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First United Methodist Church in Weatherford Welcomes New Pastor



REV. ALLEN CARSON

Pastor, FUMC Weatherford

Courtesy Christopher Curtis / FUMC

First United Methodist Church in Weatherford recently welcomed a new pastor. Reverend Allen Carson has been in Weatherford for the past 8 weeks. Reverend Carson is a native of Oklahoma City and has served at churches across Oklahoma.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

First United Methodist Church in Weatherford is thrilled to introduce Reverend Allen Carson as the new Senior Pastor. Allen comes to FUMC with love and experience unmatched. With over 30 years of service, Allen's work focuses on emphasizing the foundations of churches' relationships with their communities, specifically focusing on partnerships with social service agencies and other faith communities. Allen spoke about the move, "It's a good time to be here...First United has a strong history. A good DNA."

Allen describes his journey as an Oklahoma foster care alumni to leader and voice for several workshops as one paved with great impacts from the members of the Church, teachers, and mentors as he navigated through the foster system.

Allen leads with grace and a personal touch that aims to offer spiritual, emotional, and material support.

Like so many of us, Allen loves spending time with his family, going to football games, and lacing up on the court for some pickleball. He's been in Weatherford for 8 weeks so far and was never expecting such an overwhelming throng of support, acceptance, and love from the community. "Part of my ministry is being a member of the community," Allen explains. "And Weatherford has welcomed us with open arms. The move here was personal for us to be close to family. So, it's nice to be here in a place of growth."

When speaking about opportunities to support those in resource systems like foster care, Allen described a great network for communities as

Care Portal, an app where those signed up can see needs within their communities that they can aid in fulfilling. Allen explained, "As important as physical health, if not more so, is mental health and structure. That can come from any type of aid, and projects like Care Portal is what I use and would suggest to any individual looking to get involved and started."

Allen and his wife are thrilled to meet more of the people they get the opportunity to serve. Come say 'hi' if you see him at the Weatherford and Southwestern games, or on the pickleball court. "Look for the guy with a curly mullet. I'm easy to spot!"

Welcome Allen and family! We're all excited to work together to keep making Weatherford a strong and connected city.

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Judy Sproull

Judy Faye Sproull, 79, of Sayre, Oklahoma was born on January 22, 1945, in Tecumseh, Michigan. She is the daughter of Ralph Murray and Faye Irene (Biehl) Daniels. Judy went to walk beside her Heavenly Father on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at her home in Sayre, Oklahoma.



She graduated from Tecumseh High School, Tecumseh, Michigan, and drove a school bus for several years.

Judy married the love of her life, Donald Edward Sproull at Tecumseh, Michigan on September 24, 1966.

Judy loved growing flowers and tending to her garden and doing crossword puzzles. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Sayre, Oklahoma.

Judy cherished spending time with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Private family services will be held at a later date. Services have been entrusted to the care of Richard and Tammy Dugger and the staff of Martin-Dugger Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Elk City, Oklahoma.

She is survived by one daughter, Niki Graumann and her husband, Larry of Blair, Oklahoma; one son, L.T. Sproull and his wife, Janet of Dill City, Oklahoma

Judy is also survived by nine grandchildren, all of Oklahoma; nine great-grandchildren, all of Oklahoma; as well as one sister-in-law, Kay Daniels, of Adrian, Michigan.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph Murrey and Faye Irene Daniels; her husband, Donald Edward Sproull; and her brother, Jim Daniels.

Barbara Dishman

Barbara Lee Dishman, 92, of Elk City, Oklahoma, was born on February 6, 1932, in Elk City, Oklahoma. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Edith Faye (Stillwell) Dixon. She went to walk the golden streets of heaven on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at Elk City Nursing Home in Elk City, Oklahoma.



Barbara attended Elk City High School, Elk City, Oklahoma and graduated with the class of 1950. After graduation she continued her education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, for two years.

She married Daryl Dean Dishman on May 21, 1988. He preceded her in death on July 16, 2018.

Barbara enjoyed her career in banking for nearly fifty years. She was a member of the First Christian Church, Elk City Golf and Country Club, Elks Lodge. Barbara loved spending time with her friends and family, she will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

After her retirement she and Daryl enjoyed traveling and working around her house and in her garden.

