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Oklahoma's Oldest Free Fair Returns to Hydro on August 17

Grab your friends and family and get ready for a great time as The Hydro Free Fair, Oklahoma's longest running free fair, is scheduled to return to the Hydro Fairgrounds August 17, 18 and 19th for the 116th time.

The Hydro Free Fair began in 1907 when "started up on Main Street as a mule show and then it moved down to the park," said Charlie Wieland, Hydro Free Fair President. The fair has only been canceled once since WWII during the COVID pandemic in 2020.

The Hydro Free Fair which features a mix of livestock shows, community exhibitions, as well as fair entertainment is most certainly highly regarded in Western Oklahoma for it's iconic fair rides and games which the fair has independently owned and operated since the 1960's. "Now in 1960, they got tired of messing with carnivals coming into town, so they began collecting their own rides. They've been owning and operating their own rides since 1963," said Wieland. Names such as the Green Machine and the Octopus hold a special place in many Western Oklahomans' hearts, but the recently renovated carousel has also helped cement the legacy of the fair as a Western Oklahoma classic and brought enthusiasts from all over the country.

This year the fun starts Thursday, August 17th at 7:30am as the livestock judging books open with the other community building competition registrations beginning at 8am. Registration for the community building exhibitions end at 5pm and livestock entries are due by 6pm. The Opening Ceremony for the Free Fair begins at 6:30pm with the rides and midway opening at 7pm and the free entertainment program beginning at 7:30pm with local entertainment featuring Blue Grass and Gospel music.

(See FAIR, Page 8)

Thursday, Aug. 17th

- 7:30am - Livestock Judging Books Open @ Livestock Barn
- 8:00am - Livestock Judging Contest Begins @ Livestock Barn
- 8:00am - Entries Open for Exhibits @ Community Building
- 12:00pm - All Baked Goods Entries Close @ Community Building
- 4:15pm - Horse Show Books Open @ Rodeo Arena
- 4:30pm - Flower Entries Close @ Community Building
- 5:00pm - Exhibit Building Books Close @ Community Building
- 5:30pm - Horse Show Starts @ Rodeo Arena
- 6:00pm - All Livestock Entries Due @ Livestock Barn
- 6:30pm - Opening Ceremony @ Main Stage
- 7:00pm - All Rides and Concessions Open @ Midway
- 7:30pm - Free Entertainment Program @ Main Stage

Friday, Aug. 18th

- 7:30am - Swine, Goat, Sheep and Cattle Show @ Livestock Barn
- 9:00am - Kids Races and Stunts @ Centennial Field
- 7:00pm - All Rides and Concessions Open @ Midway
- 7:30pm - Free Entertainment Program @ Main Stage
- 8:00pm - 3-in-1 Ranch Rodeo @ Rodeo Arena

Saturday, Aug. 19th

- 8:00am - Premium Money DUE by 10am @ Community Building
- 10:00am - Parade @ Main Street
- 11:00am - Kid Tractor Pull @ Community Building
- 1:00pm - Mud Volleyball @ Rodeo Arena
- 4:00pm - Washers and Watermelons @ Community Building
- 5:00pm - Cake Auction Entry Deadline @ Community Building
- 7:00pm - All Rides and Concessions Open @ Midway
- 7:30pm - Cake Auction @ Community Building
- 9:00pm - Free Entertainment @ Main Stage




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Market President Weatherford





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Patty Hileman

Patty Sue (Pope) Hileman was born on June 19, 1941, to Paul Pope and Vera (Dawson) Pope in Custer County, OK and passed away late Monday night, July 31, 2023, in the Cordell Christian Home in Cordell, OK.



Patty was raised in Clinton and attended Clinton Schools graduating in 1959. She married her husband of 64 years Joe Hileman on June 7, 1959, in Clinton. They moved to Cordell in 1961 and made that their permanent home. She was a homemaker most of her life, but she was a paraprofessional and taught classes at Western Oklahoma Vo-tech from 1979 till 2000. She also worked for OTASCO STORES during the holiday seasons.

