

Weatherford’s Rt. 66 “Birthday Bash” Returns Friday, August 22



Bobby Marsee / Local Artist

The Weatherford Astronaut Statue (pictured, right) was officially set up in downtown Weatherford earlier this month on Monday, August 4th. The statue’s ribbon cutting ceremony has been rescheduled to August 22nd at 11am.

Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

The Mother Road is turning 99 years old and the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce is throwing an “Out of This World” Birthday Bash at Centennial Park on the corner of Main and Broadway to celebrate. The event is slated for August 22, from 6pm - 8pm, and will feature live entertainment, bouncy houses, face painting, a photo booth, and free birthday cake.

The proper festivities will be preceded by an 11am ribbon cutting ceremony for the long-awaited Astronaut statue. Oklahoma’s Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnel, a longtime enthusiast for the statue’s unveiling, will also be in attendance.

The festivities will start at 6pm, featuring live music from Thomas, OK, native Jaxen Mannering and his band, the Road Dawgs.

The fourth annual Ice Cream Contest, which returns as a fan favorite, will feature many contestants and their homemade ice cream creations. Register now by visiting the Weatherford Chamber’s office at 210 W Main Street. Registration will also be accepted on the day of the event.

As usual, the contest is broken into two categories: one for individuals and for-profit organizations; another for non-profit organizations. Winners in both categories will be awarded prizes, with the non-profit being awarded \$1,000 worth of advertising with Wright Media.

Interested guests can pay \$10 for a wristband that will allow them to taste test every ice cream at the event as well as give them a chance to vote for the competition’s winners.

In addition to the contests and live music, several local vendors and food trucks will be in attendance for folks looking to see what these skilled locals have to offer.

“We’ve got a lot of businesses behind us, so this will be a great time to hang out,” expressed Kim Silman, Executive Director of the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, call the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce at 580-772- 7744. Additionally you can find them on Facebook for updates on this event and many others by searching “Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce.”



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Mary Thacker

Mary Alice Thacker was born January 3, 1934, in Corn, to Jacob and Esther (Krewall) Koop and passed away Monday, August 11, 2025, in Weatherford, Oklahoma.



Mary was raised in Corn and graduated from Corn High School. She married Tommie Joe Thacker and settled in Weatherford, where they raised their two sons.

Mary was a homemaker and worked as a hairdresser for many years. She enjoyed going to flea markets to search for antiques, baking and spending time with her grandchildren, family, friends and her brother, Joe. She attended Trinity Baptist Church where she liked visiting with her friends.

Mary is survived by her son, Thomas Maverick and wife, Karen; daughter-in-law, Belinda Thacker; three sisters, Nancy Reynolds, Betty Wright and Flonnie Kitchens; four grandchildren, Amber Thacker-Jackson and husband, Chris, Angela Thacker, Austin Thacker and Jordan Thacker; four great-grandchildren, Kade Chinn, Hannah Chinn, Macy Bennett and Isabella Meats.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Bradley Thacker; and two brothers, Harold and Joe Koop.

Mary Thacker will be laid to rest in a private graveside service at Greenwood Cemetery.

Brandi Kaiser

Brandi Kay (Gresham) Kaiser was born January 14, 1983, to Paul LeRoy and Jamie Lee (Erickson) Gresham in Naples, Italy. She passed away on Sunday, August 10, 2025, at her home in Calumet, Oklahoma, at the age of 42.



Brandi graduated from Olympia High School in Stanford, Illinois, and spent several years in Illinois where she operated a restaurant and bar for seven years.

In 2013, she married Jeff Kaiser and they moved to Oklahoma, where she worked as an office manager and later served as the Director of the Hinton Chamber of Commerce. In 2019 she lovingly adopted his two children, Kaylee and Landon. She also welcomed Ciera McBroom into her life as a daughter.

Brandi volunteered for CASA where she devoted herself to helping children and families – a cause close to her heart.

She was also a devoted member of Faith Church, actively participating in small groups and the Women's Support Circle, and played an instrumental role in the growth of the church.

Above all, she cherished her role as a mother and the time she spent with her children, nieces, nephews and family.

