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## Independence Day Events Around Western OK



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The 4th of July is just around the corner and several towns all across Western Oklahoma are celebrating American Independence this upcoming weekend and on the 4th Tuesday. Here's a summary of some of the festivities happening in our neck of the woods:

### Elk City, OK - Tuesday, July 4th

The Elk City Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Elk City Fire Department will be hosting a fireworks display in Ackley Park. The fireworks display is scheduled to begin at around 10pm. Park activities such as the train, carousel, golf and swimming pool will be open from 1pm to 6pm before the fireworks.

### Canton, OK - Saturday, July 1st

Luckystar Casino in Canton will be putting on a fireworks display. The show will begin at Dusk.

### Hydro, OK - Tuesday, July 4th

The Hydro Chamber of Commerce has planned a fun-filled slate of sporting activities for Independence Day. At 8am the Verlin Long Memorial Golf Tournament will tee-off at the Prairie West Golf Club. You can register at the All American Insurance Services until June 30th at 5pm. Also beginning at 8am there will be a Soapbox Car Derby at the top of Arapaho Street in Hydro. You can register for this event at Deer Creek Hardware until July 1st at 5pm. Then at 10am there will be a horseshoes tournament held at the south side of the show barn in the Hydro Fairgrounds. You can register for that event at Deer Creek Market until July 3rd at noon. Finally, there will be a Cornhole Tournament held at the Cook Little league field beginning at 6pm. You can register with a partner on the day of the event.

### Clinton, OK - Monday, July 3rd

Luckystar Casino in Clinton will be putting on a fireworks display. The show will begin at Dusk.

### Concho, OK - Tuesday, July 4th

Luckystar Casino in Concho will be putting on a fireworks display. The show will begin at Dusk.

### Corn, OK - Saturday, July 1st

Corn Heritage Village & Rehab will present "Celebrate America Fireworks and Fun." The festivities kick off at 7pm where there will be free hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks provided by Hinz Auction and Realty as well as bounce houses and an ice cream truck. Fireworks are scheduled to begin after dark.

See "FIREWORKS," Page 7


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**Virginia "Babydoll" Chapman**

Virginia Ann Chapman (better known by her friends and family as "Babydoll") was born January 26, 1957, to Frank M. Cometsevah and Louise H. Trammel in Clinton, OK and passed away Friday, June 16, 2023, in her Clinton home.



Virginia was raised in Clinton, OK where she attended Clinton Schools and participated in girls' softball and basketball. She graduated from Clinton High School in 1975. Soon after graduation she enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served at the Navel Air Base in San Diego, CA. She quickly became 2nd assistant helicopter shop supervisor and served with the HC-3 Pack rat Squadron. She was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces on April 23rd, 1979.

She returned turned back to her roots and hometown of Clinton, OK and soon met Stanley Chapman and they were married on January 4, 1980, in Clinton.

She loved the outdoors, camping, fishing, hunting and climbing plus she liked beach combing, and spending quality time with her family.

She had been employed with the Clinton Veterans Center working with re-habitation and crafts. She also worked for the Parkersburg Conoco Station as cashier and she devoted 17 years to the Johnson O'Malley Committee, helping minor children, she was a Tupperware Distributor and sold Princess Crystal War.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Frank M. Cometsevah and Louise H. Trammel, maternal grandparents, Laird and Lucy Cometsevah, paternal grandparents, Clark and Grace Trammel, sister, Ramona Cometsevah, Uncles, Billy Trammel, Arthur Cometsevah, Laird Cometsevah, Jr., Aunt Marie Cometsevah and Aunt Virginia Cometsevah and numerous cousins.

She is survived by her husband, of 43 years, Stanley Chapman, four children, Bradley Cometsevah, Amy Cometsevah, Juanita Cometsevah and Salley Chapman Booze and 20 grandchildren, five great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and her mother-in-law, Betty McCarther.

**Stan Willingham**

Stanley Loye Willingham was born on February 20, 1946 to Leroy Willingham and Lena Willingham in Clinton and passed away on June 18, 2023 at the age of 77 at his Clinton home.