She was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church in Bessie, OK, she loved to read, design flowers, decorate cakes, and was an avid collector of angels.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband Joe Hileman, as well as her son Mike Hileman and his wife Sue of Cordell.

She is also survived by two grandchildren: Leanne Hileman of Altus; and Trevor Hileman of Clinton.

Ruth Bearshield

Ruth Juan Bearshield was born on August 9, 1963, to Oberlin Bates and Sabina Bearshield in Clinton, OK and passed away Monday, July 31, 2023, in her Yukon resident.



Ruth was raised in Clinton during her youth and moved to Mescalero, NM when 17 years was old. She returned to Clinton and received her Commercial Drivers License. She was employed with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation on worked on Heavy Equipment. She was known to be a Jack of All Trades and Master of many.

She was a proud member of the Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and the Native American Church.

She was a jokester, prankster and just loved to make people laugh and playing Disc Golf.

She is preceded in death by her parents, brother, Jerald Bearshield, two sisters, Nona Bates and Sophia Rice, daughter, Sophie Ann Colleen Fires, Aunt Marjorie Sue Bearshield.

She is survived by son Jerald Bearshield and wife Jami of Yukon; sister Coleen Guerrero and husband, Donald Morton of Yukon; two brothers: Reed Bearshield of Mustang; and Eagle Runningwater, of NM.

She is also survived by grandchild Kadence Bearshield and a host of niece, nephews, cousins and other family members.

Lindy Walker

Laura Helen Walker was born on December 31, 1957, in Oklahoma City to Richard Heilman and Shirley (Bunyard) Heilman, and passed away July 28, 2023, in the Weatherford Hospital.



"Lindy," as she was known, was raised in the Oklahoma City area, going to school at Capital Hill Schools, she was in the graduating class of 1975.

Lindy was a professional waitress, and worked at Del Rancho, Montana Mikes, and spent the last five years at Opportunities Inc. to name a few. She was a faithful member of the EDGE church in Clinton. She enjoyed being with her family and doing church activities.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Rick and Mike Heilman, and sisters Tonya Bolton and Nonie Heilman.

She is survived by three daughters: Tabatha and her husband Chris Heard of Clinton; Melissa Espinosa of Clinton; and Kayla Anderson of Clinton; sister Teresa Heilman of Oklahoma City; nine grandchildren: Christian Herrera, Maddie Herrera, Angela Jacobson Christian, Cyle Heard, Madison Heard, Cameron Herrera, Hunter Herrera, Abigail Heard, Cara Herrera, Cassie Herrera, Eli Anderson, and Laney Anderson; two great-grandkids: Leighton Herrera and Raynor Herrera; two nieces: Wendi Glass and her family Jeff, Miles, Amberelle; and Mia, Lorraine Luttun and her family Heaven; and two nephews: Kevin Bolton and Jason Bolton.

Charles Easter

Charles Delbert Easter, 88, of Elk City, OK was born on December 23, 1934 in Carter, OK. He was born to Charles Abi and Carrie Ann (Thompson) Easter. He went into the loving arms of Jesus on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City, OK.



Charles served our great nation in the United States Air Force from 1957 to 1961 when he was honorably discharged.

He enjoyed gardening, playing cards with his lady friends, and fishing with all the kids and his friends. Charles was a big fan of Merritt School Sports, he attended every event that he could and cheered them on to victory or defeat.

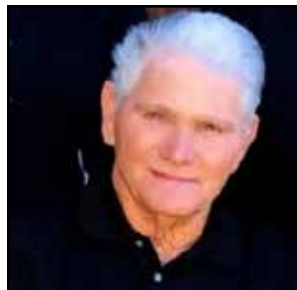
Charles worked for Safeway Grocery Store Distribution Center in Portland, Oregon as the Computer Operations/Manager for over eight years and for Poorman Douglas Corporation the as the Computer Operations/Assistant Manager for twenty-six years.