Brandi is survived by her children, Kaylee and Landon Kaiser, both of Hinton; her parents, Jamie Gresham of Hinton and Paul Gresham of Minier, Illinois; grandmother, Othia Erickson of Hinton; sisters, Brooke Hoehner and husband Andrew of Hinton, and Brittany Gresham and Bryan Darnall of Minier, Illinois; nieces and nephews, Ryett, Havek, Brilee, and Bryxton;

She is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, other relatives, and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her step-dad, Vince Boyle and grandparents, Bob Erickson, Bud Gresham, and Mary Lou and Jim Freitag.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Hinton Community Health Benefit, a non-profit health fund organization, in Hinton, Oklahoma.

Bob Sharp

Robert Lyman "Bob" Sharp, 88, of Elk City, OK was born on April 30, 1937, in Elk City to Walter Everet "Buster" and Ethel Mae (Hunter) Sharp. Bob looked upon the face of his Lord and Savior on Sunday, July 27, 2025, at his residence



Bob married the love of his life, Charlene Ann Blackmon on August 30, 1985, in Elk City, OK. Together they spent many wonderful years of marriage together and raised five children: David, Elizabeth, Melissa, Benjamin and Amy.

Bob was the owner and operator of White Western Auto in Elk City. He attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, where he obtained a Business Degree and proudly joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) during college. He also served his country in the Marine Reserves for eight years. Bob was a financial adviser at Edward Jones and retired from Morgan Stanley.

Bob enjoyed snow skiing and going on family cruises. He was an avid domino player, and liked playing shanghai rummy and watching the history channel. Bob excelled at smoking ribs and grilling at family outings.

Bob was a member of Kiwanis Club, the Masonic Lodge, and Shriners where he received his fifty year pin. He had a deep personal relationship with God and was a member of the Elk City United Methodist Church. He loved teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, and was a staunch supporter of Men for Ministry. Bob will be deeply missed and greatly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Bob is survived by his loving wife Charlene Sharp of Elk City, OK; two sons: David Bradley Dominiak and wife Mary of Elk City, OK; and Benjamin Robert Sharp of Austin, TX; three daughters: Elizabeth Ann Vranas and husband Ron of Henrico, Virginia; Melissa Ann Furth of Frisco, TX; Amy Nichole Smith and husband Paul of Cross Roads, TX; one brother Jerry Sharp and wife Linda of Georgetown, TX; one sister, Kay Payan and husband Mikey of Monterey, California. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his son, Robert "Rob" James Hollrah; and his parents, Walter Everett "Buster" and Ethel Mae Sharp,

Memorials can be made to the Tunnel to Towers, or the Wounded Warriors Project in care of Martin-Dugger Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 707, Elk City, OK 73648.

Barbara Constien

Barbara Jo Elkins Constien was born on April 27, 1934, at the Lawton Indian Hospital to Palestine Elkins and Dallas Sullivan.



She was lovingly raised by her grandmother, Fannie Elkins, and around 1940 moved to Binger, Oklahoma. There, she formed a lifelong friendship with Lafon Kniffin Rider and graduated with the Binger High School Class of 1953. Barbara was a proud member of the Caddo Nation and served as a Caddo Nation Elder.

Barbara met the love of her life, Leonard Constien, while playing in a basketball tournament. Her children recently discovered a treasured letter from Leonard asking her on their very first date. The two were married on August 2, 1953, at St. John Lutheran Church in Hinton, Oklahoma. Together, they farmed east of Hinton for 16 years before moving to Davis, Oklahoma, for Leonard's work at Hollytex/Sequoyah Carpet Mills. After two years, they settled in Anadarko.

In 1987, Barbara and Leonard opened Trophies N Things, where they worked side-by-side for nearly 30 years, serving the community until 2016. Barbara remained in Anadarko until her health needs brought her to Maple Lawn Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Hydro, where she passed peacefully on August 12, 2025, with family at her side. Barbara was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband Leonard; daughter Sherry East; grandmother Fannie Elkins; mother Palestine Williams; brothers- and sisters-in-law LaVerna & Kenneth Ramming, Marvin & Margie Constien, Arvella & Leslie Calder, and Verlene Ayers.

