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Weatherford Hosts Special Olympics "Rt. 66 Cornhole" Event



Krystal Blackwell / WW

Weatherford High School recently hosted The Route 66 Area Special Olympics Unified Cornhole tournament on campus. 118 teams from Burns Flat, Elk City, Hinton, Hydro-Eakly, Mustang, Putnam City, Weatherford, and Yukon competed.

WOCS Students Spend School Day Supporting their Community



Provided

"Thank you for teaching God's word" is written on every handmade gift created by WOCS Kindergarteners. The children would visit various teachers throughout the day, such as Weatherford's Pre-K teacher Karola Sikes (pictured right).



Provided

Preschoolers help restocked the Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry, helping to offer food for community members in need.



Provided


First graders at Western Oklahoma Christian School spent their day at the Weatherford Animal Control Shelter. In between helping out with the garden flowers, the kids got to play with the many puppies staying at the shelter.

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MAY 17

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Leonard Wilcox

Leonard Maro Wilcox was born December 23, 1949, to Lawrence "Pete" Lee Wilcox and Florence Loraine (Moldenhower) Wilcox in Beardstown, IL and passed away in his Butler home Thursday, May 4, 2023, surrounded by family and friends.



Leonard started his young life in Beardstown, IL and moved with his family to Clinton, OK in 1962. Later he moved to Butler, OK where he graduated from Butler High School in 1968. He soon joined the U.S. Air Force in 1969 and served during the Vietnam Era. He was honorably discharged in 1973.

In July of 2003, he met Horalia "Raleigh" Rangel and they married on July 5, 2006, in Butler, making Butler their home.

He was a welder, as well working for the park rangers in the state of Oklahoma and security officer for the Lucky Star Casino.

He was a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He loved to duck hunt with his buddy, Lonnie Haggard and spend time with family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Ronald and two wives, Francis Wilcox and Von Wilcox.

He is survived by his wife, Raleigh, of the home, daughter, Shellie Stanley and husband, John, of Oregon, Roxanne Ray and husband, Dale, Butler, OK and Maribel Brinkley and husband, Chris, Clinton, OK and sons, Ruben Uribe, Jr., and wife Kasey, Arapaho, OK and Esteban Uribe and wife, Rosalee, Clinton, OK, brother, Robert Wilcox, and wife, Gail, Clinton, OK.

He is also survived by a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Bill Stockton

Billy John Stockton was born May 31, 1941 to Wendell Stockton and Bette (Patterson) Stockton in Clinton, OK and passed from this life the morning of May 4, 2023.



Bill grew up in Clinton, OK attending Clinton Public Schools. He was active in livestock showing, sports, glee club, and choir. He was a very active member of the FFA and was the recipient of numerous awards.

One of his proudest accomplishments was receiving the Junior Master Farmer Award for the state of Oklahoma.

It was evident early on of Bill's love of land and livestock. Growing up, Bill's dad owned a dairy farm where Bill worked and ran the delivery route. He often spoke about the people along his routes who were always willing to invite him in for a warm meal or a cold glass of lemonade.

After graduating from Clinton High School in 1959, Bill attended Oklahoma State University where he majored in Animal Husbandry and Agriculture Education.

Bill was a jack of all trades and a master of many. He spent time as "Colonel" Bill Stockton, auctioneer. He even worked at the Highway Department gaining a deep understanding of construction.

More than anything, Bill was a salesman because he never met a stranger. Bill sold construction equipment, farm equipment, and anything in between for years. He did this all while continuing his love for livestock and farming.

Bill married Carole Elizabeth Grant on September 25, 1975 in Guymon, OK. During their time there, Bill joined a Team Roping club where the family enjoyed attending rodeos and cheering him on during his roping events. The two moved to Fairview, OK in 1981 making it their home where Bill and Carole started their own business where his oilfield career and many lifelong friendships began.

Bill owned and operated Stockton Transports Inc. until June 19, 2022 when he retired.

He and Carole owned and ran thoroughbreds in and out of state raised on their farm. This became one of his many passions, as he could never watch a horse run without tears in his eyes.