Cherishing her memory, is her daughter, Judy Musgrave of Elk City, Oklahoma; son-in-law, Phillip Beck; three grandsons, Benjamin Musgrave and his wife, Shellie of Elk City, Oklahoma, Heath Beck and his wife, Laura of Austin, Texas, Luke Beck and his wife, Raven of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; one granddaughter, Jessica Porter of Elk City, Oklahoma; seven great grandchildren, Ethan Beck, Cameron Beck, Parker Beck, Addisyn White, Allisyn White, Hayli Curtis and Jacob Curtis.

Barbara is preceded in death by her husband, Daryl Dishman; one daughter, Ronama Beck, her parents, Benjamin and Edith Faye Dixon.

Judy Gifford-Parker

Judy Kay Gifford Parker, 77, was born on February 27, 1947 to Burt Ellis Lacy and Faye (Beck) Lacy in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She went to walk beside her Heavenly Father on Sunday, August 18, 2024 at the Elk City Nursing Center in Elk City, Oklahoma.



Judy married Thilbert Denton Gifford (T. D. Gifford) on April 8, 1966. They moved to Frederick, Oklahoma, and became pastors of the First Assembly of God Church. Soon after, they were called to be Youth Pastors of Pueblo Assembly of God in Colorado. Then they received a call to pastor the Assembly of God in Springfield, Colorado. After seven years of pastoring there, they answered the call to pastor at Sunset Assembly of God at LaSalle, Colorado until 1981, another seven years.

In 1981, they moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma where they built homes and T. D. traveled as an Evangelist.

In 1985, they were called to pastor First Assembly of God of Granite, Oklahoma, and then to First Assembly of God in Elk City, Oklahoma, in 1990. They built a church on South Randall and pastored there until 2011.

Judy walked side by side her husband for fifty-two years. In 1968 Bradley was introduced into this world, and two years after that, his brother Brent was born.

Judy did not have many hobbies, for her true love was Jesus, and ministering to the church. She headed many bake sales, made egg noodles to sale for missions. Hundreds if not thousands of dinners for the church, funerals, youth parties, men's breakfast, and women's ministries. But her favorite place of service was the altar. She answered everyone of the calls given. Judy was the "prayingest" person you could have known. She loved the church and its people.

Judy was a pastor's wife, a prayer warrior, but also a great hands on mom and grandmother. In her own words:

"I went through a period in my life where my kids were growing up and no longer could sit on my lap with cuddles and kisses, like when they were younger. I found I still needed those two little boys. I enjoyed their teen years, but as my need for young children increased, I began to pray that God would bring children (little ones) into my life again. Wow, what a sweet answer. He gave to me and gave to me again. Mackenzie, Courtneye, Tyler, Sirandon, Conner and Logan are so sweet and wonderful grandchildren. I sit here today (November 28, 1998) A very content and happy grandmother. I am very proud of my children and grandchildren and a very happy to be MeMe, their mother and grandmother. It's kind of nice to be a wife also, to a wonderful husband, father, and man, Thilbert, which is where it all started. Thirty-two years and eight months ago, April 8, 1966, when we were married. Well, actually, I guess you would say it started three years before that when we met in Granite, Oklahoma, but then that is the rest of the story!"

After losing her husband in 2019 on July 14, 2023, Amos Aaron Parker became her husband. Judy and Aaron enjoyed just a little over one year together. He became the center of her life, and a great part of the family.

Cherishing her memory is her husband, Amos Aaron Parker; two sons, Brent Gifford of Elk City, Oklahoma, Brad Gifford of Elk City, Oklahoma; ten grandchildren; sixteen great grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Judy is preceded in death by her first husband, Thilbert Denton Gifford (T. D. Gifford); and her parents, Burt Ellis and Faye Lacy.

Memorials can be made to The Mission Program or The Link in care of Martin-Dugger Funeral Home, P.O. Box 707, Elk City, Oklahoma 73648.

Kenneth Poole

Kenneth Damon Poole, 76, of Elk City, Oklahoma, was born on March 19, 1948 in Elk City, Oklahoma. He is the son of Gerald B. and Eva Ilene (Beck) Poole. He went to walk beside his Heavenly Father on Sunday, August 18, 2024 at his residence in Elk City, OK, surrounded by his loving family.



Kenneth attended Elk City High School, Elk City, Oklahoma and graduated with the class of 1966.