She is survived by her sons Curtis (Peggy) Constien of Hinton and Dennis (Rhonda) Constien of Mounds, Oklahoma; seven grandchildren: Cari (Garrett) Morelock of Piedmont, Clayton (Rachael) Constien of Cypress, Texas, Nora Lee (Jeremy) Evans of Edmond, Erica (Josh) Still of Stillwater, Leslie Jo (Parker) Coons of Bixby, Joshua East of Grenora, North Dakota, and Joel Boyiddle; fifteen great-grandchildren: Baxter Evans, Rowan Evans, Kenedi Morelock, Brady Morelock, Lexi Ann Morelock, Cooper Constien, Carson Constien, Sydney Molz, Cheyenne East and Gracie East, Mason Still, Claire Still, Sloane Coons, Blaire Coons, and Antonio Boyiddle; and five great-great-grandchildren. Additional survivors include her brothers Jesse (Sue) Mullens and Robert R. Williams, sister Donna Williams, and brother-in-law Larry Constien, as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

She also leaves behind her beloved canine companion of eight years Buddy who she loved very much and cared for as long as she was able. As well as a host of nieces, nephews, and cherished friends, especially close friends Lafon Rider, Mike & Gayle Dyer, and Pat Bolding.

Barbara was a confirmed member of St. John Lutheran Church, where she served as church secretary and taught Sunday School for many years. She attended faithfully as long as her health allowed. For many years, she was a popular and sought after judge at local and county fairs and an active participant in Extension Homemakers meetings, frequently taking Cari with her when she was a little girl. Known for her warm hospitality, she loved welcoming guests, playing games—especially Wahoo and Trash—with her great-grandchildren, and earned the nickname Super Grandma while playing superheroes with Brady and Lexi. Barbara enjoyed visits from her family and especially loved watching her great grandchildren growing to soon be as tall as Leonard!

One of Barbara's fondest memories was watching Curtis and Dennis play basketball and win the 1975 Class 2A State Basketball Championship for Anadarko. She was a hostess to the end and felt like she needed to take care of anyone who came to visit her.

Barbara's life was full of service and dedication—whether as a farm wife, mother, grandmother, boy and girl scout leader, 4-H volunteer coordinator, member of the Caddo County OSU Extension Homemakers program, or as the friendly, familiar owner and face of Trophies N' Things in Anadarko for 30 years.

She will be remembered as the face of the Methodist Church Day Care for many years and has built countless friendships across Anadarko and the surrounding communities and was deeply loved in return.

The family would like to express extra love and appreciation to Mike and Gayle Dyer, neighbors and dear friends for over 40 years, who were so good to visit, help in many ways, and watch out for her on a daily basis. She loved them very much.

Her family also wish to thank Russell Murray Hospice and Maple Lawn Rehabilitation & Nursing Center for the love, care, and attention they showed her.

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H: 93° L: 70°
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Sunny

H: 95° L: 67°
Thursday

Sunny

H: 95° L: 66°
Friday

Mostly Sunny

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SWOSU Men’s Basketball Welcomes Four New Additions to the Team for 2025-2026 Season



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

S W O S U M e n ' s Basketball has announced four new signings who have joined the team for the 2025-26 season.

The Bulldogs finished 15-13 overall last year and 12-10 in Great American Conference play, qualifying for the postseason tournament for a second straight season in head coach Brett Weiberg's second year at the helm.

The four incoming Bulldogs will join 10 returners to round out the 14-man roster. Three of the four signees hail from inside the state of Oklahoma.

“I am pleased with our 2025 recruiting class,” said Weiberg. “I really like that our class consists of two transfers and two high school players. With ten returning and the addition of these four young men, we have strengthened our interior while also adding depth to the perimeter.”

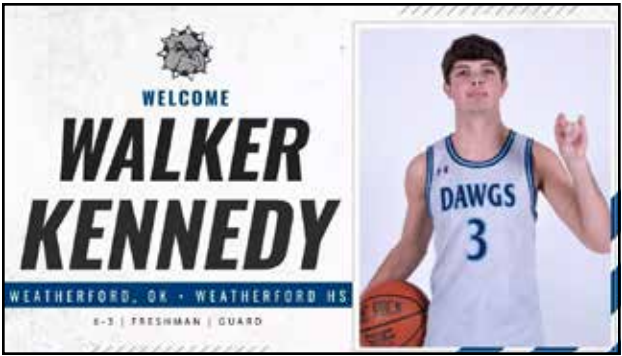


Kayden Carter - Norman, OK (Western Illinois)
6'7 | Senior | Forward

Kayden is a strong, versatile, and multifaceted forward. He can score the ball facing the basket and by simply posting up. He is very good using both hands around the basket. He is an outstanding rebounder of the basketball and a good passer as well. Most importantly, he is a good teammate that competes, cares about winning, and understands the importance of relationships and community.

