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Cordell is Hosting their 37th Annual Pumpkin Festival October 12

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The 37th annual Cordell Pumpkin Festival is rolling into town on October 12th, from 9 AM to 3 PM, and it's bigger, better, and more pumpkin-packed than ever! For over three decades, this beloved tradition has been a celebration of fall fun, and this year's lineup is sure to squash all expectations.

The day kicks off with the legendary Pumpkin Pancake breakfast. Whether you're a pancake purist or like a little syrup savant, it's the perfect way to fuel up for the festivities ahead.

After breakfast, the festival square will come to life with vendors and food trucks offering a wide variety of unique goods and mouth-watering treats. As the morning unfolds, excitement builds for the Cordell Parade—an energetic display of colorful floats, marching bands, and community spirit.

For baking enthusiasts, the festival's baking contest offers the perfect chance to show off their

skills and compete for the coveted Pumpkin Festival Champion title. Meanwhile, children can immerse themselves in the Kid Zone, full of pony rides, bounce houses, and other fun activities.

Auto enthusiasts won't want to miss the car show, featuring vehicles from vintage classics to modern-day favorites. Pre-registration is available through October 11th for \$20 per vehicle, with day-of registration from 7:30 AM to 10 AM for \$25. The show runs from 9 AM to 3 PM, with awards presented at 1 PM for categories like Best Paint, Best Interior, Best Engine, Most Original, Farthest Away, and Best in Show.

The Burnout Contest will see participants competing for first, second, and third place honors, while vehicles will be judged by decade and in special interest categories like street rods, rat rods, motorcycles, and semi-trucks.

One of the most exciting and humorous events of

the day will be the longrunning bed races, where teams of five race beds through the streets in a lively competition.

Here's how it works: two teams race to an outhouse with one team member riding on the bed. Once there, the rider hops off, runs into the outhouse, and dons a nightgown. After a quick change, the rider races back to the bed, and the team sprints to the finish line, aiming to be the first across.

Teams can register the day of the event between 9 AM and 12 PM at the Chamber office for \$50. Check-in is at 1 PM, with the race starting at 1:30 PM on the east side of the courthouse.

With all the fun packed into one unforgettable day, the Cordell Pumpkin Festival has been delivering fall magic for 37 years strong. So come celebrate Cordell's rich festival history, where laughter is loud, the pancakes are fluffy, and the memories are sure to last all season long!

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Bobbielou Allen

Bobbielou (Jones) Allen was born February 14, 1942, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, to Betty (Graham) Jones and passed away Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at Corn Heritage Village of Weatherford, at the age of 82 years, 7 months and 18 days.



Bobbielou's family moved around a lot before settling in Lawton where she graduated from Lawton High School. She met Bobby Ray Allen her senior year of high school, and they were married February 17, 1961. They were married for six weeks before Bob was sent to Korea.

Bob had earned his bachelor's degree in music and they moved to Marysville, Kansas, where he taught, and later to Midwest City when her husband began serving in ministry.

In 1968, they moved to Weatherford where Bob became a music minister for First Baptist Church and, together, they raised their family. She served alongside her husband in the ministry for over 50 years.

With the help of Bob and their children, Bobbielou worked as an independent sales consultant for Tupperware for over 40 years. Bobbielou enjoyed speaking to women's groups; coloring pictures with scripture on them and giving them to anyone the Lord impressed on her heart; and having long conversations with friends or anyone (her family says this was her favorite thing by far.)

Bobbielou was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years Bob Allen.

Bobbielou is survived by her daughter Kathy Gibson of El Reno; her son Brian Allen and wife Jena of Oklahoma City; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Patricia Gardner

Patricia Anne Gardner, born March 25, 1942, in Laverne, OK, to Cecil Monroe Preston and Faith Halley Holmes, passed away leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and devotion.



She married the love of her life Leon Gardner on June 26, 1977, in Woodward, OK. Together, they shared 47 beautiful years of marriage.

