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BOXHOLDER

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Annual Cordell Pumpkin Festival & Car Show Returns October 11th



38TH ANNUAL CORDELL
Pumpkin
FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 11TH, 2025
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
CORDELL SQUARE
WWW.THECORDELLCHAMBER.COM

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The 38th annual Cordell Pumpkin Festival is rolling into town on October 11th, from 9 AM to 3 PM, and it's just as pumpkin-packed as ever! For nearly four 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 a 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. 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 38 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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H: 87° L: 64°
Wednesday

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H: 89° L: 64°
Thursday

Sunny

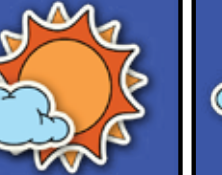
H: 90° L: 65°
Friday

Sunny

H: 88° L: 66°
Saturday

Partly Cloudy

H: 87° L: 65°
Sunday

Mostly Sunny

H: 86° L: 62°
Monday

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H: 80° L: 61°
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\$750,000 Walmart and Feeding America Grant to Help Expand RFBO’s Network Capacity



Jarrold Ferguson / Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
A \$750,000 Retail Capacity Grant from Walmart and Feeding America has allowed the Regional Food Bank to purchase five refrigerated box trucks for its partners.

Audrey Johnson
RFBO Marketing Specialist

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma has been awarded a \$750,000 Retail Capacity Grant from Walmart and Feeding America. This vital funding will directly help the organization bring more food to Oklahomans living with hunger. As one of only 13 food banks nationwide selected for this funding, the Regional Food Bank has purchased five box trucks and trailers for network partners across central and western Oklahoma, to ensure more food can be distributed quickly and efficiently.

Those box truck recipients are:

- Lawton Food Bank
- Help Inc. Food & Resource Center
- Atoka Coal Food Storehouse
- Loaves and Fishes

“Through the generous support of Walmart and Feeding America, this grant gives our network powerful new tools to fight hunger in Oklahoma,” said Stacy Dykstra, CEO of the Regional Food Bank. “With new trucks on the road and more support in our partner pantries, we are ensuring food reaches the tables of families that need it most.”

Oklahoma is consistently one of the hungriest states in the nation. With Walmart and Feeding America’s support, the Regional Food Bank will be able to provide thousands more meals to neighbors facing food insecurity. This grant is part of the Regional Food Bank’s Retail Recovery Program, started in 2009. Over the last fiscal year, the Regional Food Bank’s agency partners picked up the most pounds ever from the program, a total of 17.1 million pounds, which is equivalent to 14.3 million meals. To join the fight to end hunger, visit rfbo.org/.

The grant also supports these 18 partner food pantries across the state, supplying new freezers, equipment and funds for staff members:

Christians Concerned

Lawton Food Bank Food & Resource Center

Manna Pantry

Salvation Army of Chickasha

Help Inc. Food & Resource Center

Cleveland Area Food Pantry

Atoka Coal Food Storehouse

New Emergency Resource Agency

Hands of Jesus Inc.

Loaves and Fishes

The Hope Center

Regency Park Baptist Church

Other Options Inc.

Tulakes Food Center

Skyline Food & Resource Center

Loaves and Fishes Cupboard

Community Market of Pottawatomie County

Food & Resource Center

Reaching Our City

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is leading the fight against hunger in 53 counties in central and western Oklahoma and envisions a state where no one goes hungry. Founded in 1980, the Regional Food Bank is the state’s largest domestic hunger-relief 501(c)(3) nonprofit that distributes food through a network of community-based partner agencies and schools. The majority of people served by the Regional Food Bank are chronically hungry children, seniors living on fixed incomes and hardworking families struggling to make ends meet. The Regional Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the nation’s network of food banks.

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HIGHER GROUND

Do You Want to Be Good or Great?


Jim Morrison

I’ve yet to hear a mom or dad say, “I want to be a mediocre parent, “or, a wife to say, “I want a mediocre marriage and mediocre kids.” We want to be a great parent and have a great marriage. But, somehow in our society it sounds too pious or spiritual to declare, “I want to be a great Christian.”

Certainly, it can be a prideful statement if your goal is to be seen as great in the eyes of man. But in Luke 22, when the disciples were arguing as to which was the greatest, Jesus didn’t rebuke them for that, he just gave them a new measuring rod for greatness--being a servant.