Ty Frierson - Tulsa, OK (Connors State)
5'11 | Junior | Guard

Ty is an explosive guard that can really get on a roll and score the basketball. He has the ability to guard the ball as well as run a team or play off the ball. He was coached by Hall of Fame coach Bill Muse at Connors State and also won a high school state championship for one of the most storied high school programs in the state at Tulsa Memorial. I look forward to working with Ty.



Walker Kennedy - Weatherford, OK
6'3 | Freshman | Guard

"Walker is going to surprise people. He can really get to the paint and has excellent finishing shots around the basket. Walker is a good three point shooter and a tough kid, and most importantly Walker is a winner. He was a huge part of a state championship team and has been coached by a very good coach in Derrick Bull. Walker is a good person and will be an outstanding teammate."

Landon Harris - Woodlands, TX
6'8 | Freshman | Forward

“Walker is going to surprise people. He can really get to the paint and has excellent finishing shots around the basket. Walker is a good three point shooter and a tough kid, and most importantly Walker is a winner. He was a huge part of a state championship team and has been coached by a very good coach in Derrick Bull. Walker is a good person and will be an outstanding teammate.”



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GROUND

Suffering

Jim Morrison

When I was a kid, one of my heroes was, The Durango Kid. Dressed in black, he would ride out of the hills on a beautiful white stallion ready to conquer the forces of evil. Somehow, the bad guys always got their dues and justice prevailed.

As I grew older I found that not to be so. I was a lot better kid than that self-centered, no-good classmate, but he always got the attention of the cute girls, while they never gave me a second look. It wasn’t fair! As my world expanded, new heroes arrested my attention. Usually they prevailed not because they brought justice into the world but because of the life they lived in spite of the injustices they suffered.

One of my present-day heroes is Joni Eareckson Tada. After a tragic diving accident left her a quadriplegic at age seventeen, she recovered from the initial shock, worked through a period of despair and came forth as a radiant example of the power of God to transform even the darkest of circumstances into a powerful force to advance the Kingdom.

Today, Joni is known world-wide as an advocate for the disabled. Working through her ministry called Joni and Friends, she has brought hope and new life to hundreds of thousands who had felt nobody cared; resigning themselves to a second-class existence of despair and hopelessness.

About ten years ago, Joni, who has been likened to a modern-day Job, was assaulted with chronic pain with which she lives today. As if that were not enough, recently she was diagnosed with breast cancer. In an interview with the editors of Christianity Today, she was asked if her perspective on suffering and healing had changed since her diagnosis of breast cancer. She replied, “No, I have examined the Scripture passages I looked at with my quadriplegia and God’s words do not change.” She cited I Peter 2:21: “To these hardships you were called because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.” She said, “Those steps most often lead Christians not to miraculous, divine interventions but directly into the fellowship of suffering. In a way, I’ve been drawn closer to the Savior, even with this breast cancer.” She also mentioned that many associated with her cancer--from secretaries and clinicians to doctors and nurse, have been given the opportunity to display their hunger and thirst for Christ.

She is praying not so much for healing, but for the advancement of the gospel through her suffering. She stresses the importance of focusing on living while we pray for healing. She added, “None of us, in our culture of comfort, know how to prepare ourselves for dying. We go through the valley of the shadow of death every time we say no to our selfish desires. When we say yes to the grace of God, we are learning how to die.” She does not deny God’s interest in the physical body but in her words, “In God’s priority, the health of the soul trumps the health of the body every time.” She stated, “I’m less interested in the physical and more interested in healing in my heart. Pray that I get rid of my lazy attitude about God’s Word and prayer, of brute pride—set me free from self-centeredness. These are more important because Jesus thought they were more important.

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VOTE SEPTEMBER 9TH

Mike Smith
News Director

Voters in the Arapaho-Butler school district will decide September 9th on a proposed \$5.475 million bond to construct a new agriculture education building. On Wednesday, August 27th, a community meeting will be held at the school gym to discuss the proposal in more detail.

The new Ag building will feature:

- Entrance Lobby
- Two classrooms
- Agriculture Lab
- Shop Workspace
- Restroom Area
- Storage / Janitor's Closet

Superintendent Jay Edelen outlined the details of the proposed facility, with its estimated size being a focal point. "The [size] of the entire facility is just a touch under 8,000 square feet (sqft), with the shop itself [comprising] 3,000 sqft of that," Edelen explained. "It also includes 35,000 sqft of asphalt paving in and around the building, which is going to double as a parking lot for our elementary school, and then about 10,000 sqft of gravel paving."

Currently, focus on the project has shifted to discussing the facility's interiors. This includes "upgrading some of the [technology] in the classrooms," as Edelen described it. This includes new welders for the shop.

