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SWOSU HOMECOMING SCHEDULE



Homecoming Mixer
Prairie West Golf Club
(Oct. 6, 5:30 - 7:30 pm)



"Hair of the Bulldog" Brunch
Business Enterprise
(Oct. 7, 10:30 - 12:30 pm)



Homecoming Parade
Downtown W'ford
(Oct. 7, 1:30 - 2:30 pm)



Homecoming Tailgate
Business Enterprise
(Oct. 7, 2:30 - 5 pm)



SWOSU HOMECOMING GAME



KICKOFF 5:30 PM

Homecoming Celebration in Weatherford is Happening on Main Street

The Bulldogs are coming back to town! It's officially homecoming week at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. The Weatherford campus has a ton of fun events planned for students, alumni, and community members to celebrate the SWOSU Bulldogs Football team's game against Arkansas Tech this Saturday, October 7th.

The weekend's festivities kick off Friday, October 6th with the Annual SWOSU Homecoming Mixer hosted by the SWOSU Alumni Association. This year, the event will be hosted at the Prairie West Gold Club in Weatherford from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

You can join other alumni as well as friends of the Alumni Association for food and drinks and to tell your best tales about your time at SWOSU. Registration is requested and you can contact Taylor Adler to register for the event by emailing her at taylor.adler@swosu.edu.

The fun continues Saturday morning with the Hair of the Bulldog Brunch which is scheduled to take place at the Timothy Day Business Enterprise Center, located at the corner of Davis and 7th Street in Weatherford, from 10:30am to 12:30pm. This event is also hosted by the SWOSU Alumni Association and is open to the public, but registration is requested to participate.

You can register for the event online by visiting swosufoundation.com/hoco-brunch/

Following the brunch, join the party on Main Street in downtown Weatherford as one of the greatest traditions in Western Oklahoma takes place with the SWOSU homecoming parade. Bring the whole family and check out all of the floats, cool cars, and Bulldog Pride.

The parade is scheduled to take place Saturday afternoon from 1:30pm to 2:30pm.

Immediately after the parade, swing on down to Milam Stadium to join the SWOSU homecoming Tailgate where you'll be able to grab some good eats, hear live music and participate in a variety of games and events. The tailgate will run from 2:30pm to 5pm in Milam Stadium parking lot.

Then make sure to root on the SWOSU Bulldogs as they face off against The Arkansas Tech University Wonderboys.

Kickoff is at 5:30pm. But don't worry if you can't catch the game in person because Wright Media will be livestreaming the game.

You can watch live on Bulldog TV by visiting wright.media/seven or you can listen by tuning into The Coyote 95.5FM. Pregame begins at 4:30pm and kickoff is scheduled for 5:30pm.

So join us and show your Bulldog pride by painting the town blue for Homecoming Weekend!



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 <p>ADP Innocent Excess 2112J PB Simmental - LLSF Excess Cash E906 x BF Miss Innocent Noreen. Sells with E&B Wildcat 9402 progeny at side.</p>	 <p>PFI Ms Excess 2108J 1/2 Simmental daughter of LLSF Excess Cash E906. Sells with E&B Wildcat 9402 progeny at side.</p>	 <p>PFI Justified 2116J Purebred Simmental DOB 11/5/21 LLSF Excess Cash E906 x WCC Vanessa 5170C by Poker Face.</p>

Make it a Western Weekend!
Friday, October 13
Western Collection Beef Field Day Judging Contest
Registration at 8 a.m.; Contest begins at 9 a.m.
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Saturday, October 14
Stierwalt Cattle Battle Steer & Heifer Show
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Dutch Little Bird

Forrest Douglas "Dutch" Little Bird was born May 4, 1941, in Clinton, to Alfred and Lola Mae (Lee) Little Bird and passed away Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at Great Plains Medical Center in Elk City, at the age of 82 years, 4 months and 22 days. He was an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma.



Dutch was raised and attended school in Weatherford until his eleventh year and then transferred to Tyrone Public Schools, graduating with the Class of 1959. After graduating, he attended Okmulgee Tech School, where he earned a certificate in Auto Body repair.

In 1960, he married Priscilla Farmer and from that marriage two sons were born. He worked at various body shops in Oklahoma. He then moved to Dallas, Texas, for a new start.

Dutch met the love of his life, Sandra Suddrech, and they married in 1967, at the Methodist Church in Weatherford. To this union one son and two daughters were born. Dutch and Sandy made their home in Weatherford where he opened up his own business, the B & D Body Shop, before retiring in 2002.