Cherishing his memory is niece Debbie Seigrist of Elk City; Jo Ann Hager of Elk City; step-daughter Tammy Dran of Portland, Oregon; and a host of other loving nieces and nephews, family members and friends.

Charles is preceded in death by his parents Charles and Carrie Easter; seven brothers: Grover Anli Easter, Clinton Orville Easter, Glen Lonzo Easter, Thomas Elvern Easter, Lee Ray Easter, Evan Joe Easter, and Tiny Easter; and five sisters: Stella Lou Easter, Bonnie Lee Ellen Brady, Birdie Jewell Dodd, Charlie Jospheine "Josie" Lindsey, and Sybil Lovine Namba.

Jackie Briscoe

Jackie Clifton Briscoe, 89, of Sayre, was born on July 1, 1934 in Marlow, Oklahoma. He is the son of John Isom and Ollie Belle (Spence) Briscoe. He went to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital North Campus in Oklahoma City surrounded by his loving family.



He enjoyed gardening, watching westerns, University of Oklahoma Sports and drinking coffee with his "Coffee Buddies." Jack would spend every waking moment, if he could, going to watch his grandkids and great grandkids activities. He loved his family and spending time with them meant the world to him.

Jack was a member of the Trinity Fellowship Church in Sayre, OK.

Jack is preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn; parents, John and Ollie Briscoe; three brothers, John L. Briscoe, Jimmy Briscoe, and Bill Briscoe; one sister, Louise Wyrick.

Cherishing his memory is his son Brent Briscoe and his wife, Stacey of Lubbock, Texas; four daughters, Jackie Castle and her husband, Curtis of Crawford, OK, Traci Wharry and her husband, Jim of Piedmont, OK, Kristi Billinger and her husband, Randy of Caldwell, Texas, Angela Schrick of Bryan, Texas; 11 grandchildren; 34 great grandchildren; one sister, Vesta Lavey of Marlow, OK; and his precious dog, Maverick.

Larry Yow

Larry Gene Yow, 80, of Duncan, Oklahoma was born on June 8, 1943, in Elk City, Oklahoma. He is the youngest son of Paul and Ora (Wingfield) Yow. Larry went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, July 29, 2023 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Larry married the love of his life, Nelda Bell Price, on December 8, 1967 in Gainesville, Texas. His second love was building and racing cars. He enjoyed being a member of the Duncan Oklahoma Hi-Lifters Club, spending time with his dear friends and rarely missed a meeting.

He also enjoyed research into their family genealogy and traveled with Nelda all over the United States, often taking their grandson, Casey with them. He and Nelda also spent many hours daily at the local lakes watching and feeding the deer, turkey, and geese. Larry was a member of the Durham Baptist Church.

Cherishing his memory is his son, Ricky and his wife, Christie Cannon of Oklahoma City; daughter, Julie and her husband, Mark Malone of Mansfield, Texas; grandchildren; Casey Malone, Cory Cannon, and Amy Valentine and great-grandchildren; Molly Cannon and Henry Cannon and many nieces and nephews.


He is preceded in death by his parents Paul and Ora Yow; his beloved wife Nelda Yow; sister Virginia Ray; brother William Yow; and his infant granddaughter Marissa Malone.

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<p>Mostly Sunny</p> <p>H: 95° L: 67° Wednesday</p>	<p>Mostly Sunny</p> <p>H: 96° L: 75° Thursday</p>	<p>Mostly Sunny</p> <p>H: 103° L: 74° Friday</p>	<p>Mostly Sunny</p> <p>H: 100° L: 75° Saturday</p>	<p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>H: 98° L: 73° Sunday</p>	<p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>H: 95° L: 73° Monday</p>	<p>Mostly Sunny</p> <p>H: 101° L: 76° Tuesday</p>
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District Attorney Awards Ceremony Recognizes the Work of Outstanding OK Councilmembers



Investigator Mike Murley (Clinton, OK) was named the 2023 Outstanding Investigator at the recently held Oklahoma District Attorney's Council Awards luncheon.

