

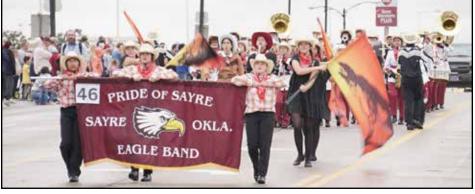




BOXHOLDER

October 29 - November 4, 2025 • 10040 Hwy 54 • Weatherford • (580) 772 - 5939 • E-mail: sales@westokweekly.com • www.westokweekly.com • Vol. 12 No. 44

SWOSU's Annual Homecoming Parade Returns to Weatherford for 2025



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

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

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

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-ortreaters, this includes anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations



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Deanna Kaiser

Deanna Kay Kaiser was born January 10, 1952, in Oklahoma City, to Loren and Juathena Findley and passed away on Saturday, October 18, 2025, in Weatherford, Oklahoma at the age of 73.



Deanna was a talented carpenter and musician

all her life. She married Rodney Kaiser and they were blessed with a son, David. She worked at 3M and had a cabinet shop. She and Rodney also had their own band and traveled most weekends.

Deanna is survived by her son, David Kaiser and wife, Denise; brother, Richard Findley; sister, Wanda Smith and husband, Marvin; sisters-in-law, Barbara Findley and Peggy Ashley; as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Rodney, a sister, a brother, a niece, and two nephews.

Roy King

Roy Dean King, Sr. was born December 28, 1944, in Sterling, OK, to Paul Raymond and Cora Ellen (Simson) King and passed away Sunday, October 19, 2025, at his home in Thomas, OK, at the age of 80 years old.



Roy was raised in

Sterling and the family moved to Colony when he was a teenager. He worked as a farmer's helper picking cotton, hauling hay and plowing fields. On June 25, 1964, Roy married Geneva Ann Ervin and they made their home in Weatherford. They later moved to Geary where he worked in the oilfield for 38 years as a driller. In 1975, they settled in Greenfield to raise their eight children. He retired in 2006 and they moved to Thomas. Roy was a hardworker, a good husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed spending time visiting and talking to family and friends, he never met a stranger. Roy was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved his grandchildren.

Roy is survived by his wife of 61 years, Geneva King of their home in Thomas; six children, Beverly King, Pamela (Greg) McIver, Derrell (Suzy) King, Jason King, Lance (Stephanie) King, Clay (Ayla) King; four brothers, Teddy King, Danny King, Roger King and Raymond King; twenty-five grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and an abundance of family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; two daughters, Juanita King and Anita Johns; three brothers, Jerry, Jimmy and Stevie King; and three sisters, Lori Owens, Paula Rich and Betty Webb.

Marian Tisdal

Marian Caldwell Tisdal, age 75, of Clinton, OK, peacefully passed away in her home on October 7, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family.



Born January 19, 1950, in Durant, OK, Marian was a cherished daughter of William and Claire

Caldwell. Her early life, spent chasing the thrill of barrel racing alongside her favorite horse, Fancy, and nurturing a deep love for horses, set the stage for a life defined by warmth and spirit. A proud graduate of Tulsa Memorial High School, Marian went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Special Education from the University of Oklahoma. This educational foundation fueled a passionate, three-decade-long career as a teacher, during which she inspired countless students in Norman, Tulsa, and Clinton.

Marian married her beloved husband, Mart Tisdal, on October 3, 1970, and together they built a life rooted in family and community. Marian's commitment to serving others was extraordinary. She spearheaded the creation of a vital backpack program through the Oklahoma City Food Bank to ensure no child in the Clinton public school system went home hungry over the weekend. Furthermore, Marian and her friends, who affectionately called themselves "The High Five," organized a fundraising effort that successfully developed and built the children's playground in McLain Rogers Park.

Her remarkable contributions culminated in her being recognized as AMBUC of the Year in 2010 and Clinton's Citizen of the Year in 2011. An active member of the PEO organization and many other civic groups, Marian was tireless in her dedication to uplifting her community. She also took great joy in gardening, a talent that earned her the recognition of being selected as Clinton's Yard of the Week on numerous occasions.

She is survived by her husband; son Logan Tisdal and wife Lena of Vietnam; daughter Julia Tisdal, of New York; brother Buddy Caldwell and wife Julie of Norman, OK; and sister Nancy Day and husband Dean of Tulsa, OK. She is also survived by a large and cherished extended family of in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Pauline Ice

Pauline Blanche (Didier) Ice was born July 19, 1932, at her grandparent's home NW of Fay, Oklahoma to August "Gus" and Agnes Didier and passed away October 21, 2025, at the age of 93. She was a resident of the Fay community for her 93 years where she was a



homemaker, baker, cook and seamstress. She attended and graduated from Fay High School.