For more information, please contact Jay Edelen at jedelen@arapaho.k12.ok.us or 580-323-3262.

WEATHERFORD / SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

Weatherford Public Schools are working to address some maintenance concerns at Stafford Elementary School. Superintendent Mark Harmon recently told the Board of Education that roof leaks have been reported at the school. "[Stafford Elementary] is a relatively new building, so it's been a little bit frustrating to have some leaks over there, expressed Harmon. "But I've been in contact with some roofers and they're going to see if they can fix it." Along with repairing the roof, Harmon says the district will also be doing work on the FFA greenhouse.

CORDELL / SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Cordell Public Schools Superintendent Sam Belcher recently told the Board of Education that elementary student enrollment for 2025 is down from 2024 by twelve students. "We have 338 students in the elementary, but we were at 350 last year at this time to start the year," outlined Belcher. "This is mainly because our Pre-K enrollment is only at 22. Hopefully, that [number] will pick up when some of those kids will come to school next year when [they reach] Kindergarten." Meanwhile, Cordell's junior high and high school class sizes have increased by 10 students, from 245 to 255 7th-12th grade students. Belcher expressed that the Cordell school district will begin keeping track of enrollment numbers as the year gets underway.

CLINTON / CRH PAYMENT

At the request of the Clinton Hospital Authority, the Clinton city council has approved \$200,000 for Clinton Regional Hospital to meet payroll and other expenses. Board Chairman Ken Baker stated the hospital is still operating at a deficit over more than \$300,000. "Our cash burn was \$750,000 a month for the last several months," said Baker. "Hopefully, we can do better than that for this month." Baker added that the authority is working on an application for a rural emergency hospital designation, which aims to enhance access to emergency and outpatient services in rural areas facing healthcare challenges. It allows facilities to provide emergency outpatient services but cannot provide inpatient services.

CANUTE / BOND ELECTION

Voters in the Canute school district recently gave overwhelming support to two bond propositions. Proposition 1 received 71.5% support, which includes: upgrades to the Ag barn; installation of turf on the playground; and the purchase of two suburban vehicles. Proposition 2 received just under 70%, which proposed the purchase of two activity buses and a minibus for activities support. Superintendent Jamey Cook said that no tax increase is projected following the propositions' passage.

SWOSU / ASAP PARTNERSHIP

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) and ASAP Energy have launched a new philanthropic partnership that will provide valuable financial assistance to the students, faculty, and programs. ASAP Energy owner Rick Koch also shared how this may provide opportunities for other businesses in western Oklahoma. "When we agreed [to be] official partners, it was not to be the only [ones]. Rather, we aim] to be the first of many," Koch explained. "That's my plug for other people; this opportunity is there for lots of folks." The new multi-year cooperative effort will see an investment of over \$200,000 in charitable support over the next four years in a wide variety of areas including but not limited to SWOSU convocation, homecoming, rodeo, and the all-sports banquet. "Weatherford wouldn't be Weatherford without SWOSU, and we all know that," Koch expressed. "If you stop and... see how much SWOSU benefits all of us, whether it be Weatherford, Custer County, or western Oklahoma, [you'll see] it's worth reinvesting your money into."

CLINTON/ APPRENTICE SCHOLARSHIP

Clinton Public Schools has partnered with Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (CareerTech) to grow the teaching workforce. Six Clinton school employees have been chosen for the teaching to teach apprentice scholarship program, which helps staff earn their teaching credentials while working in the classroom. The program can cover up to \$10,000 a semester in tuition and expenses.

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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 Aug. 20 - Karen Elkins, Kodi Kingler, James Kriby, Billy Smith, Kyle Sutton; **Aug. 21** - Dwayne Britton, Korbyn Grace Smith, Kaitlin Keuhne, Mark McAtee, Carol WhiteSkunk, Carri Womack, Patrick Wright; **Aug. 22** - Greg Butler, Chad Nye, Kennda Varnell; **Aug. 23** - Cody Bell, Allen Boyd, Jean Cain, Anne Flood, Darryl Green, Donna Jones, Pat Vawter, Jeremy Washa; **Aug. 24** - Kailin Brodrick, Mackina Dobrinski, Hershel Howes, Bill Leppke, Paige Lindley, Korrina Olguin, Sandi Rhoads, Debbie Shaw, Corbin Sims, Tyler Steinly; **Aug. 25** - Dustin Britton, Preston BRitton, Mickael Carlisle, Randon Folsom, Barbara Griffin, Terry Igo, Desirae Lindsey, Rebecca Manney, Laurel Nowlin, Heather Parsons, Pasiley Payne, Mart Tisdal, Sheryl Troxel, Karessa Wallace; **Aug. 26** - Kelsey Baker, Sue Blagg, Julie Caldwell, Bailey Coronado, Kletta Garrison, Melinda Henson, Amanda Isch-Benton, Mitch King, Carol Lin, Coleen Mannering, Sharla Sharry, Larry Williams.