Pictured, from left: District Attorney Angela Marsee, Mike Murley, and Assistant District Attorney Gina Webb (Elk City, OK), who was recognized at the ceremony for 25 years of service.

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In memoriam, Barbara Arres was recognized for her outstanding dedication and excellence on the job in the legal field. She worked for over 30 years for four different District Attorneys, including the current Attorney Angela Marsee. Arres passed away on July 27, 2022.

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HIGHER GROUND

Who is This Jesus?

Is our culture becoming Biblically illiterate? Most observers would say so. While we may have a general knowledge of well-known Bible stories, we are often confused about the major themes of Scripture and the significance of its major figure, Jesus Christ.

If you asked the questions "who is Jesus, why did he come, and is he coming back," you might be surprised at the answers. Christmas has been relegated to a consumer and party time in secular circles, with little attention given to the miracle of the incarnation—God coming in human flesh. We prefer to leave Him in a manger so he won't disturb us or make demands on our plans or pleasures.

We tend to customize Jesus to fit him into our culture and lifestyle. We forget that "he rescued us from the dominion of darkness." He said "I am come that you might have life and to have it to the full" (John 10:10)

The cross was not just to set us free from sin's captivity but to give us an abundant life with constant fellowship with God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He said, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." (Matt.11:28) He told us to "cast all our anxieties on him because he cares for us." (1 Peter 5:7) But the cross is not without its demands and challenges. He told us that in this world we will have tribulation; that following him will likely involve persecution. He warned his disciples that if they wanted to follow him they must be prepared to die to themselves, take up their cross and follow him.

To follow Christ is not just to stop doing bad things and start doing good. It is not just about changing our behavior; it is more about reorienting and centering the entire heart and life for God. (Keller)

Timothy Keller in his book, *The Reason for God* said, "...if you don't live for Jesus you will live for something else.

If you live for career and you don't do well it may punish you all of your life, and you will feel like a failure. If you live for your children and they don't turn out all right you could be absolutely in torment because you feel worthless as a person. If Jesus is the center and Lord and you fail him, he will forgive you. Your career can't die for your sins. Jesus is the one Lord you can live for who died for you."

And yes, He is coming back. He told his disciples the day before he died, "Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you, and if you do not prepare a place for you I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-4).

We can rejoice in that promise and share the good news with those who are struggling with this world and its problems. Meanwhile, we find purpose in our mission and through obedience we find joy that the world cannot offer.

To comment: 1-580-302-1142, jhm82@outlook.com

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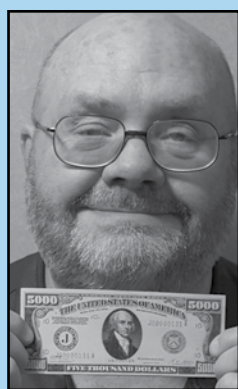
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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



"The Coin Guy"

A \$1,000 Bag of Mint FDR Half-Dollars



An elderly Oklahoma woman has a gift her father gave her in 1963. Her father was a dentist who purchased a bag of 1963-D Franklin half dollars 60 years ago for each of his four children.

Each bag contained 2,000 half dollars, in uncirculated condition, dated 1963-D (Denver Mint).

The woman's other three siblings sold their bags of silver 1963-D half dollars over the years. She held on to hers as she liked having silver coins.

Each bag contains \$1,000 dollars in face value. Each half dollar has about \$9 worth of silver. An uncirculated 1963-D Franklin half dollar are worth about \$50 each.

This lady's bag of 1963-D half dollars could fetch as much as \$100,000 when it goes to auction. The starting bid is \$69,000.

Find the help you need selling your coin collection by calling The Coin Guy 580-890-8076. Thanks for your support.

9-Week Music Course for All Ages Begins at SWOSU Weatherford Campus September 11



Provided

SWOSU Music Academy offers private lessons and group classes. Pictured above is the class of Fall 2022 "Musical Preschool Pups," led by Kathleen Jung.