Patricia had a passion for helping others and spent her career as a social worker, always extending a hand to those in need. Her generosity was unmatched, whether it was cooking up her famous pizza or cinnamon rolls for the neighborhood or offering a comforting word to someone going through a tough time. Living by the lake brought her peace, but nothing brought her more joy than being surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Her grandchild and great-grandchildren were the true diamonds in her eyes. Patricia adored them, often spoiling them to her heart's content and then happily sending them home.

The memories of her unwavering love and the laughter she brought into her family's lives will forever remain in their hearts.

Patricia will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her legacy of love, warmth, and selflessness will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to be part of her life.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years Leon Gardner; son Jeffery Beadles; son Bradley Beadles and wife Dixie; daughter Gina "GiGi" Allen and husband Jimmie; son Dennis Gardner and wife Donita; son Alen Gardner; son Bryan Gardner; grandchildren Kina Lynn and husband Rickey, Kaleb Townsend and fiancé Logan, Sydney Anna Beadles, Preston Beadles, J. Scott Gardner, Myca Gardner, Mason Adcock, Josh Adcock and Alex Adcock; great grandchildren Jaxon, Raiden, Stella, Jameson, Gracie and sister-in-law Lorene Witt.

She is preceded by her parents, brother Bud and brother Chuck.

Stone Clear

Stone Springer Clear was born October 15, 2012, in Lawton, to Adam Springer Clear and Amber Michelle (Fleming) Clear and passed away Saturday, September 28, 2024, at home in Weatherford, at the age of 11 years, 11 months and 13 days.



Stone spent the first years in Carnegie until moving to Weatherford in 2015. He was currently a 6th grade student at Stafford Elementary in the Special Education Program. Stone loved being outside with the wind on his face or being in water, jumping on the trampoline or kicking balls. He had big blue eyes and a smile that was contagious. Stone loved being held even when he had gotten too big. Stone and his Uncle Brent, who was a constant presence in his life, became very close as he was helping to take care of him.

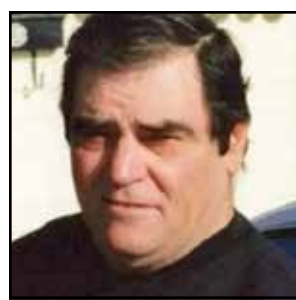
Stone is survived by his mother Amber Digby and husband Brad of Weatherford; his father Adam Clear and Trisha Bearden of Hydro; his brother Jackson Clear; his maternal grandparents Roger and Leslie Fleming of Weatherford; his paternal grandmother Margaret Clear of Hydro; and his uncles: Matt and Kodi Fleming of Weatherford, Brent Clear of Hydro, and Jason and Samantha Clear of Sayre. He was preceded in death by his grandfather Dale Clear.

Memorials may be made to the Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma, 2915 N. Classen Blvd Suite 040, Oklahoma City, OK 73106.

The family would like to recognize and extend a special thank you to all of his paraprofessionals that helped him through his time while attending Weatherford Public Schools.

Carson "Pill" Price

Carson Carrol Price, also known as "Pill," was born March 10, 1939, in Elk City, Oklahoma, to Vinita Maude Wilson and Carson Price. He primarily grew up in Lone Wolf. His young years included working as a paperboy, making slingshots, chopping cotton, playing baseball, and working the family farm. After graduating from Lone Wolf High School, he served active duty in the US Marine Corps for 4 years and in the Reserves for 2 more years.



Carson created a great life in Desert Hot Springs, California. He married Cheryl DeVee Oliphant on September 3, 1967; together, they had two boys - Brandon and Chris. He owned and operated Price Tire Sales and Service for 25 years. This period was intertwined with many family memories of dirt bikes, theme parks, boating, fishing, and other fun. Retirement and single life called him back to his childhood home and family in Oklahoma where he managed the family business and farmland ever since.

Carson's longtime girlfriend Vera always held a special place in his heart. Later in life, Sherry became a great friend and companion. His boys always appreciated that Carson and Cherie DeVee could stay on good terms and enjoy holidays and special events together with their kids and grandkids.