Pauline married Donald Eugene Ice at the First Baptist Church in Watonga, Oklahoma on June 10, 1951. They had 3 boys, Mickey, Rickey and Danny.

Pauline was preceded in death by her husband, Donald, 2 sons, Mickey and Danny, and two grandsons, Wade and Heath Ice. Also, preceding her are her brothers and sisters, Gus "Junior" Didier, Justine Londagin, Bert Didier, Louise Baker and Jimmy Didier.

Pauline is survived by one son, Rickey Ice and his wife LaNae, of Thomas, Oklahoma, daughter-in-law Debra Ice of Tahlequah, Oklahoma and a daughter in "love" Peggy Hart, Chanute, Kansas, her grandchildren, Trisha Ice and Ray Bowdler-Ice of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Ian Ice of Watonga, Oklahoma, Bobby Ice of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Kaylee Williams of Tyler, Texas. She also had a passel of great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and numerous other relatives and friends.

Pauline was very well known for the homemade cinnamon rolls, cookies and noodles. Her family enjoyed her chicken fried steak and her coconut cream pies! She was just a great cook and always loved her family getting together for meals, visiting and playing cards. She made the most stunning quilts! She embroidered the squares, pieced them together and helped the Fay women quilt them. Then she would gift them to family and friends. Pauline loved to crochet and made hundreds of potholders and tea towels. She enjoyed traveling and took many trips to other countries. She was always ready for a trip on the Baldwin's bus! She also loved to go to the casinos!

Pauline was very active in the Fay Senior Citizens Center, and the Fay community.

If you would like to make donations in her name, you may send them to: Fay Community Senior Citizen's Center in care of Jan Stinson at 82804 Custer, Fay, Oklahoma 73646 or to the Fay Community Fund P. O. Box 102 Fay, Oklahoma 73646.

Norma Vogt

Norma Jean Vogt, of Corn, peacefully passed away on October 14, 2025, at Corn Heritage Village.

Born on January 10, 1928, to Ferd and Sarah (Ediger) Hinz, Norma Jean faced early challenges with the loss of her parents but found strength and love



living with her older siblings. A proud graduate of Corn High School in 1946, she married her beloved husband, Jake Vogt Jr., on February 9, 1947. Together, they built a life filled with love and joy, raising two children, Charles and Darla, while enjoying sixty-one wonderful years together on their farm before moving into town.

Norma contributed to her community by working at the Corn Post Office, where she briefly served as Postmaster. Her legacy of love extended deeply into her family, where countless memories were created around her kitchen filled with the delightful aroma of her special cinnamon rolls, zweibach, chocolate cake, pepper nuts, homemade noodles, fried chicken, and borscht. Family gatherings at her table were cherished moments of laughter and storytelling, where all were welcomed to enjoy her culinary creations. Her grandchildren lovingly referred to her as "Granny," as she played an instrumental role in their lives, engaging them in games, fishing, bingo, and attending their various activities.

Together with Jake, Norma was a dedicated partner in all aspects of their farming life, from driving tractors and feeding cattle to providing hearty meals during harvest time. She was known for her dedication to her home, which included sewing beautiful clothes, baking on Saturdays, and ensuring everything was prepared for Sunday church services. Norma and Jake were active members of the Corn Mennonite Brethren Church, partaking in church choirs, teaching Sunday school, and regularly attending services, fostering a strong sense of community and faith. At the age of 95, following a fall that resulted in a hip fracture, Norma moved to Corn Heritage Village, where she continued to cherish visits from family and friends, her face lighting up with a warm smile. The family expresses their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Aaron and his staff for their compassionate care, as well as Traditions Health and Hospice for enhancing her quality of life in her later years.

Norma is survived by her loving family including Charles and Charlotte Vogt, Chuck and Tisha Vogt, Candace and Brandon Lennarson, Darla Vogt, Judy Burk, Jake Vogt, Ty Vogt, Cash Lennarson, Briggs Lennarson, Blakeelie Lennarson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jake Vogt Jr., as well as siblings Elmer, Alfred, Robert "Bob," and Jim Hinz, and sisters Verna Flaming and Ruth Fransen.

Belle Smith

Ila Belle Smith was born December 1, 1932, in Cordell Oklahoma to Elzie and Annie (Hedge) Baskett and she entered her heavenly home on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, in Hydro Oklahoma at the age of 92 years.