He married his best-friend and sweetheart, Patsy Ann Fletcher on January 27, 1968, at Mountain View, Oklahoma. To this union, one son was born: David Poole.

He was a proud member of the Oklahoma National Guard (Field Division Artillery) from 1966 to 1974, where he was honorably discharged as Sergeant.

Kenneth worked for Hodges Trucking for ten years, and Lantz Trucking for thirteen years.

He started Plains Transportation, a truck driving company, located in Elk City, Oklahoma, in 1989. Kenneth was the owner and operator until he retired in 2003.

Kenneth was a member of the Baptist Church, Elk City, the Goodtimers Motorcycle Club and the Elk Lodge, Elk City, Oklahoma.

He was a twelve year kidney transplant recipient and was on dialysis for four years prior to receiving his kidney.

Kenneth was a single and multi engine pilot and was also an instrument rated pilot. He flew Grady Lantz and logged over 2,200 hours. His hobbies included riding motorcycles over forty-nine states, riding four-wheelers all over the state of Colorado, and riding sea-doo's and later boats. Kenneth's pride and joy was spending time with his grandchildren, Haylee and Travis, and especially his great granddaughter, Lola. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends who knew and loved him.

Cherishing his memory is his wife, Patsy Poole of Elk City, Oklahoma; one son, David Poole and his wife, Rachel of Elk City, Oklahoma; one granddaughter, Haylee Morris and her husband, T.J. of Elk City, Oklahoma; one grandson, Travis Poole of Elk City, Oklahoma; one great granddaughter, Lola Morris of Elk City, Oklahoma; one half brother, Cecil Poole of Elk City, Oklahoma; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Kenneth is preceded in death by his parents, Gerald B. and Eva Ilene Poole, and one sister, Eva Kingore.

Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society in care of Martin-Dugger Funeral Home, P.O. Box 707, Elk City, Oklahoma 73648.

Randy Hawkins

Randy Taylor Hawkins, 26, of Elk City, Oklahoma, was born on July 15, 1998 in Sayre, Oklahoma. He is the son of Drew Alan and Lana Renae (Nix) Hawkins. He went to walk beside his Heavenly Father on Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Integris Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma after a courageous battle with hodgkin's lymphoma.



Randy was a long haul OTR driver who enjoyed traveling to forty-six of the fifty states. He liked cooking different types of food especially, Italian, Cajun, and American. Randy was on a constant quest to find the perfect places to eat while he was on the road.

He enjoyed going to the Colorado mountains with his PaPaw. Randy's hobbies included road trips, epoxy work, playing boardgames, cards and setting off fireworks.








He loved spending time with his family and friends and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Services have been entrusted to the care of Richard and Tammy Dugger and the staff of Martin-Dugger Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Elk City, Oklahoma.


Cherishing his memory are his parents, Drew and Lana Hawkins of Elk City, Oklahoma; one brother, Rusty Hawkins of Elk City, Oklahoma; his paternal grandparents, Bill and Connie Hawkins of Loyal, Oklahoma, and Kenneth and Debbie Dyck of Corn, Oklahoma; and numerous other aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Randy is preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Larry E. Nix, Sr.; and great grandparents, Forrest and Ruby Nix; great grandparents, Olan and Alma Hester; paternal great grandparents, Floyd and Vivian Hawkins, and Cowboy Willis; and one uncle, Larry Nix, Jr.




<p>Mostly Sunny</p>  <p>H: 85° L: 63° Wednesday</p>	<p>Partly Cloudy</p>  <p>H: 96° L: 69° Thursday</p>	<p>AM Storms</p>  <p>H: 86° L: 68° Friday</p>	<p>Partly Cloudy</p>  <p>H: 89° L: 69° Saturday</p>	<p>Mostly Sunny</p>  <p>H: 86° L: 66° Sunday</p>	<p>AM Showers</p>  <p>H: 84° L: 63° Monday</p>	<p>Partly Cloudy</p>  <p>H: 88° L: 64° Tuesday</p>
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The 2024-25 Varsity Sports Season Has Begun in Western Oklahoma



Courtesy Kelley Schmidt

The Weatherford Lady Eagle stand for the National Anthem before the Custer County Conflict Softball Game against the Clinton Red Tornadoes. Final Score: Weatherford 11-0.

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Courtesy Kelley Schmidt

CJ Nickson catches a pass at the endzone over the head of a Blanchard Lion at the Weatherford Eagle's football scrimmage.