Carson shared his love of fishing, painting, and storytelling with all around him. We believe his greatest joys came from his sons and grandchildren. In fact, many of his big stories came about all the great things the kids were doing. Each grandchild can repeat Grandpa's words of wisdom and cowboy stories. More importantly, the grandkids know that Grandpa thinks they are the smartest, best looking, most gifted, and fun people there ever were. Phrases like "smart enough to be the president" and "a gentlemen and a scholar" were regular descriptions he used for them. He leaves them a legacy of stubborn strength, courage, positivity, humor, hard work, and fortitude.

Surviving family includes his two sons: Carson Brandon Price and his wife Bethany of St George, Utah, Christopher Stephen Price and his wife Amy of Elk City, Oklahoma. His grandchildren are Cassidy, Mitchell and his wife Emma, Christopher, Carson, Cody, Kennedy, and Journey. Also surviving is treasured cousin Harvey Wilson of Elk City, Oklahoma.

His parents, Vinita Maude Wilson, Carson Price, stepdad John Denton "JD" Wilson, along with 3 brothers: Kenneth Lee "Ken," Harry Ronald "Ron," Jimmy D, and sister Vinita Fay AKA Sharon Ann Cleary will likely hold a big party as they are all reunited in heaven.

LaRue Helzer

LaRue Jeannette Helzer was born September 2, 1941, in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, to Leroy Barnett and Marie (Kennedy) Pope and passed away Thursday, October 3, 2024, at home in Weatherford, at the age of 83 years, 1 month and 1 day.



LaRue was raised and attended school in Lawrence Harbor, New Jersey, and graduated from Sayreville High School in 1959.

On November 17, 1972, she married Joe W. Helzer in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and made their home in Virginia Beach where she worked at an asphalt batch plant. After Joe completed his service in the Navy, they moved to Weatherford, OK where LaRue worked at Jerry's for 10 years. She retired after being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. LaRue enjoyed being involved with VFW Ladies Auxiliary and volunteering at the VA Hospital in their comfort room.

LaRue is survived by her husband of 53 years Joe Helzer of their home in Weatherford; two sons: Michael Helzer and William Helzer; her brother Rusty Pope; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; son Ronald Helzer; brother George Pope; and sister Annette Pope.

Shirley Welch

Shirley Joan (White) Welch, 76, of New Cordell, Oklahoma, was born on December 28, 1947, in Littlefield, Texas. She is the daughter of Owen and Margaret (Hutto) White.



She went to walk beside her Heavenly Father on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at her residence in New Cordell, Oklahoma, surrounded by her loving family.

Shirley married her best friend and soul mate William Asberry Welch on April 27, 1969, in Kaufman, Texas. Shirley and her husband moved to Elk City, Oklahoma, in 1971. William preceded her in death on August 7, 2019.

Shirley enjoyed cooking, reading poetry, and loved collecting jewelry and porcelain dolls. She cherished spending time with her family and friends and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cherishing her memory are her two daughters: Angie Walker and Stephanie Denton, both of New Cordell, Oklahoma; six grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren; one sister Glynda Lomax of Elk City, Oklahoma; and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Shirley is preceded in death by her husband William Asberry Welch; her parents Owen and Margaret White; two brothers: John White, Jerry White; one sister Judy Laing.

Maurine Gregg

Maurine Gregg, 85, passed away Sunday evening while sleeping after a long illness. Maurine was born December 30, 1938, in Sayre, OK to Mike and Lela Merrifield.



After graduating from Cordell High School, she began a career as a secretary for Jefferson Elementary and later moved to Maryland and worked as an administrative assistant for a Sandy Springs Bank President. After 40 years of secretarial service, she retired in 2002.

Maurine enjoyed spending time with husband Leon and raising their son Darryn, as family time was important to her. Maurine and Leon were season ticket holders for the Sooner football and basketball games and she loved sharing time with her family while watching the Sooners. Maurine was the ultimate Oklahoma Sooner Fan who knew stats and figures about most of the players. She also liked sewing, reading mysteries by author Rick Scott and especially antique shopping.

