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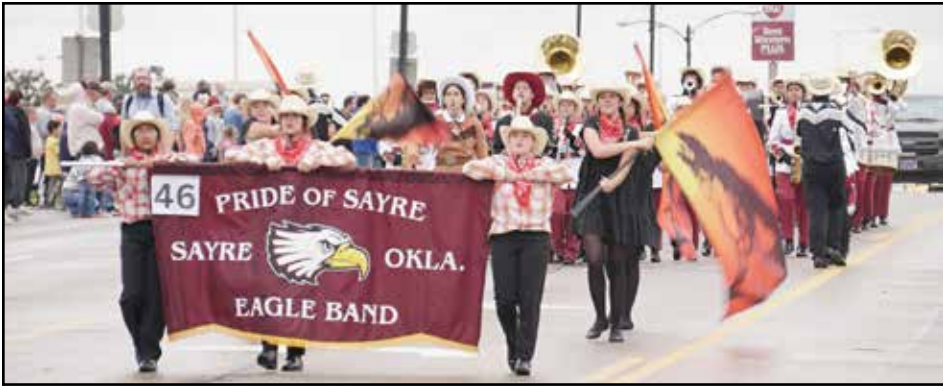
WEST OK WEEKLY



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SWOSU's Annual Homecoming Parade Returns to Weatherford for 2025



Isabelle Scott / WM

Under the direction of Tim Martin, the Sayre Eagle marching band performs their State Fair routine that earned them 1st Place in the Small School Division.



Isabelle Scott / WM

The SWOSU Homecoming Massed Band, comprised of over 15 area bands. Alongside the SWOSU Band, these high school band members performed the National Anthem before kickoff.



Isabelle Scott / WM

Washita County Royalty (from left): Rylynn Pool, Bailey Gossen, Gretta Geisler, Kendallyn Gossen, and Harper Williams.



Isabelle Scott / WM

Mia Macias, Miss SWOSU 2025, and 2024 Little Stars Nova and Harley. Miss SWOSU 2026 will be crowned on November 15th.

Halloween Safety Tips: From District 2's District Attorney Angela Marsee

The time to Trick or Treat has come, but District Attorney Angela Marsee would like to make sure you're doing it safely. Here are some Halloween safety tips that will ensure you and your family stay safe during the spookiest night of the year.

- **Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.** Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as they cross.

- **Plan for the weather.** If it's chilly outdoors, make sure your child's costume is loose enough for warm clothing to be worn underneath, but not long enough to cause tripping. Avoid oversized shoes and high heels.

- **Costumes should be fire-resistant.** If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks.

- **Watch for children!** If you're out driving, slow down around driveways, crosswalks, and alleys.

- **An adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.** If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you.

- **Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends.** Teach them to never to enter a stranger's home or car.

- **Pin a piece of paper with your child's name, address and phone number inside their pocket** in case you get separated trick or treating. Make sure they carry a flashlight with fresh batteries.

- **Wait until children are home to sort and check treats.** Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items

- **Parents should remove hazards from the porch and front yard.** To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, this includes anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations



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Wednesday

Partly Cloudy

H: 63° L: 36°
Thursday

Partly Cloudy

H: 65° L: 38°
Friday

Sunny

H: 64° L: 42°
Saturday

Sunny

H: 72° L: 48°
Sunday

Sunny

H: 67° L: 48°
Monday

Sunny

H: 68° L: 51°
Tuesday

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RFBO Stands Ready to Support Oklahomans During Federal Potential SNAP Disruptions



Audrey Johnson
RFBO Marketing Specialist

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, and its network of nearly 1,300 partners across central and western Oklahoma, stands ready to serve our neighbors impacted by the federal government shutdown. Oklahoma Human Services recently reported federal funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will be delayed beginning Saturday, November 1.

A potential delay in SNAP benefits would mean nearly 700,000 Oklahomans statewide could lose access to help that puts food on the table each month.

“As the shutdown begins to impact our neighbors through a potential delay of SNAP benefits, along with federal workers who have missed paychecks, we have been working diligently to provide food resources across our network and support our partners wherever possible,” said Stacy Dykstra, CEO of the Regional Food Bank. “Now more than ever, we must come together to support our communities and ensure that no one goes without food.”

In preparation for a long-lasting federal government shutdown, the Regional Food Bank has worked to source as much food as possible to prepare for an additional influx in the need for food assistance. Last week, the Regional Food Bank offered extra food to our network of partners.