Bill had the biggest heart. He helped anyone in need without ever asking for anything in return. His greatest joys in life were his horses, dogs, and cattle, but above all else he LOVED his family!

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Shery England, and daughter, Karen Ashcraft.

He is survived by his wife Carole, two daughters, Sonya Ylla and husband Nicholas of Edmond, OK and Nancy Niles and husband Sid of Hillsdale, OK, and son, Alan Pearce and wife Terrie of Yukon, OK.

He is also survived by nine grandchildren, Tracy Mann, Blake Ashcraft, Chris Pearce, Ciera Mitchell, Reed Stockton, Berkley Ylla, Calvin Ylla, Bethany Niles, and Billy Grant Niles, six great-grandchildren and his four-legged partner Buddy.

Crystal Dobbins

Crystal DeAnn Dobbins was born November 20, 1978 in Thomas to Jerry and Linda K. Dobbins and passed away Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at home in Thomas at the age of 44 years, 5 months and 12 days.



She attended all her school years at Thomas, graduating in 1997. Crystal was involved in basketball, softball, track, FHA, and FBLA. She was voted "most humorous" in high school. Coach Mike Tyson nicknamed her "Catfish" in his 5th grade PE class and the name stuck into adulthood.

Crystal received her Associates degree in business from Redlands Community College and a Bachelor of Business from SWOSU.

She enjoyed her summers going on harvest with her family-traveling from Texas to Minnesota.

Crystal never met a stranger, and she really had a heart for kids and the elderly. She had a true heart for the underdog. "Aunt Crystal" as many kids called her, loved attending all of their sporting events.

Her special joy in life was the birth of her niece, Makyla Jerryn Nitzel. She believed Makyla was very special and so loved. They connected by phone just about every day.

Her big smile and laughing eyes will be missed by so many.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jerry; maternal grandparents, Leo and Modean Webb; paternal grandparents, Gerald and Betty Dobbins; and uncle, Randy Dobbins.

Crystal is survived by her mother, Linda K. Dobbins of Thomas; sister, Amber Dobbins-Nitzel and niece, Makyla Nitzel of El Reno, OK; uncle and aunt, Phil and Marshia Webb of Vacaville, CA; numerous aunts; uncles; and cousins.

Red Thomas

Donald Ray Thomas, better known as "Red," age 82, lifelong Clinton resident, was born February 8, 1941, in Clinton, to Lee Roy and Ecil Oma (Thompson) Thomas, and passed away Friday, April 28, 2023 in his home.



Red was raised in Clinton and attended Clinton Schools. His very first job right out of school, was at Windser's Bowling Alley, then he worked several years for Gayle Penner, most people would know of him working for Hinz Refrigeration, right up until his death. Red attended St. Mary's Catholic Church. He loved working, hand fishing, going to flea markets, drinking his one of cup coffee in the morning, and spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, twin brother Ronald Thomas, and 5 other brothers Ernest Thomas, Estel Thomas, Virgil Thomas, Leon Thomas, Eugene Thomas, and great-granddaughter Esperanza Vasquez.

He is survived by two daughters Ecil Reyes and her husband Tony, of Torrington WY., Corinna Hernandez and her husband George of Oklahoma City, two brothers James Thomas of Clinton, Charles Thomas of Elk City, seven grandchildren Bethany Guidry, Cory Dodson, Jessica Mendoza, Rebecca Stennis, Alex Vasquez, Chelsea Agogbua, Erica Vasquez, and nineteen great grandchildren, and his old VFW buddies.

Nelda Bennett

Nelda LaVern Bennett, 68, of Sayre, OK, was born on December 9, 1954 in Elk City, OK. She is the daughter of Sye and June (Self) Lane. She went to walk the golden streets of heaven on Friday, April 28, 2023 at Hensley's Nursing Home, Sayre, OK, surrounded by her loving family.