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Do you sometimes need help when beginning to pray? Maybe this acrostic will help you. For better understanding, look up the scriptures listed. Choosing one underlined words in each paragraph may provide an idea as to what you can ask of the Lord.

T...God, help me to seek and know truth as you reveal yourself to me through the Scriptures. Give me a teachable heart. Help me to learn to trust you when pain and suffering is my companion.
Psalms 25:4-7

R...Lord, reveal to me areas of sin in my life and help me recognize my pride and selfishness. Help me to repent and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Receive all that you have for me even it requires discipline and effort on my part.
1 John 1:9-10; II Cor. 5:19

A: Lord, give me an attitude of gratitude. May I stand in awe of your great power and love for me. Give me an ambition and desire to please you. When something needs to be done, help me see that I should take action and not wait for someone else to do it.
Eph 5:10; I Peter 1:13

N: God help me to see and understand that you can meet my needs. Help me to nourish my growing knowledge of you through scripture. Give me the wisdom to say NO to those things that would enslave me and diminish my desire to follow you.
Phil. 4:19, I Peter 5:8-9, Phil. 3:10

S: Lord, make me one of your obedient servants. My natural desire is to seek those things that make me feel good in the flesh, but no relationship or possession can satisfy. I pray for the full power of the Holy Spirit to rest upon me. May I not seek success as the world sees success but be led by your Spirit.
Jeremiah 29:13

F: I want to bear fruit for you. Help me to remain in you so I can be fruitful and faithful. Relieve me of the fears of what man can do and learn to trust you to fulfill me as I follow you. Help me to seek fellowship with those who also want to seek you.
John 15:4-5

O: Lord, I want to be an obedient Christian. Open my heart and spirit to your desires for me. Help me to seek and seize opportunities to share with others about your love, grace and forgiveness.
Romans 6:11-14

M: Lord, mold my heart and will into the person you desire me to be. Let me not be mastered by addictions or worldly desires, but by your Holy Spirit. Help me to see that as a follower of Christ I have been called to be on mission as an instrument of righteousness, and an ambassador of the King of Kings.
2 Cor. 5:14-21

E: Heavenly Father, equip me with all that I need to serve you. Give me an excitement for the journey of faith you have called me to travel. Give me the energy to be about your business.
2 Peter 1:3; I Cor. 15:58; Heb. 13:21

D: Lord, I need your direction. Help me to seek truth and follow in obedience. May you guide me to make good decisions. Help me to have discipline to study the Bible and pray regularly. Free me from doubts and help me to trust you in those things I don't understand.
Psalms 37:5

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

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Elizabeth and Crystal from Connections Food and Resource Center offered a colorful wheel for Organizational Fair attendees, which would award them some free, nonperishable food

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ELK CITY / HORSES UPDATE - We're learning more information surrounding a significant loss of livestock at Beutler & Son Rodeo Company based in Elk City. The stock contracting firm is the main supplier of livestock for the Elk City Rodeo of Champions that was held last weekend. The rodeo community is rallying around the Beutler brothers after at least 60 horses died from what could be faulty feed. Sammy Andrews of Andrews rodeo is one of the many people stepping up to the plate to help Beutler & Son. The inspector with the Department of Agriculture went to the ranch last week to collect feed samples.

CLINTON / GHOLSTON PARK - Officials in the city of Clinton say volunteers and donations are needed in an effort to reopen Gholston Park at ACME says City Manager Robert Johnston. Volunteers can sign up at Clinton City Hall. Monetary donations are being accepted through the drive-thru window. Johnston says volunteers are needed to help work on the park beginning Friday, October 25th.

SWOSU / SAFEST COLLEGE CAMPUS - SWOSU has been rated the #1 safest college campus in Oklahoma by Niche (formerly College Prowler), a leading website with over 140 million reviews and ratings on public schools, private schools, and universities. SWOSU officials say the recognition demonstrates the dedication of the campus community to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone at SWOSU. In addition to its safety ranking, SWOSU was also rated #3 in the 2025 Best Value Colleges in Oklahoma and #3 in the 2025 Top Public Universities in Oklahoma.


WEST OK / ELECTIONS - Longtime Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown has won re-election, getting 72% of the vote in a three-way race last week, defeating Dustin Hayes and Robby Penner. Brown looks ahead to another term leading the city of Weatherford. Meanwhile, voters in the Hinton school district rejected a \$23.6 million bond for district upgrades. The proposition picked up just over 50% support, but needed a supermajority of 60% for passage.