Maurine was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Leon; son Darryn and Vicki Smith; sister Arlene Vanderveer; three grandchildren: Jason Smith and his wife Stephanie, Tara Payne and husband Trey and Timothy Smith and his wife Heather; seven great grandchildren: Kyser and Gunnar Smith, Trendyn, Talyn, Trakyr, Troopyr Payne and Maddox Smith; nephew Curt Vanderveer and Tammy Dresser; niece Michelle Price and husband Terry and a host of family and friends.



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SWODA Announces Release of 2024 Local Elected Officials Directory



Mary Peck
SWODA Staff

The South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA) is proud to announce the availability of its newly-updated Officials Directory for 2024. This comprehensive directory provides the contact information of conservation district representatives, town, city, county and state officials, along with the SWODA staff.

The directory is now accessible to everyone in the SWODA region and can be downloaded directly from the SWODA website at swoda.org. It is designed to support residents, businesses and local organizations by providing easy access to the details of officials who serve their communities.

"We are excited to provide this valuable resource to the public," said SWODA Executive Director Debora Glasgow. "This directory enhances transparency and fosters connections between community members

and their elected representatives, facilitating stronger engagement throughout Southwestern Oklahoma."

The directory includes contact information for town, city and county officials across Beckham, Custer, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills and Washita counties. It also includes information on state representatives, state senators and U.S. congressional representatives serving the SWODA region.

The contact information for conservation districts in our area gives residents access to officials for environmental inquiries. And finally, a section with all the contact information for the SWODA staff and leadership.

To access the directory or learn more about SWODA's ongoing programs and services, visit swoda.org.

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HIGHER GROUND

Can Old Men Cry?



Jim Morrison

An old man crying on the shoulder of a truck driver he hardly knew; it looked like a scene from an old movie. But that old man was real, and it just so happens it was me. Had I observed some tragic event or suffered great loss? No! It was simply the passing of an era that is common to man.

Twenty-one years ago, after retiring from a long and very fulfilling ministry with college students, I had some time on my hands.

I was driving west on Old 66 and glanced over my right shoulder and saw a truck yard filled with Semis. The trucks were likely loaded with goods that would find their way to the shelves of stores over the country. The drivers would spend days and weeks away from their families, away from seeing their children play little league sports or being at their grandchildren's concert or birthday party.

But more importantly, they were in one writer's estimation the most unreached people group in the country in terms of opportunities for spiritual growth and worship.

There are a few truck chapels across the land but for the most part the church is not a part of their life. The thought came to me. I've got time, maybe I could bring a little church to them.

So it began, twenty-one years of Saturday mornings, meeting with a few drivers, spending five or ten minutes, hearing their stories, sharing spiritual materials, and praying with them for their safety and families.

It was not a big deal, some resisted, thinking I was trying to sell them something. I'm sure they get hit on for various things. But when they saw my cap with a cross on the front and the word "chaplain" stenciled on the front, their guard comes down.

This last Saturday, there were fewer trucks on the yard. My eighty-seven, year-old legs were hurting with each step. My hip was burning and telling me to stop for a moment to rest. I thought of winter coming on and sometimes being out there in cold winds, and temperatures with the chill factor in the low 20's.

Suddenly, the thought came crushing home! "I CAN'T DO THIS ANY MORE!" And with the thought came a rush of emotions.

Unexpectedly, I begin to cry. It had never been a chore or dread. I actually looked forward to each Saturday morning. There were absences because of sickness, bad weather, vacations, etc. But at least for 40 of the 52 weeks it had been my joy to interact with drivers from all over the world. The morning after Russia invaded Ukraine, the first driver I met was from that stricken country.

I estimate that I have prayed with at least 3000 truck drivers and given away thousands of Christian books. It was basically a seed-sowing ministry.

I can't count on any number of conversions but I just prayed that the Holy Spirit would use my efforts to bring light and life to broken and seeking hearts.

A mother from Nebraska, sent me a letter with a check for \$50, thanking me for praying for her son. I never asked for or expected any money but many insisted. One man, after I had prayed for him, sensing that he was deeply burdened. He set down and wrote out a check for \$100. Of course, I never accepted money for myself, but took it to the church for deposit in the fund set aside for the ministry.