Nelda was a waitress at the Flamingo Restaurant when she was sixteen years old. She enjoyed gardening, flowers, sewing, and hand embroidery leaving behind beautiful handmade treasures. She loved animals and watching Gunsmoke. Nelda loved spending time with her family and grandchildren and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cherishing her memory is one son, Stephen Bennett and Jennifer Rainer of Elk City, OK; two daughters, Danielle Miller and Titan of Tehachapi, California, and Michelle Bishop of Oklahoma City, OK; eleven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Nelda is preceded in death by one daughter, Tori Lane; her parents, Sye and June Lane; granddaughter, Destah Nguyen; five brothers, Dale Lane, Larry Lane, Ronnie Lane, David Lane, Clyde Lane; and one sister, Janice.

Arbie Watkins

Arbie Dee Watkins, 80, Arapaho resident passed away Saturday, May 6, 2023, in the Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK. Arbie Dee Watkins was born May 2, 1943, to W.E. Watkins and Oneta (Moore) Watkins.



He was married to Shirley Andrews on August 5, 1961, in Clinton and they have made Arapaho their home. Shirley preceded him in death on March 8, 2023.

He has been employed with Jett Distributing as Warehouse Manager for over 40 years. He enjoyed music and playing the guitar and fishing.

He is also preceded in death by his parents, infant daughter, Darla Watkins, three brothers, Robert Watkins, Dewey Watkins and Billy Lloyd Watkins and eight sisters, Willie Mae Ingram, Laveta Powers, Nancy Jo Watkins, Mable Powers, Viola Virginia "Jean" Hodge, Claudette Northrup, Jaree Richmond and Joann Johnston.

He is survived by sons, Randy Watkins, Darren Watkins and wife Michelle, Clinton, and Rodney Watkins and wife, Angela, Weatherford, OK, brother, Kenneth Watkins and wife, Vicki, Arapaho.

He is also survived by three grandchildren, Bryson, Kelsey and Blayze Watkins and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gretel Grubb

Margarete "Gretel" Grubb was born July 6, 1933, to Heinrich and Susanne (Wilhelm) Schmidt in Dietzenbach, Germany and passed away Thursday, May 4, 2023, in the Corn Heritage Nursing Home in Weatherford, OK.



She was raised in Germany where she graduated high school and attended a business school.

She met Air Force Sargent Sherman Grubb, Jr, and they were married in Munich, Germany on July 5, 1954.

After Sherman's discharge, they came to his home in the United States and settled in Custer City, OK. They farmed together until Sherman's death in 1996. Gretel was a homemaker and helped raise their two children.

She was a loving wife and mother to her family, and she was a devout Christian who loved the Lord. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton, OK.

In earlier years Sherman and Gretel were the MYF Leaders at the Independence Methodist Church. While in Custer City she was a member of the Eastern Star and a Rainbow Mother.

After her two sons were in school, she worked at Kellwood Factory and later the Cherokee Trading Post Gift Shop. After her move to Clinton, she volunteered at the Route 66 Museum.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

She is survived by two sons, Sherman Grubb, III and wife Debbie of Custer City, OK; and Mike Grubb ad wife Denise of Hutchison, KS; and brother George Schmidt and wife Inge of Steinburg, Germany.

She is also survived by five grandchildren, Tamara Wyatt and husband, Greg, Taryn Grubb, Sherman Grubb, IV, Cody Grubb and wife Heather and Zac Grubb and wife, McKenzie, five great grandchildren, Rachel Grubb, Sherman Grubb, V, Cheri Norvell, Abigail Norvell and Julianne Grubb.

The family of Gretel would like to thank the staff and nurses at Corn Heritage of Weatherford and the nurses at Shepherd Home Health Care and hospice for the excellent care they gave Mom these past five years.