Dr. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Public Relations

The SWOSU Department of Music is excited to announce that the "SWOSU Music Academy" is now open for enrollment, offering a unique opportunity for individuals of all ages and skill levels to explore, develop, and grow their passion for music.

The enrollment deadline is on Friday, September 1, with classes beginning the week of September 11 and concluding with a final concert on Sunday, November 19.

Led by Co-Directors Chrisalyne Hagood and Kathleen Jung, the Academy will offer a diverse range of engaging and enriching programs, including private lessons and adaptive lessons taught by Junior Faculty, comprised of current SWOSU Music students, all under the guidance of the SWOSU Music faculty.

In addition to the private lessons, students will have the opportunity to engage in group classes such as Allegro Youth Choir, Musical, Preschool Pups, and Group Piano Lessons, led by accomplished music educator alumni.

The Academy welcomes all individuals with a passion for music, whether a novice or an experienced musician. Participants can explore various music genres, develop their vocal or instrumental abilities, and expand their knowledge through group activities.

To apply, interested individuals should visit the following website: bit.ly/swosuacademy.

The website also offers scholarship opportunities for all aspiring musicians. For further information about the SWOSU Music Academy, please feel free to reach out to the co-Directors, Chrissy Hagood at Chrissy@swosu.edu or Kathleen Jung at Kathleen@swosu.edu and call 580-774-3182.

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CLINTON / FIRE - A Clinton home suffered fire and smoke damage following a structure fire in the 1300 block of Goldston. Assistant Fire Chief Mark Switzer says the occupants of the home were able to escape unharmed, with enough time to grab their pets as well. The garage sustained moderate fire damage while the remainder of the home suffered smoke damage. Switzer says one vehicle inside the garage will likely be a total loss. A second vehicle was able to be salvaged.

CORDELL / GRANT - The City of Cordell has received a \$25,000 matching grant from the Midwestern Oklahoma Development Authority for "beautification." According to Mayor Phil Kliever, Kliever believes that costs may end up reaching over \$100,000, commenting that "there's a lot to do. [Our downtown] looks tired and worn out." Getting water and electricity to underdeveloped parts of the city is a top priority. Kliever says he is hopeful work can begin in the Fall.

CUSTER COUNTY / AGREEMENT - Custer County Commissioners approved an agreement between the Custer County Fair Board and Cirque Adventure. Custer County OSU Extension Director Jordan Nel says the agreement allows for an acrobat family to perform at this year's county fair. The 2023 Custer County Free Fair will be held September 6th-9th. Cirque Adventure's performance times are to be announced. You can see this year's schedule on the Custer County Fairgrounds Facebook page.

WRH / PROCEDURES - During a report to the Weatherford Hospital Board, hospital Chief Executive Officer Brian Denton provided updates on recent ambulatory clinic and operating room procedure numbers. Additionally, Denton says Team Health will begin professional services in the emergency room of Weatherford Regional Hospital. Denton says Team Health will provide structure in a now busier ER.

WEATHERFORD / SOCAG - The Weatherford City Commission approved an agreement between the city of Weatherford and the Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group. Mayor Mike Brown says the agreement's purpose is to allow for meals to be served to senior participants at the Pioneer Center in Weatherford. The one-year agreement expires on June 30th, 2024.

WEATHERFORD / CHICKENS - The City of Weatherford approved an ordinance last month surrounding the raising of chickens by a 4-1 vote. City Attorney David Duncan says a permit application form is available at City Hall.