But now it was all over. No more hugs, gracious words of gratitude, or "You've made my day" responses. The last driver I met, was a local resident, one that I had visited with several times. He asked me how I was doing and I lost it. I buried my head on his shoulders and sobbed for several minutes. It was weird.

Looking back, I believe it was a sort of a grief process. The passing of an era in my life that was to be no more. Now, I can look back with thanksgiving that God provided an opportunity that few men have. But He is not done with me. While I still have breath there is still the joy of service to be experienced

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Courtesy Graybill / WW
Among dozens of participants, Dale Nickels had the most accurate guess for the final score of the Custer County Conflict, saying that Weatherford would win 14-6 (Final Score: 21-10). For his efforts, Nickels was awarded a Spirit II Weber Grill and a Yeti Cooler on Wheels, both provided by Elk Supply ACE Home Centers of Weatherford & Clinton.

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ELK CITY / SCAMS - The Elk City Police Department is urging residents to be cautious of ongoing bitcoin scams linked to several bitcoin transaction machines located at businesses throughout Elk City. Police say scammers have been deceiving victims into transferring funds under false pretenses. These scams often involve threatening phone calls posing as law enforcement or government agencies. Authorities say that legitimate government agencies or businesses will never ask for payments via bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies.

CLINTON / LEGISLATIVE FORUM - The Clinton Chamber of Commerce is hosting a legislative forum October 31st at the Frisco Conference Center. The forum will feature Ward 4 City Council candidates Arthur Lloyd and Bobby Stewart, and mayoral candidates David Berrong and Chris Roland. Chamber officials are asking those interested in attending to RSVP by calling or emailing Julie Caldwell at the chamber office by October 25th.

CLINTON / SCHOOLS BOND - A \$2 million bond that passed at the ballot box earlier this year is allowing for additional improvements in the Clinton School District. Superintendent Tyler Bridges says bids were opened recently for a bus shed for the district and bids are being solicited for Ag farm upgrades. Bridges says there are a few options when it comes to the press box upgrades.

SWOSU / SMITH - Southwestern Oklahoma State University has appointed C.J. Smith as the new Director of Sponsored Programs. Smith joined the office of sponsored programs as a Grants Specialist and advanced to the position of Assistant Director in 2019. Since joining SWOSU, Smith has worked to advance SWOSU's mission, particularly in the areas of external funding and research promotion.

WEATHERFORD / RECYCLING EVENT A recycling event will be held in Weatherford next month says spokesperson Faye Henson. The recycling event will be held at the Materials Processing Center at the corner of Illinois and Clark Street on November 9th from 9 am - 3 pm. They will accept appliances, metals, light bulbs, batteries, and phone books. However, TVs monitors will not be accepted.

WEATHERFORD FD / EXERCISE - The Oklahoma National Guard recently partnered with Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Weatherford Fire Department to conduct a multi-agency exercise, aimed at integrating unmanned aerial systems into wildland firefighting. Weatherford Fire Chief Kory Selman talked about how drones can be beneficial when fighting wildfires. Chief Selman says the drone is more needed when it comes to the type of terrain that is burning.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!
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Christian Free Store - Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875.
Alfalfa, OK, Community Center "Bible Study," Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 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 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;
October 11th - Ashlee Bishop, Roy Cisco, Chism Holt, Doris Jaimes, Delanna Kirk, Cameron Lohman, Neta Norman, Amanda Ricks, Debbie Ridgeway, Cooper Taff, Randy Voyels;
October 12th - Kayla Dunn; McKinley Fuentes, Erin Funk, Leta Giblett, Les Guesby, Terri Hulsey, Madison McClemore, Lloyd Mitchell, Lloyd Mitchell, Reason Moore, Alan Palesano, Bryce Reeves, Clayton Taylor, Shelby Thomas, Shelby Thomas;
October 13th - Shelby Cook; Yolanda Delgado, Ethan Downs, Mike Mapel, Michael Rivera, Larry Schwartz, Pat Smith, Jeff Smith, Guy Sperle, Carol Jane Ura-neck;
October 14th - Glenda Atkins, Tiffany Dyer, Sara Hollan, Alena Miller, Judy Moore, Betty Palesano, Wyatt Peterman, Traci Calhoun Sanders;
October 15th - Tristan Cardenas, Holly Cavanaugh, Jimmy Harris, Megan Hayes, Jaythan Higginbothan, Charla Hursh, Ernie Koop, JJ Maddox, Stanley Schantz, Shantey Schontz, Joy Smith, Harold Stobbe.