Dutch is survived by his wife of 55 years Sandra Little Bird, of their home; one daughter Sherry Little Bird of Weatherford; two sons: Forrest Little Bird and wife Lala of San Antonio, TX and William Anthony Little Bird of Dallas, TX; three sisters: Lorene Bishop of Weatherford, Janice Marcum and husband Don Nikkel of Weatherford and Rebecca Leonard and husband Steve of Weatherford; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother Anthony Little Bird; two sisters: Wanda Faye Leathers and Loretta Ann Steere; one son Shannon Little Bird; and one daughter Kristen Dyson.

Carmen Daniel

Carmen was born July 16, 1962, in Durango, Mexico, to Salvador Chavez Ortiz and Emma Lopez Sierpe and passed away Saturday, September 23, 2023, in a vehicle accident with her sister, south of Geary, at the age of 61 years, 2 months and 7 days.



Carmen was raised and attended school in Leon and Irapuato, Mexico. At the age of 22, she moved to the United States and settled in Weatherford. In 1989, she married Reid Daniel, and together they raised their children: Stephanie, Amy and Jason. In 1998, Carmen began working at the Weatherford Public Schools, first as a cook and later as custodian for over 27 years. In December 2004, she married Patrick Wayne Poteet in Weatherford. Carmen enjoyed her grandchildren, gardening and cooking. She will be remembered for her tamales for special events and holidays, her garage sales, and she was a master chef and recycler. Carmen took frequent trips back home to Mexico, visiting with family and lifelong friends.

Carmen is survived by her husband Patrick Poteet of Weatherford; two daughters: Stephanie Shilling and husband Ari Shilling and Amy Haderer and husband Tyler of Harrah and their children: Kreedence, Kobe and Karsen; one son Jason Daniel of Oklahoma City; two brothers: Rueban Vazquez and wife Rosario and Javier Chavez Lopez and wife Jesus; and one sister Dora Irma Chavez Lopez. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Gracie Hawkins.

Jo Williams

Nelda "Jo" Josephine Williams was born May 11, 1936, in Mounds, OK, to James Noel and Etta Lucille (Glenn) Harbeston and passed away Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at Corn Heritage Village of Weatherford, age the age of 87 years, 4 months and 15 days.



Jo was raised and attended school in Mounds, OK and attended the First Baptist Church. She married and they lived in Oregon, Washington, California, and settled in Oklahoma City where she worked for Lucent Technology for 32 years. Jo met the love of her Curtis Lay in 1987, and they married January 1, 2009. In 2005, they settled in Weatherford on the family farm. Jo enjoyed making ceramics, candles and living the country life.

Jo is survived by her husband Curtis Lay of their home in Weatherford; one son Kevin Williams of Oklahoma City; two step-daughters: Kimberly Lay of Oklahoma City and Kristi Charron of Oklahoma City; one brother Jim Harbeston and wife Darla; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; one son Steven Williams; and one sister Jalin Lance.

Ron Hensley

William Ronald Hensley was born October 11, 1932, at Tioga, Texas, to Coy Hensley and Loraine (Ivy) Hensley, and passed away at Homestead Assisted Living Center of Clinton on September 25th, 2023.



The family moved to Weatherford, OK in 1936. Ron grew up in Weatherford and attended Weatherford Public School. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard and was called into active duty on Sept. 1, 1950, serving in Korea. He was discharged in June of 1952. After his release from active duty, he rejoined the National Guard, retiring with 22 years of service with the rank of E7. In June of 1952 he began working for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, eventually retiring in 1986, with 34 years of service.

Ron met his beautiful bride Wanda Sutton in 1952, while she was living in Weatherford, attending college. They married on August 26, 1954, and made their home in Clinton. Soon after moving to Clinton, they made Broadway Heights Baptist Church their church home, where he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and song leader for many years. He loved the Lord and his church.

Ron enjoyed all sports, and especially loved to listen to and play country music. For many years he played the guitar and harmonica, and enjoyed singing. He was a member of the Clinton Country Jamboree band for over 20 years. Known as "Papa Ron," he loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, making many memories on family trips to Branson and the mountains of New Mexico.

He was preceded in death by his wife Wanda, parents, and sister Paula Hensley Maloy and brother-in-law Ted Maloy, Jr.