Stan graduated Clinton High in 1965. During his high school years, he worked as a surgical tech at Clinton Regional Hospital. He joined the Navy in October of 1965 and completed basic and Corp School in San Diego. On August 27, 1967, he married Paula Carman at the Hydro Methodist Church. They made their home in Jacksonville, FL, where he was stationed at the time.

Six months later, he was sent to Vietnam as a medic on the USS Collette working with the Army surgical team. Upon his return to the states in April of 1969, he was stationed at the Marine base Camp Pendleton in California, and Stan and Paula made their home in San Clemente, CA. He was discharged from the Navy in October of 1969, and they returned to make their home in Clinton where he resided for the remainder of his life.

Stan worked as a respiratory therapist for just under 50 years. He had obtained RT training during his military years, and worked throughout western OK. Stan had managed two home health care companies, Lincare and Glasrock, and had also been Director of Respiratory at Clinton Regional Hospital and Weatherford Regional Hospital, where he retired in 2016.

Stan and his wife loved to travel. They had visited all 50 states and especially enjoyed visiting national parks. Their last trip was to Mount Rushmore and Yellowstone National Parks in 2022 with Stan's cousin. Stan enjoyed coin collecting, car shows, hunting, fishing, genealogy, photography, and drag races. He was a member of American Legion Post 91.

Stan is survived by his wife, Paula, of the home; daughters Toni (Tim) Doughty of Louisville, Kentucky and Amber (Dustin) Price of Weatherford; granddaughters Andrea Price of Weatherford and Jaylee Price of Burns Flat, and great-grandsons Kole Wilson of Elk City, Preston Price of Tuttle, and Weston Price of Burns Flat.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Leroy and Lena Willingham; sister LaJune (Bobby) Bates; brother Royce Willingham; granddaughter Gabbi Hawthorn, grandson Joshua Price, and great-granddaughter Natalie Price, all of Weatherford.

**Cecil Connally**

Cecil Lynn Connally, 79, of Bedford, Texas, was born on December 18, 1943, in Elk City, OK. He is the son of Cecil Benton and Evelyn Muriel (Bloomer) Connally. He went to walk the golden streets of Heaven on Sunday, June 18, 2023 at St. John's Residential Care in Fort Worth, Texas.



Cecil attended R L Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Texas and graduated with the class of 1962. He also attended North Texas State University in Denton, Texas

Cecil married Deanna Shelton in November 1964 at Fort Worth, Texas, and to this union one daughter was born.

He was employed with General Motors Acceptance Corporation for over thirty years. Cecil was an avid sports fan who enjoyed watching all types of sports. He was a proud member of James Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas. Cecil's greatest pride and joy was spending time with his family and precious granddaughter, Tyler. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and everyone who knew and loved him.

Cecil is preceded in death by his biological parents, Cecil Benton and Evelyn Muriel Connally Easter; and his step father, Grover Cleveland Easter, Jr.

Cherishing his memory is his loving daughter, Holly Renee West and her husband, Blake of Fort Worth, Texas; one sister, Brenda Troyani of Slidell, Louisiana; one granddaughter, Tyler Collins of Fort Worth, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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<p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> H: 102° L: 78° <b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> H: 100° L: 75° <b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> H: 95° L: 70° <b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> H: 91° L: 69° <b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> H: 88° L: 68° <b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Stormy</b> H: 88° L: 68° <b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> H: 89° L: 70° <b>Tuesday</b></p>
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## Arts Academy Enrollment Deadline is June 30

“If parents want to enroll their 3rd-8th graders in the 28th Annual ARTS ACADEMY, July 24-28, on the SWOSU campus, only a week is left to do so. Don’t put it off any longer, now is the time before enrollment closes,” says ARTS ACADEMY Director Jeanine Berrong.

The Weatherford Arts Council has only 11 openings out of the 40 still available for 3rd-8th grade students. The cost is \$50 for the week and a limited number of full and half scholarships are available based upon need. For more information contact Director Berrong at 580-302-1575.