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7 - DAY FORECAST

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SCAN ME



Pictured above is the Weatherford National Honor Society's graduating senior class following their ceremonial chording and induction of new members. *Provided*

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Several western Oklahoma businesses participated in a spring-cleaning drive by Connections Food & Resource Center in Weatherford. The drive resulted in the collection of \$610 and 1,200 pounds of personal hygiene & household cleaning items. The items will be distributed to western Oklahomans in need. *Provided*

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HIGHER GROUND

One Thing



Jim Morrison

In the movie *City Slickers*, Billy Crystal asked Jack Palance what the secret to life was, he replied by holding up one bony finger. Palance said, "the secret is pursuing one thing." In this fast paced day of multitasking we often see how much we can cram into one day, and feel guilty if our to-do list is not completed. That is something I've enjoyed about retirement—there is always the next day.

Elton Trueblood, in the book, *The Best of Trueblood*, defines a Christian... as a person who confesses that, in the midst of the many confusing voices heard in the world, there is one Voice that supremely wins his full assent, uniting all his powers, intellectual and emotional, into a single pattern of self-giving. That is the voice of Jesus Christ."

Jesus himself said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well..."(Matt. 6:33) Years before David cried out, "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your path; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."(Psalms 86:11) Purity of heart is not on the list of things most sought after by the average person.

Too often we go with the flow of what comes naturally. Paul, writing to the church at Rome urged them to "...be not conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Henri Nouwen described our minds as "like a bunch of monkeys in a banana tree, constantly jumping up and down." Our minds tend to jump from one thing to the next without focusing on the one thing that is needed

The Apostle Paul said, "But one thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on..."(Phil. 3:2b & 3) But how do we sharpen our minds daily in the spirit of renewal. A good starting point is to immerse yourself in Scripture. But we need to be careful not to fall into a trap of equating quantity of reading with quality of reading.

Following a system that takes you through the

Bible can evolve into a prideful feeling of conquest. It is not so much of getting through the Bible as it is getting the Bible through you. The Bible was written to change our lives not to be checked off as a task to be conquered.

A few years ago I picked up a notebook that an inmate at the county jail had left behind. When being transferred to prison, they are not allowed to take anything with them. As I browsed through the pages I was amazed to find page after page of Scripture verses followed by a prayer relating to that verse.

In beautiful hand writing that made me envious, he had picked out verses from the book of Romans through I Timothy. Each verse was followed by a prayer relating the content of that verse to his life. That does not happen through speed reading. You have to meditate on, apply, and flesh out what God is saying to you through the verse. It involves the practice of paraphrasing, personalizing, and praying the verse back to God. This was made famous in Jerry Fink's discipleship program of One-on-one With God.

This week try renewing your mind and focus by slowing down and reading for application not information.

To comment: jhm82@outlook.com

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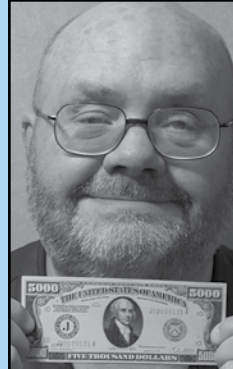
LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

"The Coin Guy"

Two Proof Seated Liberty Dimes

Seated Liberty coins from the 1800s can show signs of toning. They were stored in blue Whitman books which had sulfur. Because of long-term storage the sulfur produced circles of color evidenced by the above 1870 and 1890 Seated dimes.

The above dimes were highlighted by Heritage Auctions on April 3, 2023.

The 1870 dime was certified by the Professional Coin Grading Service as a Proof 66--only 4 points from perfect condition. It sold for \$4,080.

The 1890 dime certified by PCGS as a Proof 67 (just 3 points from perfect condition) sold for \$6,600.

The colors on both sides of the dimes are royal blue, green, gold and violet. In non-proof condition, Seated Liberty dimes in Good to Fine conditions are affordable for most collectors.

For those wanting to collect Seated dimes may call The Coin Guy, 580-890-8076, with questions. Thanks for reading.

Trent Boesen

Weatherford Rotary Hosts Pharmacist Students



Harold Wright / WW

SWOSU Pharmacy Students Jennifer Staggs and Michaela Lombardi spoke at the most recent Weatherford Rotary meeting to discuss the proper disposal of unused medications. These two appeared on behalf of their local University at American Pharmacist Association chapter.