He is survived by two daughters: Susan Moore and husband David of Clinton, OK. Lori Stevenson of Clinton, OK and Randy Stevenson of El Reno, OK; Grandchildren Sumner Hernandez and husband Ricardo, Clinton, OK; Addie Acosta and husband Silvestre of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Gentry Stevenson of Honeoye Falls, New York; Great-Grandchildren Audrie and Sutton Hernandez of Clinton, OK; Scout, Sawyer, Sevy and Sully Acosta of Clinton, OK; Rosie Moore of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Gracie Hawkins

Graciela "Gracie" Hawkins was born August 28, 1963, in Leon, Mexico, to Salvador Chavez Ortiz and Emma Lopez Sierpe and passed away Saturday, September 23, 2023, in a vehicle accident with her sister, south of Geary, at the age of 60 years and 25 days.



Gracie was raised and attended school in Irapuato, Mexico. She worked as an accountant before moving to the United States in 1988. Gracie moved to Weatherford and in 1988 and married Timothy Hawkins. Together, they raised two sons: Sean in 1992 and Seumas in 1994. In 2002, she began working first as a cook for the Weatherford schools and later as custodian for over 20 years. Gracie enjoyed dancing, cooking, her cats, and traveling to Brazil and Mexico.

Gracie is survived by two sons: Sean Hawkins and Seumas Hawkins both of Weatherford; two brothers: Rueban Vazquez and wife Rosario and Javier Chavez Lopez and wife Jesus; and one sister Dora Irma. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Carmen Daniel.

Lyman Weasel Bear

Lyman Ray Weasel Bear, Jr. was born September 21, 1974, to Lyman Ray Weasel Bear, Sr. and Phyllis Tall White Man in Crow Agency, Montana and passed away one day after his 49th birthday, September 22, 2023, at his Clinton resident.



Lyman was raised in Watonga, OK where he graduated in 1993 from high school. He was an outstanding basketball player and was part of the basketball team that took state for the first time in 1993. He continued his education at Haskell Indian School and received his associate degree in liberal arts. He made his way back to Clinton and worked for the Hollitex Factory before moving to Weatherford in 1999. He worked for the BOT Ram Company. He moved back to Clinton and has been a handy man doing several odd jobs.

He was the comedian and jokester of the family and was often pulling pranks on everyone. He never met strangers and had numerous friends.

He was a proud member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and was ceremonial man of his tribe.

He is preceded in death by his mother and father.

He is survived by his companion Amy Austin, Clinton, two daughters: Sydney Jessepe, Marietta, KS and Savana Weasel Bear, Ada, OK, sister Dorothy Weasel Bear, OKC, OK and four brothers: Bill Weasel Bear, Watonga, OK, Frank Weasel Bear, Weatherford, OK, Squire Wesel Bear, Colstrip, MT and two grandchildren.

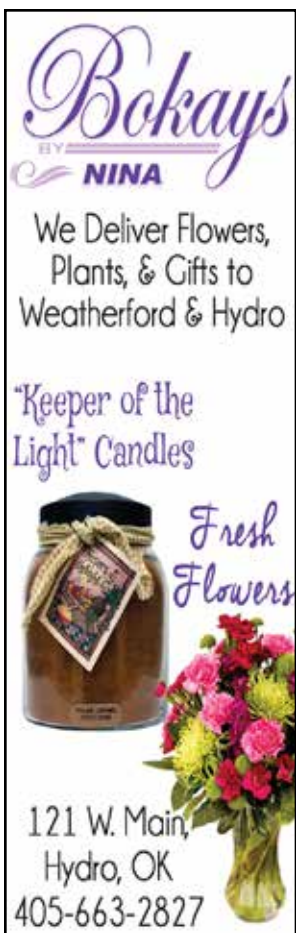


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Long Term Care Residents Honored During October 2023's "Residents Rights Month"



Across the country, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities along with family members, ombudsman program representatives, citizen advocates, facility staff, and others will honor the individual rights of long-term care residents by celebrating Residents' Rights Month.

Residents' Rights Month is an annual event held in October by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) to celebrate and focus on awareness of dignity, respect, and the value of long-term care residents.

This year's Residents' Rights Month theme - Amplify Our Voices - emphasizes a community of long-term care residents coming together to make their voices heard. For residents, amplifying your voice means being outspoken about your preferences and choices, and sharing who you are and your experiences.