3rd - 8th grade students rotate through all four different 50-minute classes each day from 1:00 - 5:30 p.m. on the SWOSU campus. After midday refreshments, students attend twenty-minute presentations by area artists and performers.

This year’s special daily performers include Dr. Alex Lee and Dr. Sophie Hung, Dr. Shelley Martinson & Dr. Philip Martinson (with guitarist Carey Morrow), Miss SWOSU Megan Bradley, and Miss SWOSU Teen Landri Jones.

Enrollment forms are available at the Weatherford Berrong Office at 520 E. Main Street or online at [artsacademy.weatherfordartsCouncil.org](http://artsacademy.weatherfordartsCouncil.org). Enroll in person or mail the form with \$50 to Weatherford Arts Council c/o Jeanine Berrong at 520 E. Main St., Weatherford, OK 73096. No refunds after July 7.

The 28th Annual ARTS ACADEMY is made possible by a matching grant from the Oklahoma Arts Council, which receives support from the State of Oklahoma and the National Endowment for the Arts.

This year’s instructors and classes are:

- Dr. Marc DiPaolo - Creating Comic Strips
- Dr. Alex Lee & Didier Khoo - Violin
- Wally Tarkington - Ukulele
- Kelcey Jordan - Folk Dance Music
- Abigail Darragh - Acting

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## HIGHER GROUND

### The Mission Continues



Phillip Yancy tells a story about an experience he had while visiting a rehabilitation center for victims of leprosy in Nepal.

As they were taking a tour of the hospital, he noticed one of the ugliest human beings he had ever seen. Her hands were bandaged in gauze, she had deformed stumps where most people have feet, and her face showed the worst ravages of that cruel disease. Her eyes, mottled and covered with callus, let in no light; she was totally blind. Scars covered patches of skin on her arms.

He said, “We toured a unit of the hospital and returned along the same corridor. In the meantime this creature had crawled across the courtyard to the very edge of the walkway,

pulling herself along the ground by planting her elbows and dragging her body like a wounded animal. I’m ashamed to say that my first thought was, She’s a beggar. She wants money. My wife, who has worked among the down-and-out, had a much more holy reaction. Without hesitation she bent down to the woman and put her arm around her. The old woman rested her head against Janet’s shoulder and began singing a song in the Nepali dialect, a tune that we all instantly recognized: ‘Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so for the Bible tells me so.’”

The physical therapist told Yancy, “Danmaya is one of our most devoted church members,” “Most of our patients are Hindus, but we have a little Christian chapel here, and Danmaya comes every time the door opens. She’s a prayer warrior. She loves to greet and welcome every visitor who comes to the hospital.”

A few months later Yancy heard that Damaya had died. He said, “Close to my desk I keep a photo that I snapped just as she was singing to Janet. Whenever I feel polluted by this beauty-obsessed celebrity culture I live in—a culture in which people pay exorbitant sums to shorten their

noses or plump up their breast to achieve some impossible of beauty while nine thousand people die daily from AIDS from lack of treatment and leprosarium’s scrape by on charity crumbs—I pull out that photo. I see two beautiful women: my wife, smiling sweetly, wearing a brightly colored Nepali outfit she had bought the day before, holding in her arms an old crone who would flunk any beauty test ever except the one that matters most. Out of that deformed, hollow shell of a body, the light of God’s presence shines out. The Holy Spirit found a home.”

In 2022 God wants to make himself fully at home in your life. He wants to finish the construction. He may want to put in some windows so that the light of his love and grace can shine through. He may want to clean up the library so that you will be able to spend some quality time, studying his word and other helpful books that will enrich your soul. He may want to build a prayer closet so you can get alone with Him and pray with a broken, repentant heart.

To comment: 580-302-1142 or [jhm82@outlook.com](mailto:jhm82@outlook.com)

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# LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



**Mike Smith**  
News Director

## "The Coin Guy" - Kentucky's 2023 Gold Strike



Trent Boesen

Somewhere in Kentucky, in a cornfield, a gold strike happened (sort-of). Over 800 gold coins were found by a metal detectorist.