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GENE RAY

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

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Clinton school officials say Gene Ray has accepted the position of principal for Clinton Middle School and Washington Elementary. For the past 10 years, Ray has served as principal at Washington Elementary. Prior to becoming principal, he taught health and physical education and coached athletics, including football, girls' basketball, and soccer.



Coyote Classic 100.3

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WEATHERFORD / ELECTIONS - The Weatherford City Commission has approved a resolution calling for an election for city commission seats in Wards 1 and 3 for a three-year term. The election will be on September 12th. The filing period is July 17-19th. Rick Miller and Lezley Bell currently hold the seats.

CUSTER / WHEAT - It might be a challenging year for the wheat crop in western Oklahoma. Larry Bryen of Custer County OSU Extension says it's projected that Custer County will cut only about 40,000 acres of wheat this year. Bryen says some 76,000 acres of wheat were cut in Custer County last wheat harvest. Bryen says the drought is blamed on the projected decrease in this year's harvest.

ODOT / HIGHWAY 54 - Brent Almquist, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation engineer for Division 5, says that work on a shoulder widening project on State Highway 54 north of Weatherford will begin May 15th. Almquist says that in addition to adding an 8-foot shoulder to the two-lane highway, crews will work on a large curve in the road north of Arapaho Road. The project was awarded to Cornell Construction at a cost of just over \$15 million.

CUSTER / SETTLE - A Thomas man is being held on a \$150,000 bond after his arrest on charges of possessing child pornography and violating the Computer Crimes Act. 62-year-old Jeffrey Settle allegedly had videos of child sexual abuse on his computer and cell phone devices. The investigation began last October when the Custer County Sheriff's Department received numerous cyber tips from the national center for missing & exploited children surrounding the uploading of child pornography to a social media platform.



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PSO / ROBOTICS GRANTS - The Public Service Company of Oklahoma says more than \$35,000 in robotic grants have been awarded to 16 school groups throughout the state. The grants range from \$250 to \$3200. Locally, grants were awarded to two schools in Caddo County: Caddo Kiowa Technology Center in Fort Cobb and Anadarko High School.

WEATHERFORD / LYLE ROAD - During an interview this week, Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown provided an update on the Lyle Road project. Brown says the contractor is currently working on the drainage portion of the project near Prairie West Golf Course.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

OH HAPPY Day TO YOU!



Have a birthday, anniversary, or other special event? Email us at sales@westokweekly.com to announce it here for FREE!

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Christian Free Store - Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875.
Alfalfa, OK Community Center "Bible Study," Every Monday Night from 7:00-8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more Information contact (405) 643-9211.
Free and Open to the Public. Oklahoma Parkinson's Alliance, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford's Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. **Questions? Contact OK Parkinson's Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@oklahomapa.org.** **Iron sharpens Iron** is a Christ centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for May 10 - Jennifer Bass, Denise Richardson, Rhonda Ridgeway, Courtney Ringler, Larry Wilmeth; **May 11** - Rosella Adler, Dana Brunner, Bryce Conway, Silas Dodgen, Kristi Fleece, Theresa Harms, Ridge Parsons, Autumn Phillips, Ron Russ, Darrell Stinson, Betty Taylor, Theresa Vargo, Ann Weaver; **May 12** - Emma Ferrell, Diana Hawkins, Paula Howes, Susan Rinehart, Monte Smith, Debbie Suderman, Tiffany Buckner; **May 13** - Jamie Cupp, Scott Hoffman, Ally Janning, Justin Mobley; **May 14** - Martha Buckner, Trey Chervenka, Michelle Hamlin, Melvin Lancaster, Nolan Louthan, Zitlalli Olguin, Randy O'Connell, Margaret Pebley, C.B. Perkins, Whitini Root, Tony Stobbe, Megan Ulrich; **May 15** - Taylor Boyd, Whitney Roper, Anthony Sperle; **May 16** - Ray Bagby, Chris Gregston, Buddy Holman, Katrina Howry, Carrin Klien, Jay Moore, Beth Perkins.