"Residents' voices are the most important at the decision-making table. This year's Residents' Rights Month theme reminds residents - your story deserves to be told!" said Lori Smetanka, Executive Director of Consumer Voice.

For questions about residents' rights, contact Cherrie Nutley, Ombudsman Supervisor, 580-562-5032.

The Nursing Home Reform Law, passed in 1987, guarantees nursing home residents their individual rights, including but not limited to individualized care, respect, dignity, the right to visitation, the right to privacy, the right to complain, and the right to make independent choices.

Assisted Living Centers and Residential Care Facilities maintain their rights as U.S. Citizens. Residents' Rights Month raises awareness about these rights and pays tribute to the unique contributions of long-term residents.

The National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program has worked for nearly 50 years to promote residents' rights daily. More than 5,900 volunteers and 1,300 paid staff are advocates for residents in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Authorized under the Older Americans Act and administered by the Administration on Aging, the program also provides information on how to find a facility, conducts community education sessions, and supports residents, their families, and the public with one-on-one consultation regarding long-term care.

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Chad Gray / WW

Weatherford's new Whataburger has received an official ribbon cutting ceremony. The event saw many performers and guest speakers in attendance, including--among others--the WHS Marching Band, the Troop 355 Boy Scouts, and the reigning Miss SWOSU Megan Bradley.

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HIGHER GROUND

Trust and Obey



Jim Morrison

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus Christ? If you were to stop ten people on the street in Western Oklahoma and asked them if they were a Christian, the great majority would probably say yes. To those it would mean, "well, I am not a member of the Islamic faith. I am not Hindu and I attend Church at least on Easter and Christian. I'm a decent person and pay my bills," "Yes, I'm a Christian!"

But if you phrased it a little differently and said, "Are you a follower of Jesus Christ?" they might say, "What do you mean?" Our society has so watered down the term word "Christian" that it has lost its original meaning. It was first used to describe someone who so reflected the life of Christ that they were referred to as a "little Christ" and as a term of derision because their lifestyle was so radically

different than the culture of that day. I'm afraid that could not be said today.

Two words that might be used to accurately describe a Christian today might be the terms "Trust" and "Obey." Again it would be helpful to discuss the meaning of these two words. We often talk about "trusting Jesus," "or putting our trust in Jesus." To those of us who have grown up around and in the church we understand. But so many are Biblically illiterate in today's world that we need to give a fuller explanation as just what in means to "Put your trust in Jesus."

Sometimes it helps to give the opposite of the meaning to clarify the true meaning. We all recognize what it means to say, "I don't trust that person." To us that means, "I don't believe he is genuine." "I don't think he is real or, that he has my best interest at heart." Now, as we think of putting your trust in another person or in Jesus it is to say, "I believe He is who he claimed to be. He (Jesus) died and rose again and I would trust him with my life, both now and in eternity. I believe in His teaching; that what he says is true and I surrender or submit my heart and life to his plans and purposes for my life." I recently heard a pastor describe it this way; suppose you have fallen over a cliff and on your way to certain death. You see a branch near you.

In desperation and as your only hope you grab that branch to keep you from falling. You put your trust in that branch. Everyone of us was born with a sinful nature. We were on our way to certain death. Jesus came on a rescue mission to save us. "The wages (result) of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."(Roms. 6:23) You recognize your condition and you change your way of thinking. Instead of living your life with your desires being in control you give up on that idea and place your life or (trust) in Jesus, the only one who can save you. That is repentance. To obey is the other side of the coin. As you trust Him with your life, obedience follows. You really cannot have one without the other. You cannot say you trust him with your life and continue to live the same selfish way you have. For many that is the difficult part—we don't want to lose control. But you can't have it both ways. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:3)

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Weatherford is sponsoring a free teaching session to help us more effectively share our faith. It is on Sunday, Oct. 8th from 3-6:00 p.m. Child care is available if you register by Oct. 2. Contact 580-772-3413

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

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

Weatherford Wins Awards at Municipal League Conference



Mayor Mike Brown (pictured, centered) shows off Weatherford's Municipal Innovations Award. Standing next to him are Economic Developer Yolanda Creswell (left) and Todd Earp (right).

Leslie Blair
OML Comms Director

Weatherford was chosen for two awards at the annual Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) Annual Conference.

Among these were the Municipal Innovations Award for communities with a population greater than 10,000 for their Heritage Route 66 Park.