The treasure included 741 gold \$1 coins dated 1850 to 1862; the finest known 1863 \$20 gold double eagle; a small quantity of \$10 gold eagles and Seated Liberty silver coins.

The gold coins are to be promoted as the "Great Kentucky Hoard". All the coins were certified by the Numismatic Guaranty Company (NGC). They will be marketed by GovMint.com (not affiliated with the U.S. Government).

The hoard location is not being disclosed. The finder wishes to be anonymous as well. The coins were found in the ground loosely. It is believed they were buried in a cloth bag.

Kentucky was neutral during the War of Yankee Aggression. It is believed the coins were hidden during the immense upheaval because of the war.

Coin inventory and appraisals are available by calling The Coin Guy 580-890-8076. Thanks for your support.



## The Edge Church Hosts 'At The Movies' Series

The Edge Church in Clinton is excited to present their annual "At The Movies" series during the month of July with special sermons that will cover Christian themes through popular movies. This year's lobby theme will be centered around the 1951 classic animated film, Alice in Wonderland.

"Alice is the perfect example of somebody who is lost," said Tobi Green, Operations Team Leader at The Edge Church, "and we want to reach the lost."

The Edge Church began their build week this past Sunday and will continue constructing elements for their lobby display that will feature characters from Alice in Wonderland as well as interactive games and experiences for guests and members of the church. However, the movies that will be featured in the church's sermons during the month of July are still a closely guarded secret. It should be noted that the month long series will also not just be for adults, but will also feature Children's sermons focused on Christian themes in movies geared towards children.

In addition to the lobby display, The Edge Church will also bring set design elements into their sanctuary for the first time. "Every week we will have a special cover song and some interactive worship elements," said Green. Green noted that a Life Church donated set pieces and elements that The Edge Church will be recycling and reusing for their worship services inside their sanctuary.

"As Christ followers our mission is to lead people to find Christ, and alternatively to help people grow in their faith," said Green. "It's such an incredible time to invite people to church who are unchurched, never been to church or haven't been to church in a long time. This is a great way to get people into church. It's not so intimidating at the movies."

You can visit their website at [TheEdge.Church/Events](http://TheEdge.Church/Events) for more information about The Edge Church's "At the Movies" series.

You can also find them on social media by searching "The Edge Church Clinton."