I confess, I’ve been reading Chip Ingram’s book, From Good to Great in God’s Eyes.” The subtitle is Ten Practices Great Christians Have in Common. It has been challenging and convicting, as I have recognized areas in my own life where I’ve decided it wasn’t worth the effort to do quality work and have settled for a mediocre effort. I serve on the Library Committee at my church. I have been blessed, inspired, and encouraged by the writings of godly men and women whose lives have demonstrated an uncommon faith which has resulted in quality lives. After such reading my initial reaction often is, “Oh, if only (blank) could read this, or, this would be a great study for young couples or business men, etc.

I recently selected what I considered to be five of the best books on spiritual growth and living out a transformed life. As I looked at the check-out cards, I found that only one of the five had been checked out, and that by a high school student. One of the reasons I write this column is that I know there are many who would not read a book, but might just read one page. I often wonder, “where is the drive to excel in the Christian life?” When did knowing God in all his fullness and applying His principles in daily life become secondary or an unnecessary passion. Where is the hunger and thirst to live a crucified life?

About 20 years ago, a popular song included the phrase, “I don’t want to be, I don’t want to be a casual Christian.” That heart cry needs to be sounded again.

Wilbur Rees wrote a bit of prose that describes too many of us. Entitled, “\$3.00 Worth of God,” let me paraphrase it in today’s language. “I would like to buy \$3.00 worth of God, please, not enough to make me uncomfortable or disturb my sleep, but just enough to make me feel good and provide for my entrance into heaven. I don’t want enough of Him to make me give sacrificially of my time, effort, or money. I want an experience that doesn’t call for suffering. I want good fellowship that doesn’t cost me anything. I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.”

Prayer: Lord, just as Paul was compelled by love to die to himself and live a life of unparalleled passion, so let me remember that, “He died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.”

- II Cor. 5:15 Amen.

To comment: jhm82@outlook.com

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Tiphani Henderson
Elk City Arts Council

For the first time in 15 years, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band returns to Elk City, OK as part of the band's National Concert Tour, performing a free 7:30 pm concert on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at the Kelli O’Hara Center for Performing Arts.

“We are incredibly excited to continue the tradition of our national concert tour,” Marine Band Director said Lt. Col. Ryan Nowlin. “Musicians are more eager than ever to share their musical talents with audiences live and in-person on this year's tour.”

Nowlin has programmed musical selections in the style of the band’s 17th Director John Philip Sousa, who initiated the concert tour tradition in 1891. Concertgoers can expect a mix of works including traditional band repertoire, Sousa marches, contemporary compositions, vocal and instrumental solos and a patriotic salute to the Armed Forces.

“We have tremendously appreciative patrons who come to Marine Band concerts for all types of different experiences, so our programs are designed to include a great variety of music that mirrors the wonderful diversity in our national musical heritage,” Nowlin said.

Since Sousa was first granted permission to tour the country by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band has delivered a White House experience from Washington, D.C., to the far-reaching corners of our nation.

During the 30-day National Concert Tour, the Marine Band will perform 28 concerts in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. The Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Founded in 1798, the band has performed for every U.S. President since John Adams. Known as “The President’s Own” since the days of Thomas Jefferson, the Marine Band’s mission is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

This concert is part of the 2025 United States Marine Band Concert Tour and is sponsored by Elk City Council on the Arts and Kelli O’Hara Performing Arts Theatre. This event is hosted conjunction with the Elk City Chamber of Commerce and Elk City Convention & Visitors Bureau. These special concerts have been shared by generations of Americans.

The concert is free, but tickets are required. Free tickets are available starting September 18, 2025. Tickets are limited to 4 per request. Seating is general admission and ticket holders must be seated by 7:15 pm. Remaining seats will be released to the standby line at that time. Tickets valid until 7:15 p.m., with open seating available thereafter. Large bags and backpacks are not permitted.

For tickets and more information please visit www.elkcityartscouncil.org.

ELK CITY / CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Construction projects in Elk City are progressing on schedule, according to City Manager Tom Ivester. “The Main Street project continues to be on schedule. We’ve moved to the south two blocks of the project, and it’s due to be wrapped up by Thanksgiving, [which is] according to schedule,” explained Ivester. “We’ve got the new fire department and the police department remodel coming along. Those are scheduled to be done by the end of January.” Ivester noted that the airport terminal, hangar, and taxiway have been completed.

WASHITA CO / FATALITY - An Elk City man is dead following a recent semi accident on I-40 in Washita County. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says 60-year-old William Rosebrook died when his semi ran off the road, struck a cable barrier, and overturned on its side.

CLINTON / RABIES - Officials with the city of Clinton have reported two new positive cases of rabies that have been confirmed within the past 30 days. This brings the total to 3 confirmed cases so far this year. All three confirmed cases have involved skunks. Particular caution should be taken around raccoons, bats, foxes, and skunks, whether dead or alive. If you see wild or domestic animals displaying unusual behaviors such as illness, fearlessness, or aggression, you can call the Clinton Animal Control officer at 580-323-2323, option 0.