The City of Weatherford came together to highlight Route 66 by increasing tourism and economic development by developing a park on Route 66. The park was funded by Midwestern Oklahoma Development Authority (MODA) Grants, Yes Weatherford Tax Initiative, and many donors. The park consists of a porch, playground, dog park, a wind turbine blade that was painted with a mural and the Replica of the Vietnam Wall.

"With limited municipal budgets, communities must be creative and find ways to make things happen with grants and partnerships," said Mike Fina, Executive Director of OML. "Weatherford worked to find the funding to make this project a reality for their citizens, and we are proud to present them with this award."

Additionally, Mike Brown, Mayor of Weatherford was presented with the 2023 Jeff Shockley Award at the Oklahoma Municipal League Annual Conference.

Brown was elected Mayor of Weatherford in 2004, and first began his tenure on the Weatherford City Commission in 1996. He represents Rich and Cartmill Insurance, specializing in employee benefits. He is a graduate of Weatherford High School and Southwestern Oklahoma State University, with a degree in Business Education and Administration. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, First Baptist Church, and Kiwanis Club.

Mike has been inducted to the 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame for Weatherford High School, the 2016 Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials, and the 2019 Southwestern Oklahoma State University Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2010, Mike was named large City "Mayor of the Year", by the Oklahoma Municipal League. He is a member of the Mayors Council of OK Board of Directors.

"Mayor Brown is an outstanding leader with an incredible history of service not only to Weatherford but also the Oklahoma Municipal League," said Mike Fina,

Executive Director of the Oklahoma Municipal League. "It is fitting that we honor Mayor Brown with OML's highest honor for all the work he has done and continues to do on behalf of Oklahoma Cities and Towns."

In 1996, OML created the Municipal Innovations Award to recognize cities and towns for their innovative ideas. With this award, the goal is to encourage the sharing of ideas among our members and to celebrate the innovations of Oklahoma's municipalities.

The Jeff Shockley Award was established in 2021 recognizing outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities. Named after Jeff Shockley, long-time Poteau mayor, OML Board Member, and Hall of Fame inductee, Shockley was a great ambassador for OML, the City of Poteau and the State of Oklahoma. The inaugural award was presented to Connie Shockley on behalf of her late husband.

The Oklahoma Municipal League is the authoritative source for information, training, and resources on effective local government for member organizations and is recognized as the unified voice of OK cities and towns.



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CUSTER CO DIST COURT / GOUCHER – The fourth and final co-defendant in an embezzlement and conspiracy case surrounding Circuit Engineering District 7 entered a guilty plea Monday to two misdemeanor charges, including open meeting act violations in Custer County District Court. Monte Goucher was given a deferred sentence until September 25th, 2026, and will serve 45 days in the Custer County Jail, beginning October 2nd. Goucher was also ordered to pay \$10,000 restitution and cannot hold office at any government entity.

WRH / BUDGET & STATS – The Weatherford Hospital Board approved the budget for the next fiscal year this week says Chief Executive Officer Brian Denton. The new fiscal year for Weatherford Regional Hospital begins October 1st. During his report to the Weatherford Hospital Board, Denton told the board that the hospital has experienced volatile volumes over the past few weeks in emergency room visits and inpatient units. Denton says over the past 7 days the average daily census in the ER is 26.6 with operating room procedures at 197 for the month of August.

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SWOSU / RANKINGS - Southwestern Oklahoma State University officials say U.S. News & World Report has recognized SWOSU as one of the top regional universities in the West and one of the top public schools in the West, according to their 2024 Best Colleges report. SWOSU in the latest report is ranked #64 in the regional universities-west category, compared to a ranking of 71 last year. In the top public schools regional universities west category, SWOSU ranked #33 up from a ranking of 37 last year.

WEATHERFORD / ROTARY – A spokesperson with the Oklahoma National Guard Civil Support Team was a recent guest speaker at Weatherford Rotary. First Class Sergeant Cory Simmons discusses how the civil support team works with first responders regarding training exercises, with SWOSU students responding to hypothetical disasters, be they manmade or natural. The Weatherford PD, EMS, and Fire Department helped guide their answers. Simmons says it takes about a year to put together an exercise.