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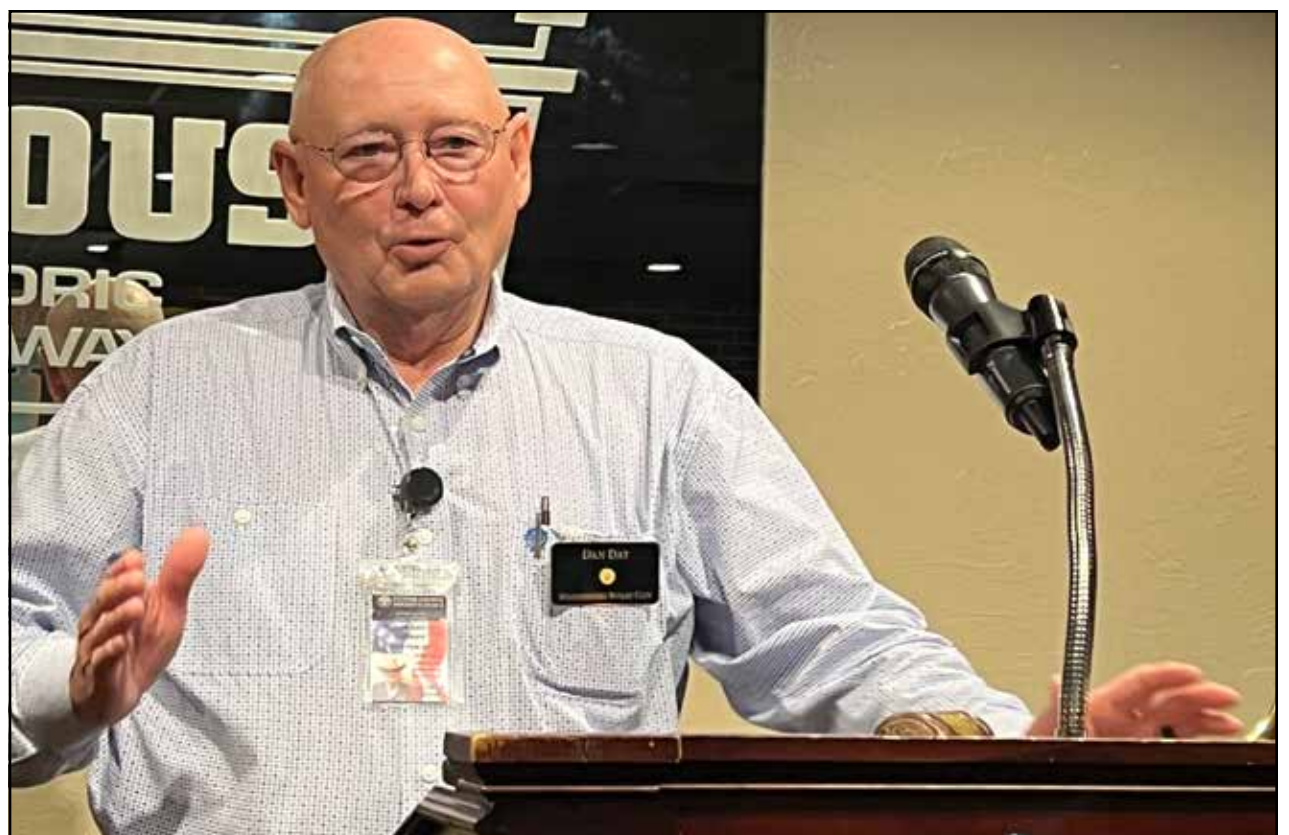
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Harold Wright / WW

The most recent Weatherford Rotary Club meeting featured Custer County's Sheriff, the Honorable Dan Day (pictured above). The program also featured a "Happy Dollar Bucket," which garnered large donations from attendees for the club.

**BECKHAM / CHRISTIE** - A preliminary hearing for a Woodward woman charged with, among other things, rape in the second degree, will be held on August 10th in Beckham County District Court. 30-year-old Ruth Ann Elizabeth Christie allegedly used a cell phone and state-owned computers while working as a security officer at the North Fork Correctional Center in Sayre to exchange messages and photographs with an inmate, some of which were sexually explicit in nature. Christie and the inmate also allegedly engaged in sexual acts at the facility.

**CLINTON CC / SEWERS** - Clinton City Council approved agreements with Garver for professional engineering services for waterline and sewer line relocations for the projects at Exits 65 And 65a. City Manager Robert Johnston outlines the agreements, saying the work is 100% reimbursable.

**CLINTON / GOLF COURSE** - Clinton City Council this week approved an ordinance over the regulation of the number of individuals permitted to participate in playing golf on a single hole at the Riverside Golf Course. City Manager Robert Johnston says the action is geared toward increasing the pace of play, as the regulation calls for a maximum of 5 players on a single hole.

**BECKHAM CO / HOWELL** - A Sayre man charged with an act of terrorism in Beckham County District Court is set for a preliminary hearing on August 10th. 53-year-old Michael Scott Howell allegedly sent threatening messages by e-mail to a Sweetwater School official. One of the messages had a link to a news article about the Nashville, Tennessee school shooting that occurred in late March. School officials felt the e-mail was a threat to Sweetwater schools, staff, and students.

**WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!**

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**Alcohol causing problems?** Alcoholics Anonymous meets daily at 928 W. Main, Weatherford. Call (580) 819-0727 for more information. **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. OK Parkinson's Alliance,** monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford's Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. **Questions? Contact OK Parkinson's Alliance (405) 810-0695 or [info@OKpa.org](mailto:info@OKpa.org).** **Iron sharpens Iron** is a Christ centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

**Happy Birthday Wishes for June 28th** - Shelly Bonner, Trevor Brownen, Judy Fong, Taytum Goerend, Jack Johnson, Katy Murrah, Dustin Strong; **June 29th** - Al Chapa, Chrystie George, Chris Ladd, Gena McCullough, Michele Russell, Jim Scruggs, Taylor Smith, Tyrone Turner. **June 30th** - Verla Brice, Glynn Cobb, Batum Duncan, Lindsey Edwards, Dwayne Graybill, Joe McPhearson, Michaela Roulet, Stephanie Strong, Cole Thomason; **July 1st** - Chelsie Austin, Billy Cling, JoJo Hardage, Jackie Helt, Debbie Kaufman, Katie Kennemer, Max McKinsey, Stephanie Peck, Bev Swaney, Dr. Paul Tisdal; **July 2nd** - Leticia Contreras, Jaquatta Cummings, Taylor Exinia, Lois Griffin, Lois Heinrichs, Rachel Lundstrom, Mary Beth Mendez, Michael Perez, Myron Webb; **July 3rd** - Ellen Arnold, Taylor Carder, Cameron Hines, Ryan Merrill; **July 4th** - Alicia Allen, Cheryl Bell, Riley Bryson, D'Arshi Chtensen, Dewayne Crawley, Anita Fransen, Mary Lou Kaiser, Jenna Maddox, Haley Merrill, Kristine Moreno, Danny Rhoads.

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## SERVICES & PRODUCTS

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**Military Jeep Hood**. Roughly 30"x30". \$250 580-330-1437.

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

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

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**Baby Gear!** Selling baby crib mattress (\$50), baby seat with mobile (\$20), and Fisher-Price Swing-o-Matic (\$45). All products are like new. Contact 580-613-0108.

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

**Small Sq. Coffee Table** - Good Condition. \$45. 580-613-0108.

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## Clinton's ACME Park 8-and-Up Tournament Concludes for Softball, Baseball Begin June 28



Provided by OK Kids Baseball  
After two days of action between 18 different teams, it was the Mooreland Lady Cats' (top picture) who exited the ACME Park with the State Champions Trophy. The Hobart Bearcats' (bottom) "Team Freeze," the State Runner-Ups, put up an extraordinary fight against their competitors, but their score in the championship game came to a heartbreaking 11-2.



Weatherford High School senior Avry Nailon with OSU Wrestling Head Coach John Smith. Avry placed 1st in the heavy weight division at the OSU Wrestling Technique Camp last week.



The Watonga Eagles hosted Summer Pride Workouts throughout the month of June. Pictured above are Junior High boys and girls helping each other with situps.

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# Deer Creek Hardware Celebrating One-Year Anniversary with Sale



Deer Creek True Value Hardware in Hydro is celebrating their first year at their new store location and they're showing their community some love with this year's Anniversary Sale that began this past Monday and is scheduled to wrap up this Saturday, July 1st with a customer appreciation day.

"We opened up the new store a year ago. So we wanted to make this an annual event... To just highlight what we're doing and what we can offer and show a little love to the community," Said Don Troyer, General Manager of Deer Creek True Value Hardware.

Deer Creek True Value Hardware kicked off their anniversary sale this Monday with a True Value paint sale that will run through the week. "We're offering \$10 off every gallon of paint," said Troyer, "which is the best paint sale that True Value will allow us to have."

The value doesn't stop there, though, as Deer Creek True Value Hardware will also run a bucket sale Friday, June 30 and Saturday, July 1 where they'll offer 20% discounts on select items in the store that will be placed in buckets for customers to purchase. Additionally, the store will be offering discounts on overstocked items.

To show their appreciation to their customers, Deer Creek True Value Hardware will also be running free giveaways and drawings on Friday and Saturday. "We'll walk around the store and we'll get a bunch of products together that somebody would like to get," said Troyer.

Saturday, July 1 will be the official customer appreciation day with giveaways being held throughout the day as well as free hot dogs and pepsi products being served from 11am to 1pm.

"We'd like to invite our local community and surrounding communities to come out and join us, have fun and see what we have to offer. I think they'll be surprised," said Troyer.