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SWOSU Dobson Golf Classic Raises \$85,000



Provided
SWOSU Alumnus Thomas Mapel won the "Scotty Cameron Putter Raffle," receiving some high quality golf gear as a result.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) alumni and friends were welcomed at prestigious Oak Tree National Golf Course in Edmond on April 17 where 25 teams played in the Dobson Bulldog Classic.

Established in 2015, the Classic was sold-out for the first time in 2023 back in March; this year's event raised over \$85,000 for the SWOSU Men's and Women's golf teams and other SWOSU athletic programs. This popular philanthropic activity was initiated by Everett Dobson (SWOSU Class of 1981) of Edmond in partnership with the SWOSU Athletic Association.

Dobson was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1999. He has endowed the Everett Dobson Chairs in Business, Marketing, Management, and Finance in the Everett Dobson School of Business & Technology at SWOSU and provided the private investment

necessary to construct the Everett Dobson Golf Training Facility on SWOSU's Weatherford campus. In 2015, Dobson was inducted into the SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit in recognition of his 25 years of service on the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees where he served as Investment Committee chair.

"We cannot say 'thank you' enough to the many businesses and individuals who made the 2023 Everett Dobson Golf Tournament such a success," said SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton. "Our SWOSU athletic programs are fortunate to have such a generous community of support which allows all our student-athletes to perform at their very best."

The SWOSU Dobson Bulldog Classic is hosted by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. For more information, call 580-774-3267 or visit the Foundation's donation website at www.GivetoSWOSUAthletics.com/



Heston Wright / WW

The Weatherford Lady Eagles' and Clinton Lady Reds' soccer teams faced off in the second round of the State Soccer Tournament. With Weatherford emerging victorious 1-0, they move on to round 3 of the state tournament to face Holland Hall.



Provided

SWOSU Softball sophomore shortstop Maddie Rahon was named an All-Great American Conference Honorable Mention for the 2023 season, announced Wednesday at the awards banquet preceding the conference tournament.

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Oklahoma History: The Many Markers on the Path of Ribbon Road



from Google Maps / Todd H.

Map of Ribbon Road alongside Route 66 (left), with markers (right) indicating the start of Ribbon Road.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Route 66, known for its scenic beauty and historic stops and sights, has one more peculiar section of its history that is slightly lost to time and to improvements of roads. This famous section exists in Oklahoma, up in the northeast, and on a map looks no different than any other road, but in person, it becomes quite clear why it brings in roadsters from all over the nation...it's only 9 feet wide!

Barely wider than an average modern sidewalk, this historic segment of Route 66 is known collectively as the "Ribbon Road", or by its nickname "Sidewalk Road". In its creation in 1922, 9-foot roads weren't altogether uncommon, but today, the Ribbon Road is the only 9-foot wide bit of Route 66 remaining.

Routing between the Oklahoma towns of Miami and Afton, this narrow strip of asphalt has gone through quite a history, with widening projects and the eventual realignment of Route 66 nearby. During Oklahoma's admission as a state, many of the limited roads crossing the territory were in poor condition. The state heavily relied on railroads, but with its new statehood status, the federal government opened aid to help Oklahoma improve its roads. Part of this subsidy included the creation of Oklahoma State Highway 7 under the name "Project No. 8". Beginning in Miami, this highway would make its way to Afton, sharing part of its path with the "Ozark Trails".

Linking these two towns together would require the project to unfold in 2 stages. The first stage brought Miami to the town of Narcissa, OK, and the second would link Narcissa to Afton. The stages were completed in 1922 with an asphalt technique that led to modern day asphalt we have today (but that's a bit of history for another day). At the time of completion, standard specifications were 18 feet in width. The 2 ends of the road, the section leading south out of Miami and the section coming into Afton, were built to that standard (maybe a touch narrower). However, the rest of the road was paved at only 9 feet wide.