Food assistance is available across Oklahoma through the Regional Food Bank’s partner network. Visit rfbo.org/get-help and enter your address to find Regional Food Bank partners open and available in your area.

Beyond helping Oklahomans supplement their grocery budgets, SNAP plays a critical role in

reducing poverty, improving health and economic outcomes, and supporting the economy during downturns.

“Increasing access to food for Oklahomans requires a strong, public-private partnership, like SNAP, which is the nation’s first line of defense for neighbors facing hunger,” said Stacy Dykstra, the Regional Food Bank’s CEO, “We urge our Congressional delegation to pass a bipartisan bill to reopen the government.”

SNAP positively impacts local communities by generating \$1.54, per every \$1 of SNAP benefits used, in local economic activity as households use their benefits to shop at local grocery stores and supermarkets. In Oklahoma, SNAP can be redeemed at over 3,800 retailers.

The Regional Food Bank continues to monitor the situation. Visit rfbo.org/shutdown to find more updates and resources.

About the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

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. To join the fight to end hunger, visit rfbo.org.



CASA of Western Oklahoma recently completed training for another batch of volunteers. They'll work to advocate for children in foster care in various western Oklahoma counties. Pictured, from left: Craig Mead, Theresa Mead, Angela Arney, Tiffany Kirtley, Val Yoder, and Brad Blackwell. If you are interested in learning more about CASA, please email jackie@casawok.org.

Turn Your Retirement Savings into Student Success!

If you are 70½ years or older, you can make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. This type of gift, known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), may count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and can lower your taxable income—all while supporting students, faculty, and programs you care about most. Act before December 31 to maximize your 2025 tax benefits!



For more information, contact your financial advisor or visit with our staff:
Joshua Cobb
Joshua.Cobb@SWOSU.edu
Ph: 580-774-6330

OLD FOLKS

Column by Maxine McCullough



I advocate for old folks. I can do that because I just recently turned 92. Sometimes, we old folks get lost in group discussions. Maybe we don’t hear as well as we once did. Maybe we don’t see quite as well as we once did. Chances are our reflex response to questions asked may not be as quick as they once were. Actually, we have a treasure trove of life experiences to share. We old folks have knowledge and opinions.

Remembering my mother at my age now, she once told me about a couple coming to visit her when she was living in Maple lawn Manor. “How was the visit?” I asked her. “Well,” she said, “they came to visit here. They sat and talked to each other for an hour or so, then they said it was good to see me, and they left.”

My mother, at my present age, could see, could hear, and was one of the most interesting women you could ever know. She was the oldest child of seven. She was the daughter of a share cropper and his wife, my wonderful grandma Sally.

My mother managed to get an education as a teacher. She painted pictures and even wrote a book about her life. The visitors missed an opportunity. Now, I need to say, my mother at that time couldn’t stand or walk without help. She had a deteriorating spine. However, she was still sharp as a tack and interesting to talk with.

I guess the point I’m trying to make is this: If you’re sitting in a group and an older person is part of that group, give them a chance to speak. You just might learn something. You just might enjoy the conversation. Old Folks—memories, experiences, wisdom, tough, kind, forgiving, understanding—the whole package. You gotta’ love us for that.

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Mike Smith
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Weatherford Environment Group’s Annual Recycle Day Event Returns November 15th



Weatherford Environment

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

November 15, 2025

Faye Henson
WEG Volunteer

The Weatherford Environment Group (WEG) has announced an America Recycles Day event, happening on November 15th from 9am to 3pm.

Please bring your items to the Materials Processing and Education Center, located at 602 E. Clark St. (two blocks south of Main St. on Illinois).

The Weatherford Recycling Event is sponsored by the Weatherford Environment Group composed of volunteers working to keep our city green, clean and beautiful. The recycling event is organized by the efforts of our Weatherford citizens with help from the City of Weatherford.

- SPECIAL EMPHASIS ITEMS ACCEPTED:**
- Large Metal Items and Appliances
 - Non-Working Electronic Items—please note that we are not accepting TVs or monitors at this event. We also suggest that working electronics be taken to the Et Cetera Shop in Weatherford.
 - We will be accepting any personal papers to be shredded. A \$5 donation is requested for use of this service. The “Shread-It” Truck will be on-site all day.

DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT:

We are accepting pills, tablets, capsules, patches, and liquids in containers. We are NOT accepting any nuclear meds, aerosols, auto-injectors or syringes. SWODA is coordinating this part of the event.