MOORE / WALTERS - State Representative Anthony Moore of Clinton recently shared his thought on the resignation of Ryan Walters as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Oklahoma. “Very shocking; obviously, not love lost there,” stated Moore. “I’m excited to hopefully get someone in there ...that's going to do a really good job, [so that] we can turn the page and move on to the next chapter.” Moore says Oklahoma needs a leader who can unify and make decisions in the best interest of Oklahoma children.

CLINTON / REH STATUS - The Chief Executive Officer of Clinton Regional Hospital revealed that the hospital has made it through the federal process of getting a Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) status. Lyn Lacefield explained what happens next once the state of Oklahoma gives its approval: “We will at that time be changed from a PPS acute care hospital like Elk City and Weatherford to a Rural Emergency Hospital like Hobart. From that point, we'll be assisted by the government for subsidy and be able to continue to grow the hospital and offer outpatient services just like we'd planned to do.” Lacefield added that the exact timeline for the transition is still up in the air.

WEATHERFORD PD / FATALITY - Weatherford police officials have confirmed that a man injured in a vehicle/bicycle accident has died. Police say the bicyclist, identified as 82-year-old Russell Camp died after being transferred to an Oklahoma City hospital on Monday, September 22.

Alcohol causing problems? Alcoholics Anonymous meets daily at 928 W. Main, Weatherford. Call (580) 819-0727 for more information.
Christian Free Store – Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK, Community Center** “Bible Study,” Every Monday Night from 7:00 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! October 1st - Emma Brown, Bill Bursosky, Lexi Hamilton, Myron Lustfield, Jerald Stelting, Tracy Watkins, Josephine Whiteskunk; **October 2nd** - Cody Barrera, Mandi Bozarth, Lyla Bridgeman, Doris Brittain, Gage Butcher, Jolena Elisondo, Megan Hanna, Jeanna Hines, Grant Lee, Karen Melton, Harold Miller, Rose Millsbaugh, Kenneth Teek, Barbara Walker; **October 3rd** - Lynn Broadbent, Leon Evans, Rodney LaGrange, Steve Millsbaugh, Jimmy idgeway, Dustin Rose, Jordan Stark, Kim Suter, Jeffery Thomas, Nell Walker, Linda Young; **October 4th** - Kennedy Aispuro, Sharon Beach, Kenli Brooks, Christy Freeman, Trevin Gilliam, Kortney Hawthorn, Vicki Isaak, Oliver Lackey, Ranae Martinez, Gavin Nailon, Ryan Sandlin; **October 5th** - Eric Hoffman, Candice Weems, Valerie Whiteneck, Carol Wichert; **October 6th** - Sierra Duncan, Miranda Cardenas, Cheryl Justice, Casey King, Ginger Manning, Lyle Miller, Dana Ratcliffe, Rick Reel, Doyle Warren, Kori White; **October 7th** - Kim Baldwin, Bradley Brittain, Virginia Caler, Destry Duke Christensen, Marlee Farrow, Roger Isaak, Karen Lanier, Ricky Leatherbury, Ruth Lee, Sandra Maddox, Evelyn Malheim, Sabrina Miller, Evelyn Mulherin, Koby Sutton, Colby Sutton, Brenda Webber, Quintin Westrick.

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30ft travel trailer - Great tires, clean title. One slide-out. \$400. 405-639-9667.

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300 Honda Trax 4x4 - Will trade. 405-639-9667.

2000 Infinity QX56 2012 - 165K miles. \$16,000 OBO. 405-638-1773.

2014 Ford Focus - \$6,500. 580-330-3489.

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

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

2009 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - \$3,750 OBO. 580-330-3489.

Dune Buggy Frame - Looking to Trade OBO. 405-639-9667.

Motorguide - Wireless W75 54" Freshwater Bow-Mount Trolling Motor. New in box. Comes with wireless foot pedal for steering. 918-415-4236.

Airplane Air Speed Indicator Can be used for a unique car speedometer. Call 580-772-7997.

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Adjustable Elder Walker - \$20. 580-613-0108.

New Brown Couch - Comes with 2 manual recliners. \$500 OBO. 580-772-3223.

Antique Lamp Table - \$50. Call 580-774-4000.

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97" Projection Television - \$750. Call 580-772-7997

Microfiber Love Seat - Brown, comes with console and drink holder. 580-330-0225.

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80s Riverside Rolltop Oak Desk \$300. 580-772-7357.