CUSTER CO / SCAM ALERT - The Custer County Sheriff's Department says they have received information of a warrant scam in the county says Department Administrator Tasha Goodman. According to Goodman, the phone call will inform you that there is an arrest warrant in your name, but that it can "go away" by paying a specified amount of money. "The Sheriff's Department will not ask for payment by phone; we wouldn't even tell you that you have a warrant by phone." Goodman says if you receive a similar type call you can contact your local police or Sheriff's Department.

WEATHERFORD / HOSPITAL PROJECT - The Chief Executive Officer of Weatherford Regional Hospital, Darin Farrell, says the hospital is starting a new service through the SWOSU remote hospital services team that allows students at school to be seen by a medical provider and not miss school. The service is available through a grant that places telemedicine units in area public schools. Weatherford Regional Hospital would be a hub for students at both Weatherford and Thomas Public Schools.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

of **HAPPY Day TO YOU!**

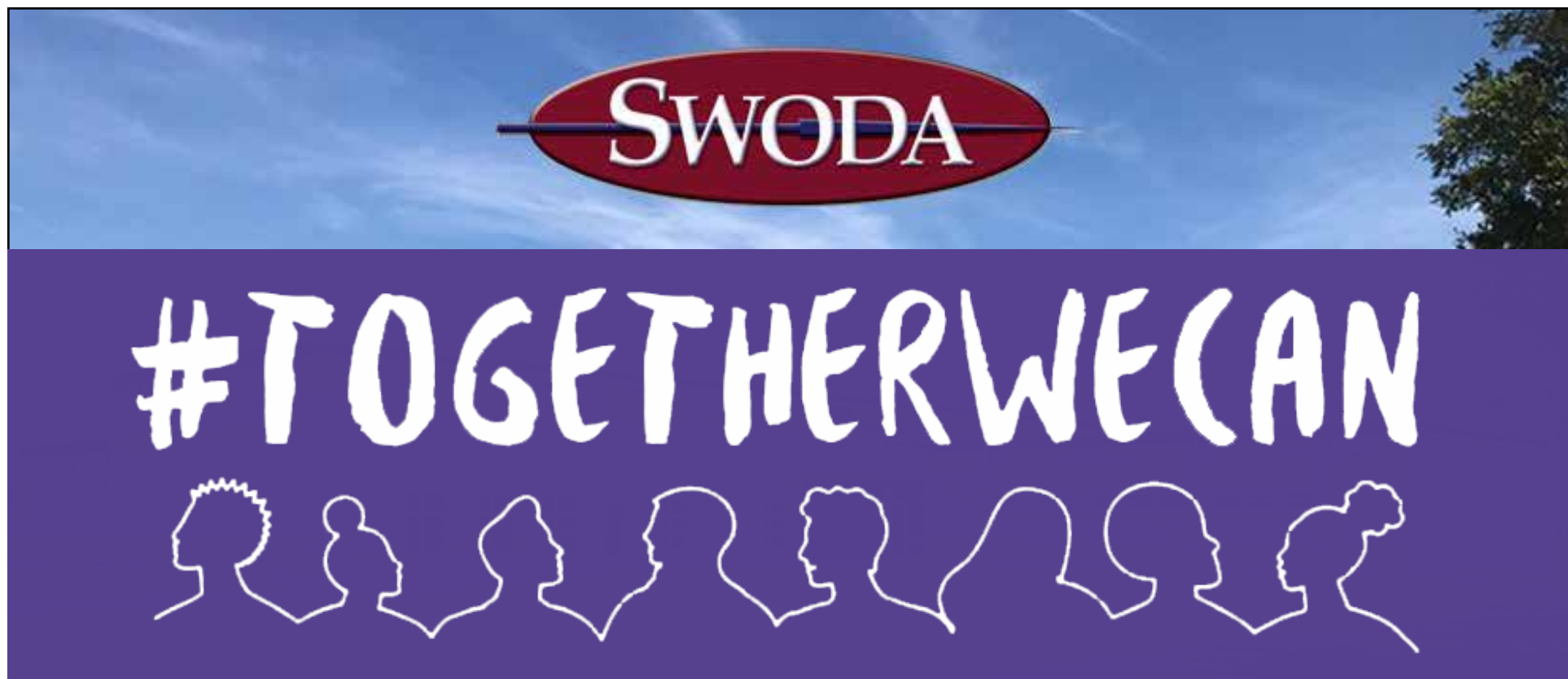


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Happy Birthday Wishes for September 4th - Denton Belter, Macy Biddy, Donita Brown, Nada Clayborn, Russell Jackson, Connie Miller, Kendra Postelwait; **September 5th** - Clifford Baileys, Jordan Hoffman, Clea Ivy, Ryan Mikel, Aaron Oliver, Owen Poe, Jeff Rothmeyer; **September 6th** - Mary Badillo, Dana Hickman, Richard Jenkins, Merebeth Kasper, Joyce Kellog, Marie Moore, Larry Sharry, Mansour Valli, Virginia Waddle, MaKayla Whiteshield; **September 7th** - Ron Baker, Mindy Bay, Samantha Blagg, Tiffany Brinkley, Debbie Bryson, Elaine Garner, Norma Jump, Hannah Nance, Brady Hicks, Mystry Seward, Sabrina Shell, Paula Thiessen, Jennifer Wedel; **September 8th** - Lindsey Bottom, Oakley Daniels, Sharon Fossett, Brooklyn Peace, Brandon Rogers, Natalie Roller, Sandra Tuderbell, Meargan Trent, Curtis Walters, Christopher Walters, Alexandra Williams, Ryan Wilson; **September 9th** - Tyler Barnett, Parker Broadbent, Brianna Dillion, Mary Elliot, Baylee Lehman, Marcella Panama, Taylor Parish, Ramona Patron, Kyle Slagell, Thomas Stephens, Emily Wise; **September 10th** - Alexis Adams, Billy Joe Adams, Christopher Albright, Mickey Allen, Billy Austin, Blake Brewer, Corissa Crosby, Rachelle Epp, Adam Esparza, Hudson Ingram, Misty Krewall, Ridley Matthews, Dr. Karen Miller, Courtney Milligan, Shirley Pendleton, Diviya Rolens, Anita Spradlin, Mattie Tolley, Donald Walters, John Wilson, Mandy Wise.

Western Oklahoma Schools Prepare to Save Lives from Drug Overdose



Kendra Dilbeck
SWODA Asst. Project Manager