ELK CITY / SPARKMAN - Elk City Police recently executed a search warrant at a residence on West 2nd Street. The action was the result of an investigation that began with a cyber tipline report from the national center for missing and exploited children. 72-year-old Steven Wayne Sparkman has been arrested and booked into the Beckham County jail on complaints of computer violations, possession of child sexual abuse material, and possession of obscene material.

CLINTON / SCHOOL ENROLLMENT - Clinton Public Schools Superintendent Nathan Meget reported that enrollment is down this year, which could impact state funding. Enrollment for the 2025 school year was down by more than 100 students from 2024, which could negatively impact funding. “My estimate is [we] could be down \$1.2 or \$1.3 million,” explained Meget. “However, the thing that will save us is that every [school district] in the state is down; if everybody’s numbers are down, you’ll get a little bit more in your factor.” Meget added that Clinton schools will be able to carry their fourth quarter stats from last year into the second semester, meaning the district may not see a funding loss at all.

CLINTON / ROUTE 66 DAMAGE - A packed room of residents filled the Clinton city council chambers to express their concerns over the damaged stretch of Route 66, south of Interstate 40, from the Cemetery to Exit 62. Councilman Ernie Dowdell addressed the crowd, stating that the city may not have the resources to fund the roadwork. “If it’s not the city’s responsibility, let’s find out who it is because it’s going to be very expensive to [make repairs.] Dowdell said. “The city and [Custer County] could be partners, but I didn’t feel it was right to pay for something if the city isn’t involved.” The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has also been asked to assist with the project. At this time, no vote has been taken, but council members say discussions will continue, and the public will be updated as plans progress, or decisions are made.

- LIGHT BULBS BEING ACCEPTED:**
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs (8-ft., 4-ft., and spiral)
 - LED Light Bulbs
 - Incandescent Light Bulbs

- BATTERIES BEING ACCEPTED:**
- Lead Acid Batteries (found in cars and equipment)
 - Household Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, etc.)
 - Coin-Type Batteries (found in watches)

- ITEMS ACCEPTED ALL THE TIME:**
- These items are always accepted at the drop-off bins in the drive through recycling center:
- Phone Books
 - Cardboard
 - #1 and #2 Plastics—no styrofoam will be accepted.
 - Aluminum, Steel, and Tin Cans
 - Office/Mixed Paper, Newspapers, and Magazines

The recycling event is being held on November 15th, the same day “America Recycles Day” will be observed.

To find out many ways you can support recycling and take care of the planet on which you live, visit the founders of “America Recycles Day,” the Keep America Beautiful foundation, at KAB.org.

Contact Faye Henson, (580) 772 - 5984 if you have questions about recycling or if you would like to schedule a program for your organization or company.

Thank you for your efforts to make Weatherford clean, green, and beautiful!

CLINTON / EXIT 65(A) - Clinton Mayor David Berrong is asking for the community's patience as construction continues on Exit 65/65A, reminding residents what the city's long-term goal is with the project. “Over the next two or three years, [this project] will bring a whole new economy and bringing [new] travelers on the Interstate,” expressed Berrong. “[Think about] that population of 30,000 cars and trucks every day that goes east and west, as well as the 8,000 that go right in Clinton. They’re going to become Clinton’s economic partners: coming into Clinton, refreshing Clinton, and growing around our already healthy core.” Officials say construction is ongoing and residents should expect delays until the project is complete.

CLINTON / FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION - The Clinton city council has approved an agreement between the city of Clinton and the International Association of Firefighters. The agreement outlines updated terms and ensures cooperation between the city and local firefighters. “Many years ago, the legislature authorized municipal police and fire to collectively bargain with their employer,” explained City Manager Robert Johnston. “The legislature provided it to them because of the essential nature of place of fire protection in society.” The approval finalizes months of discussion between the two sides and keeps the firefighters contract current.

SWOSU / CONSULATE OF MEXICO - SWOSU continues to expand opportunities for its students through its ongoing partnership with the consulate of Mexico in Oklahoma City and the institute for Mexicans abroad. Representatives from the consulate recently visited the Weatherford campus to recognize the 2025 recipients of the IME Becas scholarships and celebrate 20 years of the national program's success. Through the partnership, the Consulate of Mexico awarded \$4,000 to SWOSU, which was matched by the SWOSU Foundation to provide additional support for students of Mexican heritage pursuing higher education.