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2004 Trailblazer - Good tires. \$4,000. 580-330-3489

4-Michelin used passenger tires - 20 inch. 580-393-1444.

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2003 Trailblazer - Good shape. \$3,000. 580-886-2980.

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Antique Singer Petal Sewing Machine - Selling to best offer. Call 580-772-2300

Widescreen TV - 93" CRT. Mitsubishi. \$499. Contact at 580-772-7997.

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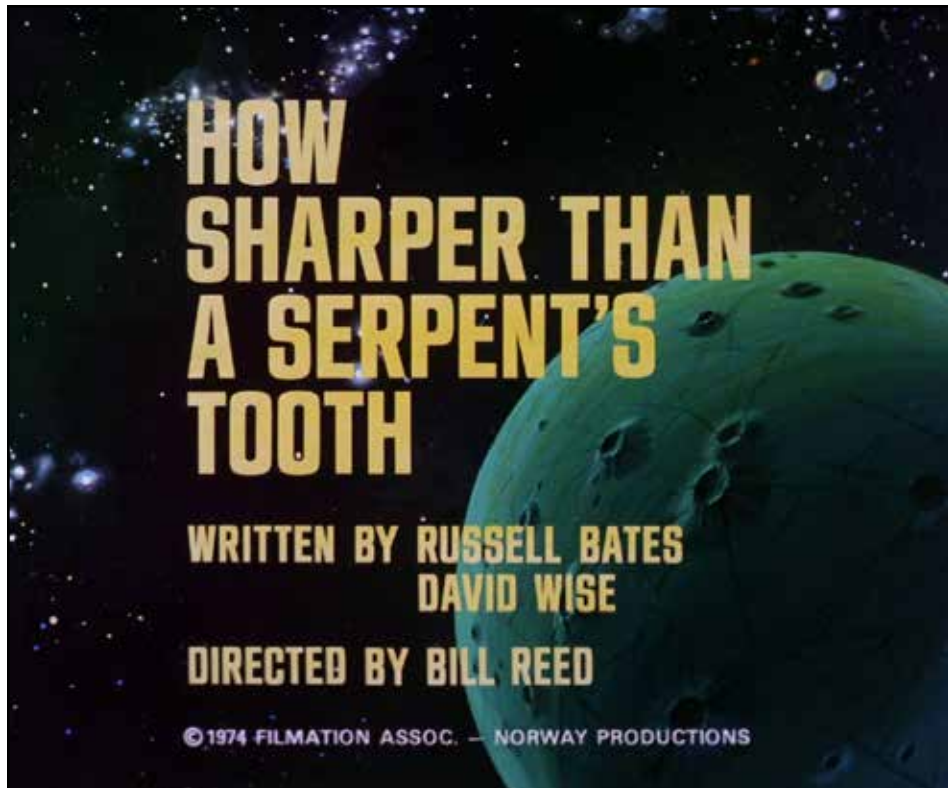
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Crav'n Oyster Crackers 12 oz.	2 for \$3.00	Gala Apples	2 lbs for \$3.00
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Food Club Almond Bark 24 oz. All Varieties	2 for \$7.00	Frozen	
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Duncan Hines Cake Mixes All Varieties	2 for \$4.00	Pork Spare Ribs	\$2.99 lb.
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Kraft Miracle Whip 19 or 30 oz.	\$5.99	Boneless Ribeye Steak	\$17.99 lb.
Moms Best Oats 16 oz. All Varieties	2 for \$4.00	Chicken Fry Steak	\$5.99 lb.
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Parkay Spread 13 oz.	\$1.88	Simply Done Red Plastic Party Cups 30 ct.	\$2.69
Pillsbury Grands Biscuits 16.3 oz. All Varieties	2 for \$6.00	Simply Done Slow Cooker Liners 4 ct.	2 for \$4.00
Daisy Sour Cream 14 oz. Squeeze	\$2.99	Simply Done Parchment Paper	\$2.99
Crystal Farms Shredded Cheese 8 oz.	2 for \$5.00		
Food Club Heavy Whipping Cream 16 oz.	\$3.39		