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. **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 October 4th - Kennedy Aispuro, Sharon Beach, Kenli Brooks, Christy Freeman, Trevin Gilliam, Kortney Hawthorn, Vicki Isaak, Oliver Lackey, Ranae Martinez, Gavin Nailon, Ryan Sandlin; **October 5th** - Eric Hoffman, Candice Weems, Valerie Whiteneck, Carol Wichert; **October 6th** - Sierra Duncan, Miranda Cardenas, Cheryl Justice, Casey King, Ginger Manning, Lyle Miller, Dana Ratchliffe, Rick Reel, Doyle Warren, Kori White; **October 7th** - Kim Baldwin, Bradley Brittain, Virginia Caler, Destry Duke Christensen, Marlee Farrow, Roger Isaak, Karen Lanier, Ricky Leatherbury, Ruth Lee, Sandra Maddox, Evelyn Malheim, Sabrina Miller, Evelyn Mulherin, Koby Sutton, Colby Sutton, Brenda Webber, Quintin Westrick; **October 8th** - Peggy Constein, Sarah Ferrero, Lisa French, Danielle Goodall, Tamarcus Hardy, Laura Hopper; **October 9th** - Jeff Berrong, Pat Cornell, Brenda Fast, Jarret Jones Kayleigh Kauk, Brooke King; **October 10th** - Jeannie Adams, Linda Allen, Jeannette Bellew, Dacia Brittenham, Aaron Golden, Courtney Graybill, Austin Kerr, Courtney Skinner, N. Washa.

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Oklahoma History: You've Got Mail! (Oklahoma Postal Service)



Courtesy Oklahoma Genealogical Society Collection

The U.S. Post Office and Federal Building in Miami, OK.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

One interesting, but often overlooked, service that has existed in almost every civilized area throughout history deals with the transporting and delivery of documents or goods: i.e. Mail.

From local personable work to global commercial deliveries, postal work is both necessary and profound. How is a post office established, and how do the postmarks remain accurate when the territory it represents undergoes dramatic change? This snippet of history explores the beginning of the some of the first post offices in Oklahoma.

These post offices went through a variety of change, similarly to the wonderfully amusing (and often confusing) history of Oklahoma's statehood.

For example, Oklahoma has had many names and symbols for the mail over the years. According to an article by The Oklahoman the postmarks have included "Arkansas," "Arkansas Territory," "Indian Territory," "Texas," and "Oklahoma Territory".

Historians have gone to great lengths to discover the

reasoning behind these postmarks and have narrowed the beginnings down to a few possibilities. However, records during those times are hard to accurately place. Luckily, one of the things these historians agree is that the state's first post office was established in Fort Gibson around 190 years ago.

Stamps for letter mailed in Oklahoma at that time were not part of a system so postmasters would use a variety of rubber stamps. During the early years, many of the postmarked letters have "Arkansas Territory" listed because almost all of Oklahoma was included in the Arkansas Territory at one point.

In the town of Mangum in southwestern Oklahoma, the post office opened on April 15th, 1886. During that time, the territory was labeled as Greer County, Texas.

The region didn't become a part of Oklahoma Territory for another 10 years by Supreme Court ruling. With statehood in the near future and territory changes, the post office in Mangum apparently had four different postmarks: "Mangum, Indian Territory," "Mangum,

Oklahoma Territory," then, "Mangum, Texas," and finally, "Mangum, Oklahoma."

The Mangum post office wasn't the only one that got incorrectly labeled as "Indian Territory". Other parts of the Oklahoma panhandle were labeled the same because folk were unsure whether it was a part of Texas or not. So, they just called it "Indian Territory".

Oklahoma City's post office was opened July 1st, 1923. It was originally established as Oklahoma Station in December of 1887 in Unassigned lands before the Land Run of 1889.

It is believed that Oklahoma's mail couriers traveled on horse-back or by wagon on well-established roads between Kansas and Texas. During the 1880s, the roads were so heavily traveled by stagecoaches, military, cattle trails, and freighters that it might resemble an early interstate.

Lining up the exact moments of Oklahoma's postal history on a timeline may be impossible but piecing together bits of the state's colorful history is an experience all its own.

"Saved By the Bell" Event Baptizes 31 College Students



Krystal Blackwell
WW Contributor

Hundreds of SWOSU students and community members gathered at the Clock Tower for a night of worship. New Life Church of Hydro partnered with SWOSU FCA to host Saved By The Bell. At the event, all ages were in attendance. The community came together to worship.

New Life Church led worship, Pastor Mark Lumpkin gave a message, and New Creation Nutrition provided free teas for all in attendance. Thirty-one people raised their hands for the alter call and gave their lives to Christ. A tank was onsite and 24 people were baptized.