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Did you know: Drug-related deaths claimed 107,941 American lives in 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are responsible for approximately 70% of lives lost, while methamphetamine and other synthetic stimulants are responsible for approximately 30% of deaths. Fentanyl is the nation's greatest and most urgent drug threat. Two milligrams (mg) of fentanyl is considered a potentially fatal dose. Opioid Overdose deaths are happening all around us, and we want Washita County to be prepared. One way to help keep your county safe is to have naloxone on hand and be prepared to use it.

- Factors that put kids at risk include:
- Naïveté to the dangers of substances
 - Vulnerability to peer pressure
 - Overly trusting of peers / non-parental adults

Burns Flat-Dill City Schools & Granite Public Schools took a great step to keep their students and staff safe. They had their staff trained on how to use naloxone and then SWODA provided naloxone to place around the school campus in case there was ever an overdose at the school.

We want to thank Burns Flat-Dill City Schools and Granite Public Schools for being proactive instead of reactive.

If you would like to learn more about getting naloxone for yourself, your organization, or your business, please reach out to Steve Berry, Substance Use Prevention Treatment and Recovery Division Director via e-mail at steve@swoda.org or via phone at 580-562-5043.

"We hope the schools never need this medication, but we feel it is the responsible thing to do in the current environment that we live in," said Berry. "SWODA provides the trainings and the Naloxone for free to local schools because we have received grant funding."

Besides keeping naloxone in your home there are some other ways to keep your home safe. One way is to safely store any and all medications that are in your home. Another way is to safely dispose of any unused or expired medications that are in your home. For a list of drug disposal locations in your area, please visit OKimReady.org/VE

We hope that you store your medications safely, but in other students' households that may not be the case. Your kids' friends may have access to Rx and illicit drugs at home. Those substances may make their way into your local school. For this reason, we applaud the schools' efforts to train and equip staff to recognize an Opioid overdose and respond with Narcan (Naloxone) to save lives. This helps keep your friends, family and pets safe from the potential harms of ingesting medications that were not meant for them.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

HIA
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RUN FOR HOPE -2024-

Formerly known as Sobriety Sprint, Run For Hope is held each year to remember those who have lost their lives to addiction.