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 Oct. 29th - Kezia Hines, Seth Knight, Robert Malone Jr., John Nance, Earlena Shannon, Barbara Sinclair, Alexis Torres, Richard Waters; **Oct. 30th** - Shelby Bishop, Kelsi Carter, Salana Cavanaugh, Carol Curtis, Amanda Green, Janet Hendricks, Rick Kauk, Risa Kelsey, Woody Kimball, Heather King, Cassie Penner, Forrest Potter, Alli Selsor, Paul Sperle, Mike Weizel, Tricia Whittemire, Richard Williams; **Oct. 31st** - Larry Bush, Jamie Casias, Lorri Jones, Charlotte Kreizenbeck, Gabby Yates; **Nov. 1st** - Maggie Adcock, Adriana Amaya, Jason Bowman, Brooks Burdick, Luke Downs, Austin Janning, Rita Kimble, Mina Pettigo, Brad Sanders, Wayne Sanders, Jordan Selman, Brad Thacker, Clint Thomas. **Nov. 2nd** - Darren Abshire, Bill Youts; **Nov. 3rd** - Avary Bellamy, Lish Harris, Valerie Juhl, Gavin Klein, Marc Maule, Alisha Moore, Hunter Roark, Ashely Rector, Julia Pawpa-Slagell, Leticia Rodrigues, Sophia Saume, Val Stinson; **Nov. 4th** - Terri Barger, Pat Gatchel, Emersyn Goldstein, Jennie Hanna, Mika McSperitt, Shelby Nance, Becky Penick, Nancy Rodolph, Sonya Roper, Shirlene Sheward, Lana Skinner, Stacy Wilson, Barbara Thompson, Kristie Thompson.

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Shawnee Cornbread Mix, 6-6.5oz.	\$0.79	Blueberries, pint	\$2.99
Food Club Graham Cracker Crust., 9oz.	\$1.99	Golden Pineapple	\$2.99 each
Food Club Brown or Powdered Sugar, 2 lb Bag	2 for \$4.00	Fresh Cranberries, 12oz.	2 for \$5.00
Food Club Bark Coating, 24oz. (All Varieties)	2 for \$7.00	Red-Yellow-Orange Bell Peppers	2 for \$3.00
Food Club Marshmallow Crème, 7oz.	2 for \$3.00	Raspberries or Blackberries, 6oz.	2 for \$4.00
Food Club Evaporated Milk, 12oz.	2 for \$3.00	Red or Green Seedless Grapes, 2 lb.	\$5.00
Food Club Sweetened Condensed Milk, 14oz.	2 for \$4.00		
Food Club Olives Stuffed or Ripe Pitted (All Varieties)	2 for \$3.00		
Food Club Corn or Rice Squares Cereal, 12oz.	2 for \$5.00		
Crav'n Oyster Crackers, 12oz.	2 for \$3.00		
Crav'n Snack Crackers, 13.7oz.	2 for \$4.00		
Food Club Hot Chocolate, 8 count (All Varieties)	2 for \$3.00		
Food Club Pineapple, 20oz. (All Varieties)	2 for \$3.00		
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		Simply Done Ultra Paper Plates, 44 count	\$3.99
		Simply Done Turkey Roasting Bags, 2 count	2 for \$3.00
		Simply Done Heavy Duty Foil, 18x37'	\$3.99



Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

With Halloween fast approaching, various businesses and cities across Western Oklahoma are planning their own holiday celebrations for the final week of October. Here are some of the many local events you may want to attend:

**Homestead of Weatherford
Haunted Halloween Walk-Through**

The Homestead of Weatherford will be inviting trick or treaters this Wednesday, October 29, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Festivities will be hosted in the Homestead Lobby (3701 E Main St.), which will be decorated as a haunted house. Children are encourage to attend in-costume, where Homestead residents will be giving out candy.

Questions? Call the Homestead Assisted Living and Memory Care of Weatherford at 580-774-2955.

**Chris Pollman Karate Academy
Trunk or Treat**

Chris Pollman’s Karate Academy is hosting their third annual Trunk or Treat event in their parking lot at 1805 E Main.

All cars will be set up before 6:30 p.m. Aside from the standard Trunk or Treat affairs, this event will also be offering two cash prize for “Best Costume” and “Best Decorated Trunk.”

For more information, please call Chris Pollman Karate Academy at 580-772-4650.