## FIREWORKS

Continued from Page 1

### Sayre, OK - Saturday, July 1st

The Sayre Chamber of Commerce will host the Sayre Chamber's Firecracker Classic Golf Tournament on Saturday, July 1st beginning at 9am at the Sayre Golf Course.

### Sayre, OK - Tuesday, July 4th

Sayre will continue the Independence Day festivities on Tuesday, July 4th with a fireworks display in City Park that will begin at Dusk.

### Thomas, OK - Tuesday, July 4th

Beginning at 9:45am the Thomas Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an ATV, 4-wheeler, side-by-side parade that will start at Main and Broadway in Thomas and head towards Sewell Park. Afterwards, they will be hosting the Mr. and Mrs. Firecracker contest for girls and boys ages 8 and under that will begin at 10am. Once the Mr. and Mrs. Firecracker winners are crowned the other games and events planned in Sewell Park will begin including Turtle races, an egg toss, a 3-legged race, free hot dogs and drinks as well as an ice cream contest. Entrants for the ice cream contest must bring their ice cream to Sewell Park by 10am.

### Watonga, OK - Tuesday, July 4th

The City of Watonga will be celebrating Independence Day at Huff-Lorang park. The evenings events start at 5pm with pickle ball, cornhole, a bouncy house, a foam machine, some firehose fun, as well as a performance by the Cooksey Band. From 6pm-8pm hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, and drinks will be served to the public. At 7pm the "Hottest Little Firecracker Bike Parade" will begin at the Huff-Lorang Park Pavilion. And finally the night will be capped off by a fireworks show starting at sunset.

### Weatherford, OK - Tuesday, July 4th

Weatherford Rotary is scheduled to host their annual Independence Day celebration at Rader Park. A concession stand offering good eats at a modest cost will open at 6pm. At 9pm the Community Band will begin their performance leading into a patriotic reading and Flag Ceremony presented by the local Boy Scouts troop. Then at 10pm the fireworks display will conclude the evenings festivities.



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**Saturday**  
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8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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## FOURTH OF JULY SPECIALS

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<p><b>Steak Package - \$119.99</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Ribeyes</li> <li>2 T-Bone</li> <li>2 New York Strips</li> <li>2 Sirloin</li> </ul>	<p><b>BBQ Package - \$69.99</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7#s St. Louis Ribs</li> <li>5#s Chicken Tender</li> <li>5#s Wings or Legs</li> <li>1 BBQ Sauce</li> <li>1 BBQ Seasoning</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sandwich Pack - \$46.99</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 2.5lb Pack of Ham</li> <li>1 2.5lb Pack of Turkey</li> <li>1 Sliced Cheese Pack</li> </ul>	

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# Oklahoma History: The Dalton Gang at Coffeyville



from the Kansas Historical Society

A photo of Coffeyville, KS, circa 1892. The Dalton Gang would rob two banks located in this plaza, including Condon Bank, which can be seen on the right side of the photo above.

**Chase Wright**  
Staff Writer

Last week, the tale of the Dalton gang led up to the ambitious double bank heist in Coffeyville, Kansas. Coming from their successful train robbery near Adair, Oklahoma, the Dalton gang found themselves riding downtown in Coffeyville on October 5th, 1892, with two banks looming ahead. The gang had decided to split into two groups: Bob and Emmett would hit the First National Bank, and Grat, Broadwell, and Powers would hold up the Condon Bank across the street. The plan had the gang tie their horses up on a familiar hitch post behind the Condon Bank offering them a speedy escape route. However, the city had undergone many changes since their last visit and the hitch post had been removed for more construction. The gang decided to hitch their horses in a nearby alley behind the city jail and proceeded toward the banks.

Now, previous visits to Coffeyville had been uneventful due to the brother's incognito lifestyle, but their recent exploit of the KT train a few months prior – the one that led to \$4,000 bounties on each member's head – had gained the group a vast amount of notoriety. This fame led to locals recognizing a couple of the brothers and members of the gang. As the 5 bandits entered their respective banks, Winchester rifles in hand, dozens of plaza workers and store owners began spreading the news that the Daltons were robbing the bank. The townsfolk quickly gathered their own guns and took up positions around the banks.