WEATHERFORD / ROTARY - In their most recent meeting, the Weatherford Rotary Club heard from two members of the club surrounding the need for more volunteers for flag duty and how additional sponsorships for flags could be expanded.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

of **HAPPY Day TO YOU!**

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

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.** **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 August 9 - Chris Buckner, Warren Goldman, Eddie Pigg, Natalie Simpson, Larry Thiessen; **August 10** - Savanna Jo Collins, Whitney Carder, Kim Cooper, Debi Duff, Justin Elder, Michelle Furhmann, Mary Graham, Wade Haugen, Jack Walton; **August 11** - Shawn Barrera, Robert Cagg, Casi Cornell, Lucille Janer, Austin Jrogdon, Shane King, Austin Kissler, G.W. Lowry, Jerri Sheperd, Hunter Staggs, Anthony Walter; **August 12** - Tana Kerr, Ethan O'Neale, Marsha Pigg, Kent Walters; **August 13** - Tim Galloway, Camille Goerend, John Kliever, Warren Miller, Michael Visnieshi, Gene Whitfield; **August 14** - Allen Bryson, Richard Clift, Jr., Stefan Guthrie, Annie Kimble, Chris Kisinger, Rance Moore, Nancy Rhodes, Deven Steffes, Charlotte Young; **August 15** - Bobby Ervin, Madison Guthrie, Arin Henderson, Melissa Henderson, Bobbie Jo Smith, Jason Moore, Bobby Schantz, Elizabeth Scruggs, Destry Smith, Jamie Trotter, Marshal Wright.

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SPORTS *Presented by:*

SWOSU Men's Basketball Coach To Be Introduced This Wednesday



COACH WEIBERG MEET & GREET
AUG. 9 - 10:00 A.M.
PCEC NORTH LOBBY

Jon Chidester
 SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Athletics will hold an informal meet and greet on campus for new head men's basketball coach Brett Weiberg on Wednesday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the north lobby of the Pioneer Cellular Event Center.

The event will be open to the community and those in attendance will have the opportunity to meet Coach Weiberg after those scheduled to speak have done so.

SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton announced Brett Weiberg would be succeeding Terry Evans as the new Head Men's Basketball Coach last week, making him the 16th head coach since the program's inception.

Weiberg brings 25 years of coaching experience to Weatherford, with 20 of those years have come at the collegiate level including 12 years as a head coach. Before coming to SWOSU, he worked as an athletic director and head basketball coach at Madill High School in southern Oklahoma, which was his home for the past five years.

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GAC Releases Pre-Season Polls for SWOSU, Volleyball Team Nabs Third Place by League



Jon Chidester
 SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Volleyball was picked to finish third in the annual Great American Conference Preseason Coaches Poll. The results of the poll, voted on by the league's head coaches, were announced Thursday afternoon by the GAC office.

Harding, last year's regular season and conference tournament champion, was the resounding favorite with nine first-place votes. Oklahoma Baptist was next, earning two top nods, followed by the Bulldogs nearby in third. The latest 2023 preseason pick matches the 2022 finish. The Dawgs ended in third place last season with a 12-4 conference record and advanced to the semifinals of the GAC tournament before being eliminated.

SWOSU will return three of the four all-conference selections from last season: Lacy Mott, Zoey Sparks, and Samantha Kuzma. The fourth all-conference selection a year ago – Carmen Kinsey – remains with the team as a member of the coaching staff.

The season is set to begin August 31 where the Bulldogs will play a pair of out-of-state tournaments before finally hosting a home match on September 21. Head Coach Josh Collins enters year 12 leading the program.

GAC 2023 VOLLEYBALL PRESEASON COACHES POLL

RANK	TEAM	POINTS	1st
1	HARDING UNIVERSITY	118	9
2	OKLAHOMA BAPTIST	107	2
3	SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE	103	-
4	OUACHITA BAPTIST	87	1
5	SOUTHERN NAZERINE	82	-
6	ARKANSAS TECH	58	-
7	EAST CENTRAL	57	-
9	NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE	51	-
9	HENDERSON STATE	51	-
10	SOUTHERN ARKANSAS	35	-
11	SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE	19	-
12	ARKANSAS-MONTICELLO	18	-

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Oklahoma History: The Rise and Fall of Dugout Shelters in Oklahoma



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society
The dugout home of Francis Noe near Elk City, 1892



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society
The Parnell homestead, a dugout in Dewey County, 1908. This photo was taken by Taloga Photographer John Virgil "J.V." Dedrick (1873-1960).