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Provided

A shot of the Hydro Fair from the Ferris Wheel. The Hydro Free Fair ran from Thursday night to Saturday night this past weekend bringing thousands of people to the Hydro Fairgrounds over the weekend.



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High above the Hydro Free Fair before Midway opened for the evening, organizers for the fair can be seen preparing for a night filled with fun games and rides.

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“Run For Hope” to Help Addicts and Families



Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Hope can seem to be a luxury when a loved one is battling with addiction, but an organization in Western Oklahoma is here to support and guide families through troubling times. “Hope Is Alive,” a non-profit organization who’s mission is to “radically change the lives of drug addicts, alcoholics, and those that love them.” has scheduled their fifth annual ‘Run For Hope’ in Weatherford for Saturday, September 6th to raise funds for Finding Hope and Hope After Loss, a ministry of free support groups that seeks to counsel the families of drug and alcohol addicts.

Run For Hope will feature a 5k run/walk and a 1 Mile run/walk to “remember, honor, and celebrate those who lost their lives to addiction.” The 5k run/walk will begin at 9am and the 1 mile run/walk will begin at 9:30am with registrations fees for races being \$35 and \$20, respectively. Runners are encouraged to show up early to make sure they’re registered and signed up for the race. There will also be kid friendly entertainment including various inflatable attractions as well as a face-painting booth and an assortment of local food trucks.

“We usually call it the Sobriety Sprint and we’ve kind of transitioned,” said Jacy Burrows, the Community Outreach Coordinator for Hope Is Alive in Weatherford.

The founder, Lance Lang, noticed that the families of drug and alcohol addicts were hurting as much as the addicts themselves. Hope Is Alive sought to address this issue by offering free support groups in several communities across the United States. And so, Finding Hope was born.

“We’ve seen a very big inflow in Finding Hope and the need for it, and so the funds we raised for this race...will go support those groups,” expressed Burrows.

In Western Oklahoma, Finding Hope has groups that meet regularly in Weatherford as well as Elk City. In Weatherford the group meets the first and third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm at the First Baptist Church. In Elk City the group meets the second and fourth Monday of every month at 6:30pm at the First Baptist Church.

“Mothers, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, cousins... Whoever is struggling with a loved one in addiction, they come to an environment of people that get what is going on and understand how hard it is to love an addict,” said Burrows.

For more information about Run For Hope or to register for a race you can visit RunforHopeRace.Com. For more information about Hope is Alive, Finding Hope, or Hope After Loss you can visit www.hopeisalive.net. Alternatively, you can contact Jacy Burrows by emailing jacy@hopeisalive.net .

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Run For Hope is where we remember, honor, and celebrate those who have lost their lives to addiction. We currently have over 800 members across the United States who attend these free support groups to seek hope and healing as they navigate loving someone with addiction, as well as find strength through their grief of losing a loved one. This year’s run will be family focused with a 1-mile walk/run, inflatables, food trucks, and more. This will be an event you and your family won’t want to miss!

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SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame Has Officially Inducted Class of 2025



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Athletics formally inducted Meghan (Browning) Harms, Ida (Hoffman) Martin, and Shane Martin into the SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame as the Class of 2025. The event took place Friday evening, August 8, in the Skyview Suite of the Pioneer Event Center.

Ida Martin (2001-04) became the first representative from the softball program in the SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame, while Shane Martin (2010-13) became the 18th from baseball and Megan Harms (2006-09) was the seventh to enter as a contributor.

123 total athletes, coaches, and contributors have now been inducted into the SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame. 2025 marks the 34th time friends, family, and supporters have gathered to induct Bulldogs into the school's athletic hall of fame, dating back to 1963 when the first such event took place. Annual inductions began occurring in 2003 with two exceptions – in 2018, and again in 2020 due to COVID.

A complete archive of SWOSU Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees can be found online by visiting swosu.touchpros.com

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