Belle was raised in

Cordell until 1942, when the family moved to Clinton and Belle completed her education graduating from Clinton High School.

On June 1, 1950, she married the love of her life Truman Eugene Smith in a beautiful ceremony at her parent's home. The couple made their first home on the family farm south of Hydro. While living there, their oldest son Theodore Wayne was born.

In 1953, they moved to Clinton Oklahoma. While living in Clinton they added to their family with the birth of daughter Debbie Diane. Also, while living in Clinton, Belle and Truman owned and operated the PeeWee Grill and the Maytag store in town. In 1960 Truman answered the call to the ministry and the family moved to Rocky Oklahoma where Truman began his first pastorship. While in Rocky the family was completed with the birth of Terry Lee. In 1963, the family moved to Colony Oklahoma where Truman pastored the Colony Baptist Church for 39 years. While living in Colony the couple also owned and operated the Colony Café and Belle's Catering. People came from miles around to enjoy a Belle Burger. In 2003 Truman began pastoring at the Geary Pleasant Ridge Church where he pastored for ten years. In 2008 the couple moved back to Hydro Oklahoma.

Belle was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Hydro where she found joy in worship and fellowship and faithfully served her Lord and Savior.

Belle was preceded in death by her parents and infant brother, her in-laws, her husband Truman, daughter inlaw Rhonda Smith, and brother in-law BJ Peveler.

She is survived by two sons, Wayne and wife Janice of Colony, Terry and wife Diana of Hinton, one daughter Debbie and husband David Lasley of Hydro. Also surviving are grandchildren Chad and Brandon Smith, Dusty and Darren Lasley, Crystal Goodman, Alicia Pool, Kyle Patterson, and their spouses. Belle is also survived by 15 great grandchildren, one sister Pearl Peveler, and a host of family and friends who will miss her until we meet again.

Vonnie Williams

A ma Vonnette (Waugh) Williams, lovingly known as Vonnie, was born in Soper, Oklahoma, on August 21, 1941. She passed away peacefully on the morning of October 8, 2025, at the age of 84, while residing



at Gardenia Living in Allen, Texas.

Vonnie was preceded in death by her father; Pete Waugh, and her mother; Ama Waugh. Her brothers; Pete Waugh, Seward Dale Waugh, Kenneth Waugh, and Sandy Waugh. As well as her beloved son; Shane Williams. Vonnie is survived by her devoted husband of 64 years; Don Williams, with whom she shared a deep and enduring love that continues even now. She is also survived by her children; Van Williams and wife Terri, Amy (Williams) Kranz and husband Rob, daughter-in-law; Julie Shafer Williams, and Stephen (Williams) King and husband Nate King.

Her family circle also includes her cherished grandchildren—Kyle Williams, Ashley (Williams) Calloway, Michael Williams, Adam Kranz, Nathan Kranz, Katie Williams, MacKenzie Williams, Aaliyah King, Amari King, and Alicia King—and great-grandchildren; James, William, and Adalyn Calloway.

Throughout her life, Vonnie faithfully served the LORD. She worked as a church secretary at several congregations as her family moved from place to place, always finding a new church home where she could serve. Her steadfast faith was the foundation of her life, and she raised her children to love God and walk in faith as she did.

In her younger years, Vonnie enjoyed playing bridge and family game nights, being active in her church and studying her daily scriptures. More than anything, she loved singing hymns. In her later years, those familiar melodies brought her deep comfort and joy. Her favorite hymn was "I'll Fly Away", a song that perfectly captures her hope and faith in the Lord's promises.

Vonnie was known for her quick wit, honesty, and the "spicy" spark that made her who she was. She was never afraid to speak her mind but she loved her family deeply. One of her favorite sayings while raising her children was, "Try your best and don't worry about the rest."

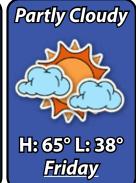
Vonnie will be remembered as a woman of unwavering faith and a deep love for her husband and family.



Wednesday

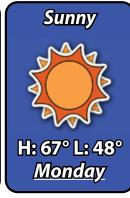


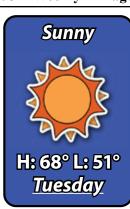
Thursday





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RFBO Stands Ready to Support Oklahomans **During Federal Potential SNAP Disruptions**



Audrey Johnson

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 Servies 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

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 hungerrelief 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.



Provided by Val Yoder

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 701/2 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:

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.