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Large Metal Birdcage - \$50. 5-6 ft tall. 580-613-0108

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Horseback Rides - Hayrides, cookouts, riding lessons, lunch/ dinner rides, and more! Like us on Facebook at "Old Caldwell Trail Stables." 2 mi. SE of Fay. 580-309-0135.

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Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes Approve Construction of Elk City Resort



Provided by Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal News and Politics

Pictured left: a promotional rendering of the finished building. Pictured right: an illustrated master plan layout and key for the center.

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Mike Smith
News Director

Officials with the Cheyenne & Arapaho tribes have shared news of an upcoming “family destination” coming to Elk City. The project was recently approved by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes governor, Reggie Wassana. The establishment will be located just west of Elk City’s Wal-Mart Supercenter, across I-40.

The center will cover nearly 450 acres of land, the Elk City project will feature a Lucky Star Casino & Hotel with gaming, dining and 100 guest rooms. Additionally, the project will feature a convention center, RV park, and travel plaza.

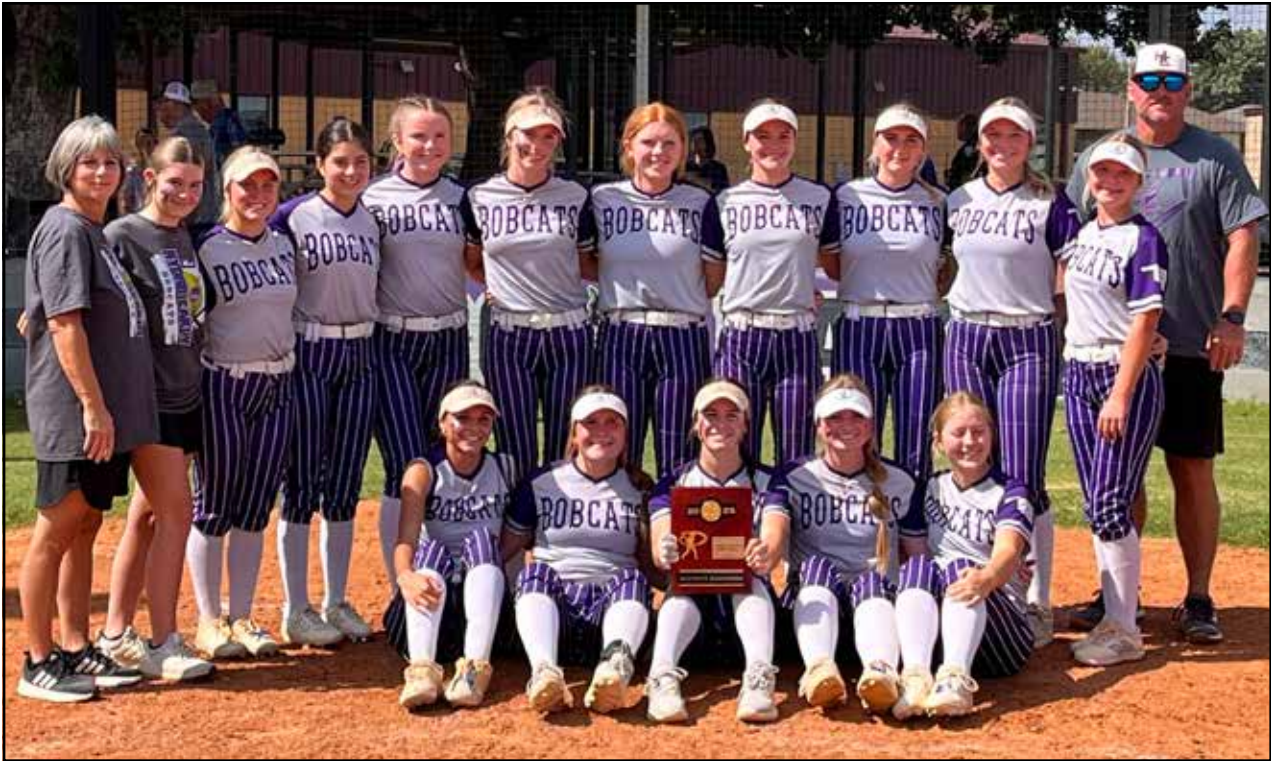
Officials say the project will bring new jobs, economic growth and opportunities for Elk City and the entire region.

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The Hydro-Eakly Fast Pitch Softball team was recently crowned District Champions for Class A after defeating the Ninnekah Owls 12-0.

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The Bethany Brethren in Christ Church of Thomas recently donated 126 lbs. of food to the Connections Food & Resource Center in Weatherford. They also helped out with some general maintenance tasks under the supervision of Justin Tharp, Francesca Tharp, Ryan LeMoine, and Carley LeMoine.