Oklahoma History: Russ Bates and Native Representation in Sci-Fi



Courtesy Ray & Martha's Funeral Home

Russell Bates's headshot. Bates used this photo throughout the years while working in Hollywood and as a science fiction writer. This photo would later be used for his obituary.



Courtesy Paramount+

The title card for "How Sharper than a Serpent's Tooth," an episode of Star Trek: The Animated Series (Production Number S2E5). Bates was listed at head writer and would win a Daytime Emmy in 1975.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Russell "Russ" Louis Bates, born June 6, 1941, in Lawton, Oklahoma, grew up in a Kiowa family that valued storytelling. Bates went on to make his mark in television history as the writer of one of Star Trek: The Animated Series' most iconic episodes, bringing a fresh voice to a genre that had rarely seen Native American representation.

Oklahoma has always had a rich and complex Native history, which laid the foundation for his later work. Growing up, he was surrounded by the oral traditions of the Kiowa people, but he also developed a love for modern entertainment. A lover of comic books, radio shows, and movies, Bates began to think about how stories could evolve from the traditional to the futuristic.

In the early 1970s, Bates got a chance to write for Star Trek: The Animated Series. Alongside fellow writer David Wise, Bates co-wrote the episode "How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth," which aired in 1974. The story followed the crew of the Enterprise as they encountered a mysterious alien being resembling Kukulcan, a god from Mesoamerican mythology. The episode featured Ensign Walking Bear, a Native American character whose cultural knowledge was central to solving the episode's mystery.

This episode was groundbreaking for its time. Native American characters were rarely shown on television, and not in that capacity. Bates changed that. He wrote Walking Bear as a modern character, fully integrated into the world of Star Trek, who used his cultural heritage to contribute to the crew's success. It wasn't just representation for the sake of diversity—it was a respectful portrayal that allowed Native culture to exist in a futuristic context.

The blend of Indigenous mythology and science fiction wasn't quite new in Star Trek, there had been Native Americans in Star Trek: The Original Series before, but this time, the character was written from experience. Bates showed that these ancient stories had a place in the modern world, even in a show set in space.

The significance of the episode didn't go unnoticed. "How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth" won a Daytime Emmy Award in 1975 for Outstanding Children's Program. It wasn't just a win for Bates personally, but a milestone for Star Trek and science fiction. It was the only Emmy won by either of the original Star Trek series. The episode demonstrated that science fiction could tackle diverse cultural perspectives in a way that was both educational and entertaining. For Bates, it was validation that Native stories could not only be told in a modern medium but could thrive in it.

The kindlings of the story came from a period of recovery Bates dealt with while in a hospital during his service with the U.S. Air Force. The first iteration landed him a spot in a minorities Writer's Guild program and a sign on to write for the animated series. Like many writers, his first series script was rejected, but it had solid pieces like the creation of the American Indian crew member Walking Bear. Walking Bear became the focus and catalyst for the now famous second script.

Though Bates didn't write many more episodes for Star Trek, the impact of his work endured. His contribution helped push the boundaries of what science fiction could do. It opened the door for more diverse voices and showed that stories rooted in Indigenous culture could resonate with mainstream audiences.

Bates spent a brief moment in the visual entertainment business, writing for an episode of Isis and appearing in a couple movies. He revisited Star Trek as an extra in the Star Trek special, The Star Trek Logs: An MTV Big Picture Special Edition. to write throughout his life, remaining passionate about bringing Native American stories into contemporary storytelling and mentoring younger Native writers, encouraging them to pursue their own paths in media.