A lot of speculation has gone on about why the road was completed like that, but modern reports attribute its peculiar width to the notion that the section near Narcissa, OK was less traveled and to

save funding would initially be paved as a single lane with a second lane to be completed later. A popular legend tries to explain why a road, slated to be updated, would be built to such immaculate detail.

With the new paving strategy, the single 9-foot road was built atop a strong foundation and concrete base, paved with Topeka asphalt, and bordered by thin sleek concrete curbs on each side. The 9-foot road was flanked by an expansion of gravel on each side over time as efforts to widen the road were done. Whatever the reason for its shortened width, Ribbon Road was a unique road on a historic highway.

Only 4 years after its completion, while details of the new Highway 66 were being ironed out, the National Highway system committee proposed an alignment strategy that would incorporate existing roads. They decided that a segment of Route 66 in Ottawa County should be Oklahoma State Highway 7 (Ribbon Road).

With final approval, the Ribbon Road officially became part of the famous Route 66.

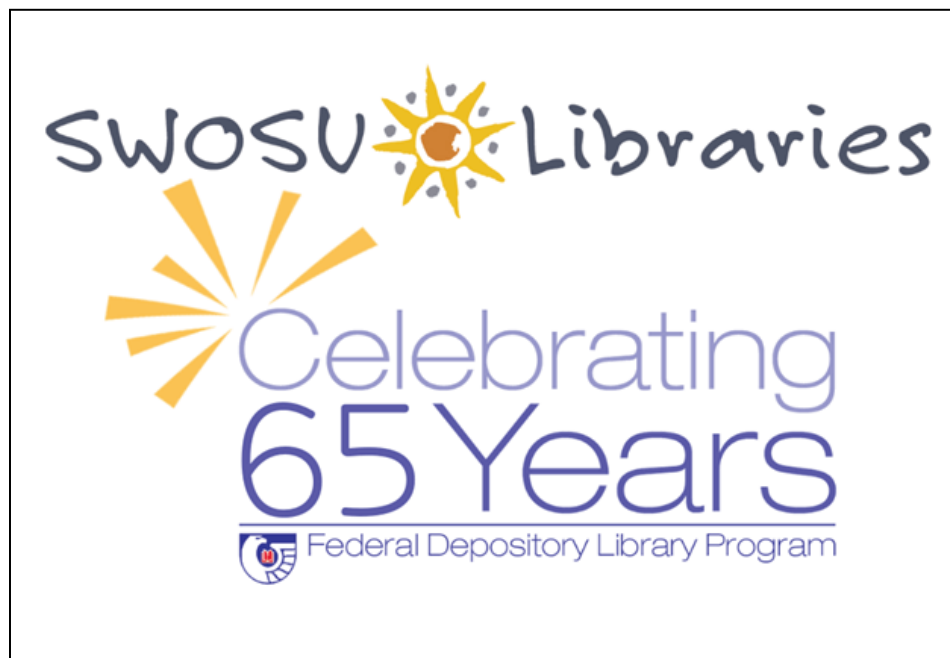
For the next few years, rainfall and traffic ran into issues with the road being difficult to drive down. The short stretch consisted of six 90 degree turns and would eventually be identified as a problem as Route 66 gained popularity as the Mother Road. In 1935, construction began on a shorter and wider road between Afton and Miami. This new road would have gentle curves and extended shoulders. The new bypass opened in 1937 and is found on maps as U.S. 60 - 59.

Over time, the century old Ribbon Road has dealt with a few attempts at patchwork. Locals have repaved sections of it, and with the excess gravel dumped on the road following storms, the original paved path is beginning to disappear. Luckily, the road has a listing under the National Register of Historic Places and has had preservation funds applied for. Hopefully, this means that many more travelers will be able to go down the road of a latter-day "sidewalk".

If you want to take a trip down Ribbon Road, you can find a Route 66 Marker on the corner of OK Hwy 59 and E 140 Rd, just north of Narcissa, OK. Take the road slowly and enjoy a bit of history!