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BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK

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ZACK ROBERTS

Senior • Football

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Jon Chidester

SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Seniors

Cheyenne VandeStouwe

and Zack Roberts have been named the newest Bulldogs of the Week. This honor is presented by Wright Media, the official partner for SWOSU athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

VandeStouwe (Inwood, Iowa) captured the Women's All-Around title at the Southeastern Oklahoma State Rodeo over the weekend after winning the average in Goat Tying and tying for third in Breakaway Roping. The senior claimed the long round in goats and added a pair of runner-up finishes — second in the short round of Goat Tying and second in the long round of Breakaway. With her win, SWOSU has now claimed both women's all-around titles to start the season.

Roberts (Newcastle, OK) led the SWOSU defense with 10 tackles and returned a first-quarter interception 24 yards for a touchdown in Saturday's win over Oklahoma Baptist. The play marked his first interception of the season and the third of his career.

BRATFEST

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When:

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4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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SWOSU Bulldogs Run Past Oklahoma Baptist Bison in 38-24 Win



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU beat Oklahoma Baptist 38-24 on Saturday night, piling up 388 rushing yards to tie the program's GAC record.

The rushing performance equals the Bulldogs' 2012 total against Arkansas Tech and stands as their highest output while competing in the Great American Conference. It also came just four yards shy of matching the program's NCAA Division II single-game record.

The victory snaps a three-game home losing streak to the Bison and marks SWOSU's second straight win, improving to 2-2 heading into next weekend's home matchup against Henderson State — a team that was nationally ranked entering week four before falling to Southern Arkansas on Saturday night.

The Bulldogs never trailed against Oklahoma Baptist. They built a 14-0 lead in the opening quarter, weathered an OBU rally that tied the game at 14-14 in the second, and then steadily pulled away.

SWOSU extended the margin to 38-17 before a late Bison touchdown made the final score appear closer than the game truly was.

SWOSU's win was well-rounded, with four offensive touchdowns — two through the air and two on the ground — plus another on defense, marking the Dawgs' second straight game with a defensive score.

MJ Rivers didn't need to throw much, but he finished 8-for-14 for 65 yards with touchdown passes to Isaac Norris and Bodie Boydston. Rivers did most of his damage on the ground, rushing 15 times for a team-leading 117 yards and a touchdown.

Four different Bulldogs logged double-digit carries in the win. Rivers was the lone 100-yard rusher, while Ethan Hyche, Red Martel, and Malik Roberson combined for 209 yards as a trio. Hyche found the end zone for the first time this season on a nine-yard run that capped SWOSU's scoring in the fourth quarter and also ripped off a 50-yard burst earlier in the half.

The tone was set from the jump, as SWOSU pieced together a 15-play opening drive capped by a Rivers three-yard rushing touchdown. The next play from scrimmage following the kickoff saw Zack Roberts take an errant OBU throw back the other way for a 24-yard pick six. In just a few minutes of real time, the Bulldogs led 14-0. OBU got back in the game late in the first quarter on a free play. With an offsides penalty already guaranteed, the Bison went deep and connected on an 80-yard pass that cut their deficit in half. On their next drive, they tied the game with a 12-play, 64-yard march midway through the second quarter.

SWOSU answered with a statement drive before halftime to retake the lead, 21-14. Rivers broke loose for 38 yards on the second play, and Martel followed with a 22-yard run to push the Bulldogs deep into Bison territory. Rivers then capped the drive with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Norris. Out of halftime, SWOSU's ground game picked up right where it left off. Roberson ripped off runs of 10, 18, and 10 yards on three consecutive plays to spearhead the drive, which ended with a perfectly placed 18-yard touchdown pass to Boydston, stretching the lead to 28-14.

Later in the quarter, Ethan McBee drilled a 26-yard field goal to make it 31-14, and Hyche's fourth-quarter touchdown run sealed the win, putting the Dawgs back up by three scores and shutting the door on any OBU comeback hopes.

SWOSU piled up a season-high 453 yards of offense and converted 4-of-5 attempts on fourth down. OBU, forced to play from behind, leaned on its passing attack for 312 yards and finished with 377 total yards. The Bulldogs also won the turnover battle 2-0, highlighted by Roberts' pick six in the first half and Delmontre Pryor's third-quarter interception.

Roberts led all SWOSU defenders with 10 tackles. The Bulldogs broke through with 4.0 sacks after being held without one through the first three games, with Cameron Guyton accounting for two.

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 WATONGA EAGLES	vs. Fairview	L 18-63

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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