**Clinton Chamber of Commerce
Frisco Avenue’s Trunk or Treat**

On Thursday, October 30, the Clinton Chamber will host a citywide Trunk or Treat event. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., cars will be lined up across Frisco Avenue from 5th Street to 10th Street. Trunks will be represented by various Clinton Churches and businesses, including the First Baptist Church. Be sure to attend early, as the festivities will kick off with a Kiwanis Kids Costume Contest at 6 p.m.

To reserve a trunk or to learn more, please call 580-323-2222.

**P-Bar Farms
Corn Maze & Haunted Corn Maze**

After 25 years of unique corn mazes, P-Bar Farms has announced that 2025 will be their final season.

Despite this sad news, daily events are still running now until October 31st. As always, the Corn Maze is located at P-Bar Farms east of Hydro off of Historic Route 66 (1002 N U.S. Rte 66).

This year’s Corn Maze, featuring Spookley the Square Pumpkin, is open on October 30th and October 31st from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Try to plan ahead for what time you’d like to spend in the maze, because once the sun sets, the event will transform into the "Haunted Corn Maze," with costumed farmhands looking to accost guests at every turn.

Visit www.pbarfarms.com for more information or call 405-556-1069.

**Hinton Church of Christ
Trunk or Treat**

If you’re looking to go trick-or-treating in the city of Hinton, we recommend stopping by the Hinton Church of Christ between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Located on 307 S. Spencer St., this event not only offers candy, but other treats you’d be hard-pressed to find anywhere else, such as hot chocolate. In case of incliment weather, festivities will be relocated to the church’s Fellowship Hall.

For more information, call 405-542-6101.

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SWOSU Bulldogs Tame the East Central Tigers on Homecoming Night



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	F
ECU	7	0	0	7	14
SWO	14	10	7	7	38

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Football earned its best win of the 2025 season on Saturday, defeating East Central 38-14 in front of a strong Homecoming crowd at Flex-Chem Field.

East Central entered the matchup 5-2 but was limited by the Bulldog defense to just 237 yards of total offense. It marked SWOSU's third straight game holding an opponent under 300 total yards and the second fewest allowed this season.

Outside of two long scoring plays on passes of 74

and 55 yards, the Tigers struggled to find any rhythm against the Dawg defense. After ECU's opening touchdown just two plays into the game, the Tigers were forced to punt or turned the ball over on downs on eight consecutive possessions stretching into the fourth quarter. Following their second and final score, SWOSU sealed the game with an interception and another fourth-down stop. ECU finished just 1-of-12 on third down.

Offensively, the Bulldogs racked up 453 total yards, highlighted by a season-best 259 through the

air. SWOSU caught four touchdown passes on the day — three of them from Baylor Nash, who tied the program's Division II-era single-game record for receiving touchdowns. Nash found the end zone in the first, third, and fourth quarters.

Quarterback MJ Rivers was sharp once again, completing 13-of-15 passes for 227 yards, with four touchdowns and no turnovers.

On the ground, SWOSU ran the ball 55 times for 194 yards. Red Martel led the way with 17 carries for 68 yards and a five-yard touchdown just before halftime — his third rushing score of the season.

After ECU jumped out to a 7-0 lead, SWOSU answered immediately with an 11-play, 75-yard drive capped by a 34-yard touchdown grab from Isaac Norris. From there, the Bulldogs never trailed again.

Ethan McBee's 27-yard field goal early in the second quarter made it 17-7 before Martel's touchdown extended the margin to 24-7 at halftime. In the second half, Rivers and Nash connected for two more scores — from 29 and 46 yards out — as SWOSU reeled off 38 unanswered points before ECU finally broke through late.

Defensively, Zack Roberts led the charge with eight tackles and an interception. Kelton Moore added five tackles, including two tackles for loss, and a sack fumble. Four different Bulldogs recorded sacks against the Tigers' quarterback.

The win improves SWOSU to 4-4 on the season — matching its 2022 win total with three games remaining. The Bulldogs are now within reach of their first five-win season since 2016 and first winning record since 2015.

Next up, SWOSU heads east for its longest road trip of the year to face Arkansas-Monticello. Kickoff against the Boll Weevils is set for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 1.

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	vs. Elk City	W 28-21
	@ Cache	L 45-48
	@ Cashion	L 8-31
	@ Southwest Covenant	W 34-6
	vs. Crescent	L 0-13

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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