SWOSU football player, Jalen Momoh, who helped baptize many students, stated "I just want to thank everyone who was a part of this special moment. For all of the people I was able to baptize, it was an honor and blessing experiencing God together".

Following the baptisms, a prayer team was present to pray with anyone who needed it and get contact information to follow up with each person who was saved. After packing up and reflecting on the night, worship leader Matthew Springer concluded "I'm truly speechless. What started in a coffee shop, God turned into the biggest blessing I've ever been a part of".



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Bulldogs of the Week Go to Marley Berger and Hadley Tate

Grant Kopycinski
Sports Information Graduate Asst.

Marley Berger and Hadley Tate have been named the latest Bulldogs of the Week after taking home the top spot in their respective events last weekend at the Southeastern Oklahoma State Rodeo held in Durant. The weekly recognition is brought to you by Wright Wradio, home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Berger (Udall, Kan.) won first place in the average in Tie Down Roping thanks to clocking the fastest times in both rounds he competed in. Last year's Central Plains Region Champion shaved more than a second off his short round time to leave no doubt. His two times showed 10.2 and 9.0 seconds.

Tate (Apache, Okla.) made it two straight rodeos a SWOSU barrel racer has won the event to start the season. She finished fourth place in the long round and tied for the top spot in the short go to earn the event's fastest combined time. Her two times posted were 16.96 and 16.89 seconds. She's now finished inside the top-5 in both rodeos to kickoff the '23-24 schedule.

The ABA Announces New Team in Elk City



Brady Benton / WW

The American Basketball Association recently visited Elk City to announce the launch of their newest team, the Western Oklahoma Bulls. The Bulls will have their home opener on November 4th at the Arrowhead Center in Elk City.



Brady Benton / WW

Jonathan Reed (pictured, center) gushes about Elk City and their Arrowhead Center at the event, saying: "When I came out and I saw this place and it was an automatic, "like, wow." What [Elk City is] doing for their community—to invest in something like this—this [is] a perfect place." Reed went on to ponder whether the facility would be large enough for the league to host games in.

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Bulldogs Stymied by Rank No. 10 Bisons

Jon Chidester
 SWOSU Asst. AD / Media Relations

SWOSU Football was held scoreless by No. 10 Harding on Saturday night in a 64-0 loss to the Bisons. The Bulldogs remain winless at 0-5 on the year and will prepare for Homecoming next weekend when Arkansas Tech visits Weatherford for a 5:30 p.m. kickoff.

It was the first time this season the Bulldogs have been held without points. The last time that happened came back in 2017 – also against Harding.

SWOSU managed just 79 yards of total offense and four first downs in the contest, while finishing 1-of-13 on third down. Meanwhile Harding, who entered the game as Division II's top rushing team, racked up 587 total yards of which included 125 through the air and two first half passing touchdowns. Their 462 rushing yards represents a season high.

Two second half pick-six interceptions inflated the final score further.

SWOSU trailed just 7-0 after the first quarter before Harding scored on all three of their possessions in the second quarter to lead it 28-0 at halftime. The Bisons got another three touchdowns on the ground in the second half, mixed in with the pair of costly Bulldogs turnovers and one field goal.

At quarterback, Calvin Cloud finished 4-of-12 for 24 yards. Sean Shelby entered the game midway through and finished 5-of-9 for 26 yards but was responsible for both interceptions.

Troy Henderson and Ethane Hyche combined for 14 rushes and 28 yards.

Defensively, three players finished with eight tackles apiece – Logan Monroe, Richard Silva, and Zack Roberts. SWOSU was unable to force any turnovers.



Krystal Blackwell / WW
 The Weatherford Lady Eagles take home the Regional Championship trophy after beating McCloud 13-1. The Lady Eagles take on Miami this week for a chance to advance to State.

THE WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

WEATHERFORD EAGLES	@ Woodward	W 43-0
CLINTON RED TORNADES	vs. Elk City	W 21-7
SAYRE EAGLES	vs. Hooker	L 6-49
THOMAS TERRIERS	@ Fairview	L 20-56
WATONGA EAGLES	@ Minco	L 0-49
SWOSU BULLDOGS	@ Harding	L 0-64

Tune in to the Chuck Edward's Sportscast on The Coyote 95.5 at 7:50am and 5:30pm and NewsTalk 99.3 at 7:40am and 5:30pm for more information. Tune in to the Zoo Sportscast on the Zoo 101.7 at 8:40am & 5:40pm.

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