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Twenty SWOSU Students Awarded \$1,000 Scholarships for Family Day



Twenty Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) students each won a \$1,000 scholarship on Saturday, September 28, 2024, during Family Day activities on the Weatherford campus.

From September 27-28, parents, family and friends of our students were invited to this yearly event featuring live music, free food, open houses, campus tours, lab demonstrations, and tailgating. Families also got to attend SWOSU's game against Southern Nazarene.

Area businesses and the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. worked together to furnish the \$20,000 scholarship giveaway. Students and their families registered for the scholarship drawing throughout the day at participating local Weatherford merchants.

SWOSU is deeply grateful to all participating merchants for helping make the Family Day scholarships drawing possible.

For more information about SWOSU Family Day, please contact the SWOSU Office of Institutional Advancement at 580-774-3267 or e-mail alumni@swosu.edu.

Family Day 2024 Recipients

Hannah Badgett.....	Et Cetera Shop
Holly Bockelman.....	Pecina's Mexican Cafe
Brody Cromes.....	MidFirst Bank
Ethan Combs.....	Uptown MarketPlace
Gracie Durland.....	CJ's Southwest Tire
Jevon Fanner.....	AT&T
Isabella Franco.....	Caulkins Conoco
Kaylee Hall.....	Cummins Ford Lincoln
Jackie Horne.....	More Than Medicine
Leslie Howard.....	Tautfest Home Design Center
Renee Javorsky.....	SWOSU
Jonna Kelley.....	ASAP General Store
Brooklyn Morris.....	Eagle Pharmacy
Makinlee Parker.....	The Aquarium Pet Store
Anna Shaw.....	Nabors Shoe Center
Aaron Taylor.....	ASAP General Store
Adrianna Teel.....	The Daisy Lou Boutique
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SWOSU Bulldogs Bested by Division II's Defending National Champs



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Football fell 57-3 to No. 1-ranked and defending national champion Harding on Saturday afternoon.

Harding, sporting the top offense and defense in Division II, totaled 523 yards and limited SWOSU to just 95 in the game.

Additionally, Harding rushed for 393 yards and added another 130 through the air over the span of six attempts.

The Bisons (5-0) jumped out to a big lead in the first quarter with 19 unanswered points including a blocked punt return and a 53-yard pass.

Following another Harding score to make it 26-0, SWOSU responded with a 10-play drive capped off by a 24-yard field goal for the lone points of the day. Rushes by Kai Kunz of 21 and 8 yards put the Dawgs in field goal position, before Ethan McBee eventually knocked home his fifth field goal of the season.

By halftime, Harding had extended its lead to 36-3 after connecting on a 28-yard field goal as time expired. In the second half, they put up 21 unanswered points to secure the 57-3 victory.

Kunz led the team with 60 rushing yards on 12 attempts, including that 21-yard scamper on the scoring drive. Through the air, Kunz completed 7 of 15 passes for 22 yards.

Defensively, Logan Monroe paced the Bulldogs with 10 tackles, including 1.5 tackles for loss and a sack – the first sack Harding has allowed this season. Keshawn Jackson added eight tackles, while Cadynce Hall chipped in nine tackles.

SWOSU's fourth quarter fumble recovery extended their streak of at least one opponent turnover in every game this season. It was however, the first time in 2024 they did not force their opponent into at least three.

The Bulldogs will look to bounce back next week as they travel to face Arkansas Tech. Kickoff is scheduled for 4:00 PM on Saturday, October 12 in Russellville, Arkansas.



Courtesy Kelley Schmidt

The Weatherford Lady Eagles Softball team was crowned 4A Regional Champions, facing off against three different teams on October 3 - 4.

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CLINTON RED TORNADOES	vs. Bridge Creek	W 49-8
SAYRE EAGLES	@ Crescent	W 38-30
THOMAS TERRIERS	vs. Cordell	W 57-0
WATONGA EAGLES	vs. Cashion	L 26-42
SWOSU BULLDOGS	vs. Harding	L 57-3

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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