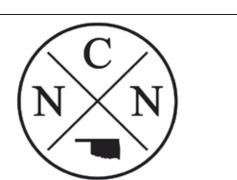
My mother managed to get an education as a teacher. She painted pictures and even wrote a book about her life. The visitors missed an opportunity. Now, I need to say, my mother at that time couldn't stand or walk without help. She had a deteriorating spine. However, she was still sharp as a tack and 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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Weatherford Environment Group's Annual Recycle Day Event Returns November 15th



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 onsite 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:

- Flourescent 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.



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.

Advertising Deadline: **Every Friday at 3pm**

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Dairv

\$3.59 \$0.79 2 for \$4.00 2 for \$7.00 2 for \$3.00 2 for \$3.00 2 for \$4.00 2 for \$3.00 2 for \$5.00 2 for \$3.00

2 for \$4.00

2 for \$3.00

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Grocery

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

A Catalog of Halloween Events Happening Across Westen Oklahoma



Alexander Shook

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

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

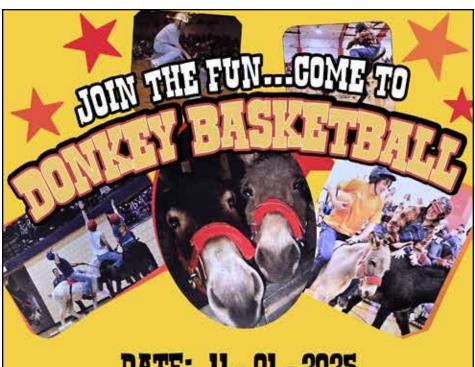
Trunk or Treat

to the church's Fellowship Hall. For more information, call 405-542-6101.









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Makenlee Shieldnight and Baylor Nash Earn Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester

Makenlee Shieldnight and Baylor Nash have been

selected as the latest Bulldogs of the Week. This weekly student athlete spotlight is presented by Wright Media — the official partner for SWOSU athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Shieldnight (Prague, Okla.) broke the 20-minute mark in the 5k for the first time in her career, running 19:58.85 at the GAC Championships to set a new personal best.

Her sub-20 performance marked the first by a Bulldog since 2022 and earned her a 74th-place finish in the large conference field.

Nash (South Coffeyville, Okla.) hauled in three touchdown passes during SWOSU's 38-14 Homecoming win over East Central, tying the program's NCAA Division II single-game record.

He finished with six catches for 146 yards — both season highs — as the Bulldogs improved to 4-4 on the year.

Oklahoma History - Doaksville, the Former Capital of the Choctaw Nation



Smuckola / Wikimedia Commons

Florence Augusta Tucker died at Fort Towson in 1949. She had a wonderful historic interview in September of 1937 with the Indian Pioneer Papers under Western History Collections (University of Oklahoma, Norman). She shared a firsthand account of many of the aspects of life there, along with the legacy of the "LeFlore Ghost."

Doaksville rests in the trees near Fort Towson, its gravestones the last trace of what was once the capital of the Choctaw Nation. In the mid-1800s, the town was one of the busiest in Indian Territory, filled with traders, soldiers, and tribal leaders. Today, only the ruins remain.

The settlement was named for trader Josiah S. Doak, who operated a post along the Kiamichi River between 1824 and 1831. He and his brother brought goods up the Mississippi and Red Rivers after the Treaty of Doak's Stand in 1820, anticipating the arrival of the Choctaw people forced west during removal. When the U.S. Army established Fort Towson in 1824, the Doak brothers moved closer to the fort. The post became a natural gathering point for settlers and Choctaw families traveling along the Trail of Tears. Its position on the Red River trade route turned it into a hub for steamboat traffic and commerce across Indian Territory.

By the 1840s and 1850s, Doaksville had become the largest town in the Choctaw Nation and an important center of trade and government. A U.S. Army chaplain described it as "one of the most orderly and quiet towns" in the region. The community included a tavern, doctor, blacksmith, wagon maker, church, and post office. By 1850, more than thirty buildings stood in town, including hotels, schools, stores, and a jail. Two newspapers, the Choctaw Telegraph and the bilingual Choctaw Intelligencer, were among the first printed in the territory.

Doaksville reached its height in 1850 when it was named the capital of the Choctaw Nation. A new constitution was ratified here in 1860 that guided the Nation's government for the next half century. Five mercantile stores, several owned by Choctaw merchants, operated in town. Wagon yards, mills, and blacksmith shops served travelers and local families. On annuity payment days, the town filled with Choctaw and Chickasaw families trading, socializing, and catching up on news.