All proceeds will help fund local support groups Finding Hope and Hope After Loss, each providing sessions for over 800 members recovering from, or losing a loved one to, Substance Abuse.

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Oklahoma consistently ranks as one of the worst states for child food insecurity in the nation. The Regional Food Bank's four Food for Kids Programs help children and their families in all 53 counties served by the Regional Food Bank in central and western Oklahoma.

Join the fight against childhood hunger this fall by doubling the impact of your donations. Through Sept. 30, every donation to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Food for Kids Programs is matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$315,000.

This donation was made possible by:

- Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma
- Chesapeake Energy
- Mark and Beth Brewer
- Marathon Oil
- Dolese Bros. Corp.
- Energy Transfer
- David Gorham
- David and Lezlie Hudiburg.

"Community collaboration is key to the Regional Food Bank fighting childhood hunger in Oklahoma," said Stacy Dykstra, Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. "We are so grateful for the generosity of our match sponsors, like David Gorham, who are making a huge impact on the work we do."

"I'm proud to partner with the Regional Food Bank for this opportunity to help provide meals to the next generation of Oklahomans. The Food for Kids Match is an easy way to make a big impact in lives of Oklahoma children," said David Gorham, Food for Kids Match sponsor. "I encourage Oklahomans to take advantage of the opportunity to have double the impact of their donations."

The School Pantry Program, one of the four Food for Kids Programs, provides chronically hungry middle and high school students with food to sustain them after school and over the weekends. Last school year, the program provided more than 330,000 meals to students at 164 schools.

Melody, a School Pantry Program coordinator in the Putnam City Public School district, shared the following story of the program's impact at home and in the classroom:

"We have a middle schooler that is very food insecure and we were able to get him shopping at our pantry. I truly believe that without the pantry program this student would have to survive just off of food from the cafeteria," Melody said. "Being able to offer him a bag every week has helped him learn better in the classroom because he is now getting dinner and snacks at home too."

Make a donation to the Food for Kids Match today at foodforkids.us or call 405-600-3136. An automatic \$10 donation can be made by texting "Kids" to 501-501

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Oklahoma's Mercy Clinic Providing Major Sponsorship to SWOSU



Courtesy SWOSU Foundation

Mercy Clinic team members Meghan Harms (third from left) and Michael Kiehn (third from right) are welcomed to Flex-Chem Field at Milam Stadium to admire the new videoboard made possible by a generous sponsorship from Mercy Clinic. Thanking Harms and Kiehn are (left to right) SWOSU Head Football Coach Andrew Rice; SWOSU Assistant Athletic Trainer Kalyp Oliver; SWOSU President Diana Lovell; SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton; and SWOSU Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine Edwin Detweiler.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) has announced a major sponsorship from Mercy Clinic Oklahoma Communities, the university's Official Sports Medicine Provider.

Mercy team members Dr. Michael Kiehn and Meghan Harms, PA, (SWOSU Class of 2009) have been longtime sports medicine providers to SWOSU student-athletes. Under this newest initiative, Mercy has contributed a generous sponsorship to SWOSU that has facilitated the procurement and installation of a new digital videoboard on Flex-Chem Field at Milam Stadium on the SWOSU Weatherford Campus.

"We are so proud of the new videoboard which will enhance public gatherings and athletic events held at our legendary Milam Stadium—and it would not have happened with the involvement of Mercy Clinic!" said SWOSU President Dr. Diana R. Lovell. "We are deeply grateful to Mercy for this investment and look forward to our continued work together in service to SWOSU's student-athletes and athletic programs."

Part of the 200-year-old Mercy system, Mercy Clinic provides state-of-the-art care for chronic illnesses, diagnoses and treats diseases in the early stages, and helps prevent suffering and poor long-term outcomes. Across four states, a team of more than 2,400 Mercy primary and specialty care physicians, more than 2,200 advanced practitioners, and supporting staff deliver healthcare services through more than 300 offices.

Mercy Clinic's sponsorship of SWOSU is stewarded by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. The Foundation was established in 1977 to raise, administer, and disburse private funding in support of the activities and programs of SWOSU. For more information, please contact 580-774-3267 or visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com.



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