful for the assistance Gyan has provided for opening a new store.

"Our opening was incredible for a business of our size," said Chris. "Customers still come in every day saying that they have never heard of us, or had no idea we were even here. Given the fact that we are getting new customers every day, business has been steady and slowly growing."

Besides the tasty aroma when you walk in the store, candy connoisseurs will be delighted to discover nostalgic candies from the 50s and 60s, as well as bulk candies and chocolates, taffy, and fine chocolates.

"We are more than just a candy store," said Stephanie. "We have gifts like holiday décor, photo frames, plaques, trinket dishes, tumblers, mugs, and even succulents. We can customize any gift for any occasion — from baskets to gift boxes."

There is also an assortment of dips and spreads, salsas, soup mixes, hot beverage mixes, and Made in Oklahoma products.

Speaking of Oklahoma, the Solenbergers have strong ties in the community. They were both born and raised in Bartlesville, as well as their parents, Alan and Nadine Solenberger and Steve and Vickie Berner. Chris's grandfather, Al Solenberger (Solly), was the head coach of the then-Bartlesville Injuns American Legion baseball team, from 1964 to 1975. This year marks the 50th year since he coached the one and only team to the American Legion World Series, in 1969.

"Chris and I met in middle school, dated occasionally, eventually becoming high school sweethearts," said Stephanie. "After graduating in 1998, we eventually found our way to Norman for the college experience."



Stephanie graduated with her Bachelors in Psychology in 2004 and Chris his Associates in 2005. Upon returning to Bartlesville in 2006, they got married and Stephanie was already attending OU and received her Master's in Human Relations later that year.

"Since that time, we have added two beautiful daughters to our family — Peyton, 9; and Bethany, 4; and I completed my bachelors from OU in administrative leadership," said Chris. "Our kids are a huge part as to why we left our corporate jobs. We wanted to spend more time with them and have more opportunities for field trips, school plays, and vacations. They are both excited that mommy and daddy own a candy store and already ask how old they have to be to work here."

"One thing that makes us unique as a candy store is that we are not a self-serve candy store," said Chris. "We love the customer interaction, and we assist every customer with weighing out their candy from our nostalgic glass jars. We like the 'mom and pop' store feeling!"

The Solenberger family can agree that owning a candy store is a sweet gig, literally, but they do have their own preference for their go-to candy choices. Stephanie claims to love all candy, of course, but her favorite is chocolate-covered blueberries. Chris says it would depend on his mood, but he is drawn to the chocolate-covered almonds or sour cherry colas.

The Candy Basket is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They can be reached at 918-876-4390 or you can follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

"We are looking forward to the holidays, where we are sure people will love our store even more," he added. "There will be so many holiday candies, chocolates, and goodies and we can't wait to make holiday baskets!"



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# Fighting a War of the Mind

## WarHawk PTSD Service Dogs Helping Veterans

by **Maria Gus**

Kevin Doncaster has received comments and compliments about his hair many times. “Nice mohawk,” someone might say. Kevin soon lets them know that it’s not a mohawk, it’s a warhawk.

“We have to win this thing,” said Doncaster. “We’re fighting a war, just not a war of bombs or bullets, a war of the mind.”

That’s how WarHawk PTSD Service Dogs was named, and it has also become the driving force behind anyone who learns about the organization. Supporters understand they are fighting not only PTSD, but the stigma associated with seeking help for those suffering from its effects.

A single-breed service dog organization, WarHawk PTSD Service Dogs works with Australian shepherds. Their primary objective is to stop the increasing veteran suicide rate, working not only with veterans but also first responders and others seeking service dogs.

Doncaster, a Marine Corp veteran who served seven years in Afghanistan both as a soldier and a civilian contractor, said he saw a lot of terrible things during his service. Once he returned and began to suffer from PTSD, his treatment consisted of therapy and prescription medication. Unfortunately, Doncaster still suffered through suicidal thoughts.

Doncaster went on to describe a massive coordinated attack on October 13, 2010. Many service members died that day, including three Marines in his own battalion. One fellow marine and friend, Phillip Vinnidge, did not survive that day.

It was a visit with Vinnidge’s mother, Julie, that turned Doncaster’s life around — and it all began with Grace. Julie Vinnidge is a Gold Star Mother, someone who has lost a son or daughter in the service of the

United States. Doncaster was able to observe Julie’s dog, Grace, as she interacted with Julie during their visit.

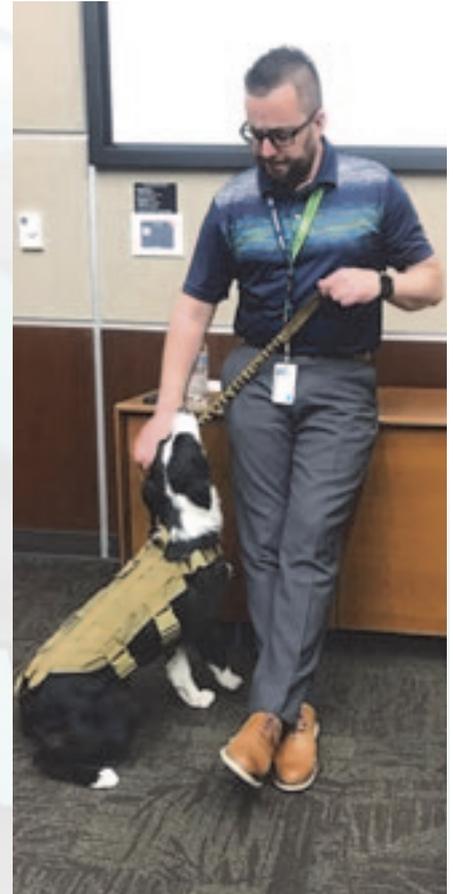
“I was blown away,” said Doncaster, “Grace was completely disrupting all the triggers for Julie.” Julie told him he had to get a service dog, and he took her advice.