The LeFlore family, one of the Choctaw Nation's most prominent, lived in Doaksville during its peak. Tribal leaders, including Basil LeFlore, helped shape political life from within the town's council house. Though Indian Territory was still rough and lawless in places, Doaksville had a sense of order and importance.

Fortunes began to change after 1854 when the U.S. Army abandoned Fort Towson, taking soldiers, supplies, and much of the town's business with them. During the Civil War, the Choctaw Nation allied with the Confederacy, and the fighting left deep damage to the area's farms and trade routes. In 1863, the Choctaw government moved its capital to Chahta Tamaha, and Doaksville's population began to fall.

On June 23, 1865, Doaksville entered the history books once more when Confederate Brigadier General Stand Watie, a Cherokee leader commanding Native troops, surrendered there. He became the last Confederate general to lay down arms, marking the official end of the Civil War.

The surrender didn't save the town. The economy never recovered, and most residents left in the years that followed. The arrival of the railroad sealed its fate. In 1900, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway built a line through the region but bypassed Doaksville. A new settlement, named Fort Towson after the nearby fort, sprang up along the tracks. By 1903, the Doaksville post office had closed, and the last businesses followed soon after.

By the 1930s, the town had disappeared beneath the trees. Only the cemetery remained, holding the graves of the people who built and once governed the Choctaw Nation. One of the last to remember the old town was Florence Augusta Tucker, who died in 1949. She and her family, known locally as the "last of the Doaksville Tuckers," were buried in the same cemetery that still marks the site today.

Even after the town's collapse, its stories endured. Locals told of the "LeFlore Ghost," a tale said to date back to Doaksville's early days. According to legend, a young Choctaw woman from the LeFlore family married a soldier from Fort Towson. After a second wedding ceremony under U.S. law in Arkansas, the couple drowned while crossing a flooded creek on their way home. Since then, residents claimed that two riders sometimes appeared before a death in the LeFlore family—the bride and groom returning to deliver their silent warning.

The story gained traction in the late 1800s when family members reported seeing two riders through a storm the same night Osborne LeFlore was killed. Whether fact or folklore, the legend added a lasting layer of mystery to the ruins of Doaksville.

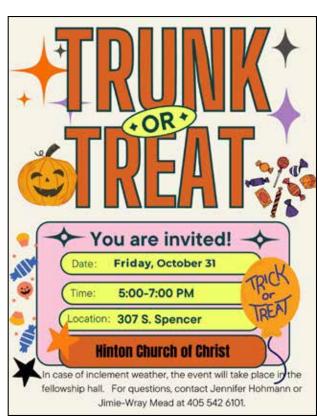
The Oklahoma Historical Society took ownership of the site in 1960 to protect what remained. Excavations in the 1990s uncovered the foundations of its jail, hotel, stores, and other buildings, along with thousands of artifacts from the town's peak. The area was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, and a short walking trail now leads visitors through the site from the nearby Fort Towson cemetery.

Today, Doaksville stands quiet again. Visitors walking among the moss-covered foundations can trace where streets once ran and where the Choctaw Nation governed its people. The air feels still, but the history remains close at hand. Every stone and grave marker tells part of the story of a town that rose, ruled, and finally faded into the trees of southeastern Oklahoma.

















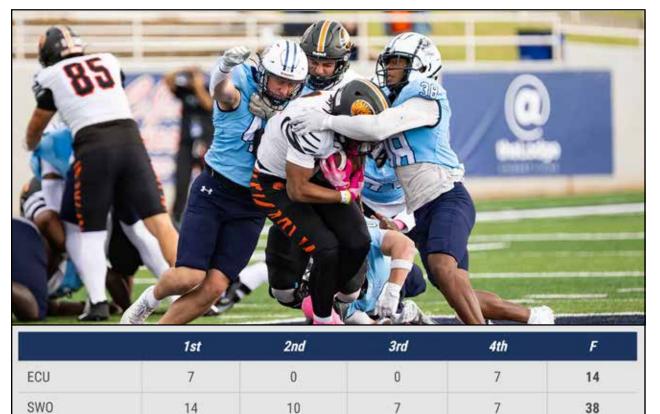






Presented by: ARTICAIR REFRIGERATION

SWOSU Bulldogs Tame the East Central Tigers on Homecoming Night



Jon Chidester

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.

28-21

45-48

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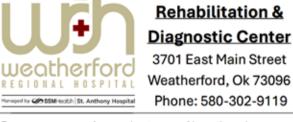
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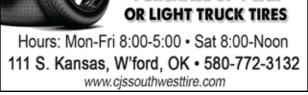
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