Zack Saunders will be managing his eighth year at SWOSU's Baseball Camp (now titled "Zack Saunders Baseball Camp. A variety of events are being offered for children ages 6 through 11, centered around pitching, catching, hitting, and more baseball fundamentals. Parents can now register their kids at zacksaundersbaseballcamps.com/

SWOSU's Al Harris Library Celebrates 65 Years in Operation This May



Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Al Harris Library celebrates 65 years in the U.S. Government Publishing Office's (GPO's) Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

The FDLP ensures that the public has free access to federal documents in participating libraries across the nation. The libraries, in partnership with GPO, work in support of Keeping America Informed.

Al Harris Library has been an official Federal Depository Library since 1958. In 1994, it became a depository for Oklahoma government publications. In 2001, Oklahoma State Governor Frank Keating proclaimed April 25, 2001, as Al Harris Library Day. This proclamation will be on display on the first floor near the front desk from May to June.

Through the FDLP, approximately 1,150 libraries nationwide work with GPO to provide public access to authentic, published information from all three branches of the Federal Government in print and electronic formats. The program's antecedents can be traced back to the act of Congress dated December 27, 1813 (3 Stat. 140), which provided that one copy of the journals and documents of the Senate and House be sent to each university and college and each historical society in each state. GPO has operated the FDLP since 1895.

Librarians at nationwide FDLP libraries also offer expert assistance in navigating digital copies of many of the historical and current government documents through govinfo and GPO's Catalog of U.S. Government Publications.

The Farmer's Market Officially Returns in Weatherford for 2023-24



Cheryl from C's Artisan Bakery in Hydro shows off her wide selection of baked goods at the Weatherford Farmer's Market. *Tommy Paone / WW*



Larry Wright shows off his heirloom lettuce, asparagus, kale, and arugula grown on his 195 acres of rangeland farm. *Tommy Paone / WW*

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics Partners with SWOSU, "Rx Take Back Box"



The SWOSU Police Department has an Rx Take Back box located inside its premises open to the community. *Provided*

J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU PR & Marketing

Southwestern Oklahoma State University Police Department (SWOSU PD) has announced a partnership with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBN) to promote public safety and wellness through a new initiative aimed at reducing drug overdoses.

As part of the program, SWOSU PD has installed an Rx Take Back box inside its premises in collaboration with the OBN, where citizens can safely dispose of their unused, unwanted, or expired medications. The initiative aims to prevent accidental overdoses and drug abuse, which can have devastating consequences for individuals and communities.

The OBN launched this program in 2011 and has nearly 200 boxes across the state. SWOSU Police Chief Kendra Brown expressed her enthusiasm for the collaboration: "SWOSU PD is excited to join forces with the OBN to encourage a healthier and safer community, not only at SWOSU, but the surrounding areas of our SWOSU home, as well."

The Rx Take Back box will not accept needles, glass bottles, liquids, or inhalers. However, all other types of medication can be deposited, including prescription drugs.

This partnership between SWOSU PD and OBN is a vital step toward protecting the health and well-being of Oklahoma's citizens, especially in the fight against opioid addiction and overdose. By providing a safe and secure way to dispose of unused medications, individuals can play an active role in preventing accidental drug misuse and abuse.

Visit www.obndd.ok.gov/ for more information on the program, as well as additional information regarding the fundamentals of safe and responsible drug disposal.

The OBN also works with The Oklahoma Harm Reduction Alliance (OHRNA), which describes itself as "a grassroots harm reduction organization that meets Oklahomans who use drugs where they are through evidence-based education, advocacy, policy reform, and low barrier health services."

OHRNA assists the state department with disposing of used needles. The alliance also hosts special events and regularly-checked drop off locations for syringe disposal. More information can be gleaned from the OBN's government website, or by visiting www.okhra.org/

Additionally, you can contact Chief Kendra Brown at kendra.brown@swosu.edu to learn more about the Rx Take Back box located at SWOSU.

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The New Van & Jon Show

CEO Bryan Schneider, President Jarred Jones, and Chris Wilson President and Chief Credit Officer of Blue Sky Bank, formally First National Bank, visited Van and Jon this past Thursday.

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