Inside, the robberies seemed to be going off without a hitch. In the Condon Bank, Grat Dalton had walked one of the cashiers to the vault and ordered it opened as

Powers and Broadwell covered the other occupants and the door. The cashier told Grat that the vault was on a timer and could not be opened for another 10 minutes – a lie, but Grat's greed for the gold inside prompted him to believe the cashier and wait for it to open. Meanwhile, across the street at the First National Bank, Emmet and Bob were busy stuffing gold bars into sacks and began heading toward the exit. Emmet and Bob grabbed a nearby cashier who they planned to use as cover on their way to the meet-up. All according to plan.

As Emmet and Bob took their first step out the front door of the First National Bank, a shot rang out. The plaza's businessmen, posted up around the building, quickly got into a fierce firefight with the bandits. The pair left their hostage on the front porch and headed back through the bank hoping to make their getaway through its rear exit. They grabbed two more employees as hostages.

Across the street, Grat and his accomplices heard the shots ring out. Grat decided that the additional weight of the gold was too much and was busy dumping bags when a bullet shot through the glass of the Condon Bank hitting Broadwell in the arm. Scooping what loose cash they could, the trio fled through the back alley.

Things were not faring well for Emmet and Bob who were huddled in the First National Bank. As they burst out of the rear exit, they came face to face with citizen, Lucius Baldwin, who had been watching the door. Bob ordered Lucius to drop the gun, he refused, and Bob shot him with this rifle. Now in the open, a bloody fight began. Bob noticed a pair outside a drug store across from the bank, George Cubine and Charles Brown, they had a rifle

aimed at his head. Bob quickly dispatched George and shot Charles as he went for the gun. In all of the heftiness, Bob and Emmett failed to notice that their first hostage, Thomas Ayres (the one they dumped outside the bank when the shooting began), had circled back around the outside of the bank, stopping by a hardware store to grab a rifle. Ayres came around just as Bob executed Charles and took aim. At the last second, Bob saw Ayres and from roughly 200 ft away shot him in the head. Ayres survived but was paralyzed for life. Bob and Emmett had made it to the horses. Bob signaled to Grat and the boys in the Condon bank to hurry out.

The gang met up with sacks full of money, and as they began to unload onto their horses, two town marshals came around the corner. Grat shot and killed the first marshal, but before he could turn on the second, the marshal shot him in the throat. The townsfolk closed in on the bandits, Bob went down in a hail of gunfire from the hardware store, and Powers was shot trying to mount his horse. Broadwell managed to mount his horse, but was quickly hit again and rode off; he was found dead two miles away. Powers fell in a sea of bullets near Grat, leaving only Emmett Dalton alive; he held up his hands in surrender. Emmett was treated for near 20 gunshot wounds and lived. After standing trial and being sentenced to life in prison, Emmett was surprisingly pardoned in 1907.

Now outside of prison, Emmett moved to California and would go on to write about the exploits of the Dalton Gang. The book was instantly popular, and Emmett and his wife returned to Coffeyville and they were treated like celebrities. After his death in 1937, his book was adapted into a western movie When the Dalton's Rode. Many other films about the brothers and their exploits have been made, including the 2020 release of The Dalton Gang.

Following the almost complete wipeout of the Dalton Gang in Coffeyville, Bill Dalton and Bill Doolin (who had been waiting outside the town to backup the robbers as they fled) found themselves riding under the outlaw Henry Starr outside of Kingfisher. When they rose to take over the gang as leaders, they became known as the Wild Bunch and would incur the wrath of U.S. Marshal Evett "E.D." Nix, who would appoint one hundred marshals under his command to bring down the outlaws. Over the next five years, Nix and his marshals would hunt down each member of the Wild Bunch. One of the last members to get taken down, was George "Red Buck" Waightman, who was killed on March 4th, 1896 by a Custer County posse near Arapaho, Oklahoma. Bill Doolin and the marshals would play cat and mouse for a couple more years, but that's a tale for another time.

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