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

When picturing the first homes and settlers in the west, one might conjure images of farm homes, barns, and cabins - sturdy staples of life on the plains and in the wild.

However, if you were to travel through Oklahoma and the like back then, you would not see ranch-style buildings scattered throughout. You may not see much at all that would have you believe people were living out there. But direct your eye down to the soil and you may begin to notice seemingly out of place materials: wooden poles and logs poking out of the ground and small roofs jutting out of hills - Dugouts.

These homes, cleverly named, were truly dug out of the ground with rooftops supported by a series of logs or poles.

Rectangular in shape with a "front" comprised of sod and wood, these homes were affordable and easy to construct in the Great Plains where the availability of forests and trees was scarce. They could also be dug out quickly which led them to be the first choice of many settlers as they struck their land claims.

Dugouts are the unsung homes of the past. They could be found on the eastern part of the U.S., in the Salt Plains of Utah, and, for Oklahoma, in the central and western sections of the state. Not only were they affordable, they were practical and safe. They protected their occupants from the blistering wind in the winter, from tornadoes in the spring, and with walls of cool soil, from the heat during the summer. They were so effective as an early home that, according to the Oklahoma Historical Society,

"in numerous instances, dugout schools and dugout churches were also built".

What made Dugout homes so useful to combat the elements also contributed to their status as 'temporary' homes. The lack of ventilation kept them warm in the winter but oppressive for long periods.

There was also a problem with flooding, insects, lighting, and the feeling of living like an animal in a hole in the ground. There was a sort of expectation to live in a crafted frame home, and with access to better materials with trade routes, their popularity began to decline.

For Oklahoma, few were made going into the start of the 1900s, and those that were had their status as a primary home replaced by the title of cellar or storm shelter.

Clinton Public Schools Celebrates the Arrival of 23 New Teachers



Provided
The Clinton Chamber of Commerce recently held a "Community Partners Lunch" for new teachers joining the Clinton Public School Faculty for 2023-24.

The Clinton Public School Foundation gifted all teachers with a \$500 cash sign-on bonus with a matching \$750 bonus from the school (pictured left).

Clinton Public School's Facebook page posted to congratulate the new teachers: "Our new certified staff were showered this week with gift baskets, goodie bags, gift cards, gift certificates, breakfasts, lunches, and so much more. These gifts were provided by more than 40 businesses, churches, and individuals in our community."

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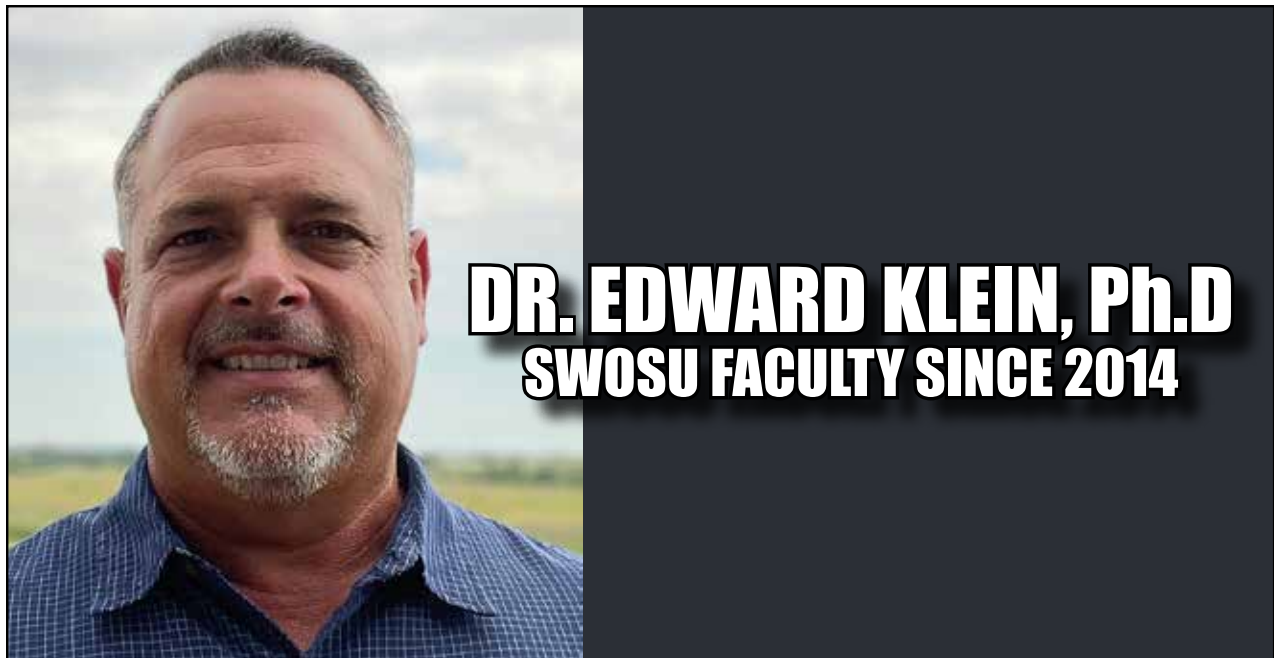
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Dr. Ed Klein is Named SWOSU Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences



Caption Provided by Mike Smith / WW News Director

Dr. Ed Klein has been named Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Klien has served as SWOSU's Chair of the Department of Education since 2014,

Dr. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Public Relations

Dr. Ed Klein has been named as Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Klein has a bachelor's and master's degree from SWOSU and a doctorate from Concordia University in Illinois.

Dr. Klein has been serving as chair for the Department of Education since 2014. He was director of the department's Education Administration program from 2014 to 2016.

Before he was named chair for the Department of Education, he served as director for SWOSU's Collegiate Officer Program (COPs) within the Department of Parks and Recreation Management

from 2011 to 2014.

He joined SWOSU as a faculty member in 2008. Prior to his employment at SWOSU, Dr. Klein was a middle school teacher and coached soccer and wrestling at Weatherford High School.

He recently completed the 2022-2023 school year as President of the Oklahoma Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (OACTE) and is training to serve as a site visitor for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

Dr. Klein and his wife Amber make their home on the family ranch in Weatherford and have three adult children: Lauren, Gavin, & Garrin. They also have three (soon to be four) grandchildren: Penny, Sheppard, Genoveive, and soon-to-be Max.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1

Friday, August 18th will feature several livestock shows in the morning as well as some kids races and stunts beginning at 9am. The Midway, rides and concessions will again open in the evening beginning at 7pm with free musical performances beginning at 7:30pm by local musicians and the Dean Jackson Band scheduled to perform from 9pm to close.

A 3-in-1 Ranch Rodeo is also scheduled for Friday night beginning at 8pm and will feature roping, pinning, as well as a limited amount of mutton busting for the kiddos.

Saturday, August 19th begins with payouts for exhibition winners being doled out at 8am. Then a parade will head to the fairgrounds from Hydro's Main street starting at 10am.

A kid tractor pull begins at 11am with mud volleyball happening at the fairgrounds at 1pm followed by washers and watermelons at 4pm. The deadline for Cake auctions is also set for 5pm that evening with the auction beginning at 7:30pm. Just like previous nights the rides, midway and concessions will open at 7pm and the 3-in-1 Ranch Rodeo will begin at 8pm. A free music performance by Jeremy Graham will start at 9pm.

The Hydro Free Fair is also selling T-shirts for this year's Free Fair. Interested people can purchase the T-shirts in person at Main Street Clothing in Hydro, or at the Bank of Hydro's Hydro location.

You can find more information about the 116th annual Hydro Free Fair by following their facebook page by searching 'Hydro Free Fair' or by visiting their website at Hydrofair.org.

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Photo Provided

Members on of the Hydro Free Fair's amusement company board stand in front of the Hydro Free Fair carousel after the carousel underwent nearly 5 years of refurbishment.

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