When Doncaster returned home, he began research. Through a series of kind strangers, he discovered a path forward to begin his work with service dogs for veterans. Every phone call and connection led to another person that wanted to help get Doncaster his own service dog. Finally, Doncaster connected with Anthony Parnell, out of Pryor. Parnell explained that he was no longer breeding, but after hearing Doncaster’s story invited him out to meet a dog that might be perfect for him.

“I really just wanted to know what to be prepared for financially,” said Doncaster, regarding his call to Parnell. Parnell insisted that Doncaster meet him before he discussed how much the dog would cost. When he finally met up with Lacey the Aussie, Doncaster knew she was the one.

“She immediately latched on to me,” said Doncaster, “Parnell handed me the kennel and leash and, again, I asked him how much.” Parnell insisted that he could not possibly accept money from the Marine veteran. “He said, ‘Whatever you want to give me just drop it in your church bucket.’ I’m a man of faith, so that was big for me.”

*WarHawk PTSD Service Dogs is a non-profit serving those in need of service dogs to aid with PTSD. Their All American Patriot Bash to benefit their program takes place November 15 from 7 - 11 pm at the Renaissance Tulsa Convention Center. For more information and to get tickets find them on Facebook. The event will include entertainment, silent and live auction items, and an all you can eat BBQ buffet. 100% of the proceeds benefit WarHawk PTSD Service Dogs to continue to provide and further help U.S. Veterans and first responders.*



Kevin Doncaster with his service dog, Lacey.

Lacey has already helped Doncaster through many stressful times, recognizing his triggers for PTSD and serving as a calming force. From his first visit with Grace, to meeting Lacey, to the first two dogs they placed with vets, Hope and Faith, Doncaster has watched his vision grow into something so much bigger than himself.

“While we cannot guarantee our dogs will cure those afflicted, we do believe in improving their quality of life,” said Doncaster. “Our mission is to deliver these dogs free of charge to anyone with PTSD, with an emphasis on veterans.”

# Practicing Appreciation

by Lori Kroh

All dressed up and sitting at the kids table at Thanksgiving meant three things to us as children. We had our very own salt and pepper set, we each got to say what we were grateful for, and we always had a tug-of-war to pull on the wishbone.

I have found that the practice of gratefulness is appreciation.

I never really appreciated the dinner until I had to wash every beautiful china plate in hot, sudsy water and towel dry each one. It gives one a chance to ponder.

Perspective has been the best teacher in my life, and going without caused that appreciation more than anything. Maybe, that is why the generations before us are so good at this. They went without and knew how to “make do” with a smile.

Over time, the gift of appreciation came to me in many lessons learned ... some took once and some took more. However, dad would be proud of me now.

The older I get, the more I can see what truly matters.

I grew up listening to my grandmother appreciate everything. She saved all the bread heels for the little birds. The leaves would turn and fall to the ground and she would be whistling and singing and grab her rake. I would hear her thank God that she still had strength to bag leaves.

Coming of age, I compared my life to others and found myself wanting more and complaining more about what I had and didn't have.

During a time of deep sadness in my life, my dad had some truth for me. He had tears streaming down his face while his voice whispered to me that the key to life was being grateful, and once I learned HOW to be grateful I could conquer pain, hardness, and bitterness. My precious dad ... He was so right. He knew. Being grateful isn't just for one day — it's a daily decision, and the best way to learn HOW to do something is actually by doing it. It's good to find out for yourself.

I learned HOW the hard way.

I am grateful for my dad, who spoke hard truth, and for my moments in life which gave me the perspective of HOW to be grateful. Sometimes, it takes just a few moments to instill a lesson.

Random things such as gas for a car, a light bill all paid, a fully stocked pantry so a cake can be made. Wonderful items such as a heavy coat, two matching gloves, and plenty of blankets. Amazing inventions like the ice scraper, a can opener, and toasters where the dial toasts bread perfectly.



Comforts for my soul, such as hot coffee, good creamer, and a good book. The little things like the correct phone charger, much-needed chapstick, and the good kind of hand lotion. Strong and useful items like shoestrings, a hammer, and both Phillips and flat screwdrivers.

Hallelujah moments, like a rainbow after the storm, a box of Kleenex after a good cry, and a refund in the mail. Friends to hug you when you lost a loved one, and dog ears to pet while you ponder life. Toothpicks and little gifts for no reason. A front parking spot, redemptive grace when caught speeding, and Joyeaux Noel every Christmas season. Beautiful picked flowers, boarding a flight in the nick of time, clinking glasses to a moment when being wined and dined. True love kisses and pretty cursive words all throughout a letter ... teachers that inspire you to do much better.

Clean sheets, ironed pants, and a new bar of soap. Found money, birthday candles, a clean bill of health ... where once was no hope. A flying flag, a slice of pie, and a screen door that slams. A porch swing, a mowed lawn, fresh lemonade from my child's stand. Hands to fold and pray with no chains to be worn, a cup of hot tea after a long winter, s morn. A new little babe, good food, and stories to share ... the gift of your life and the memories you bear.

Oh, to be grateful and daily decide that your choice to be grateful is all inside.



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