

Sunny/Windy  H: 57° L: 31° 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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The Wildland Fire Management Club, winners of SWOSU's Battle of the Bulldogs, present a Homecoming check to Agape Clinic representatives. Funds raised during Homecoming week support the clinic's work in the Weatherford community.

BURNS FLAT / AMMO - The town of Burns Flat has been taking to social media, reminding residents not to throw ammunition into trash carts. Officials say one of the trash truck drivers found ammunition in the blade which could have turned deadly. The truck's compacting mechanisms alone could cause enough pressure for the ammunition to explode. It is suggested if you need to get rid of any ammunition, please bring it to town hall.

ELK CITY / JET AIRCRAFT - A jet aircraft has officially become the first of its kind to make Elk City its home. City Manager Tom Ivester shared that this development was exactly what city leaders envisioned when developing the new hangar. "We already have four [multi-engine] aircraft in there, one of which is now a jet. We haven't had that before, so that was the hope of building this new hangar."

CLINTON / HOSPITAL STATUS - Clinton Hospital Authority Chairman Ken Baker revealed that Clinton Regional Hospital has received strong support from local and state leaders as it works toward gaining rural emergency status. This includes the offices of Representative Anthony Moore, James Langford, Mark Wayne Mullen, and Frank Lucas. "They're all on point for our hospital. I think CMS is ready to move it right through...[but] these procedures have been shut down because of the government shut down." Said Baker. "Hopefully, when it opens up, we're going to be able to move through it pretty fast." The hospital has already been federally approved for rural emergency status.

CORDELL / CK BUILDING - The city of Cordell will be moving many of its official offices to a campus that was previously occupied by CK Energy. "It's a bigger, more sophisticated building, so we're really excited about being over there before long," Mayor Phil Kliever explained. "We're not sure exactly which departments [will be relocated], but...75-80% of the city will move over there, maybe even more. Fire will stay where it is now, but Police is a possibility." Kliever added that the building should be ready for the move-in within the next month or so.

WRH / GRANT - Weatherford Regional Hospital Chief Executive Officer Darin Farrell says the hospital is working with the state of Oklahoma for a TSET grant. The proposed project would feature the construction of a concrete walking path with benches and possible shelters and a patio. "I have some grants that are available for community wellness, health improvement. The first grant that's available this year is for planning funds," expressed Farrell. "It would help us plan the project, and the follow-up grant to this next year is to fund the construction of the project."

CUSTER CO / SWODA TRUST - Custer County Commissioners recently approved a resolution to take the next step in becoming a member of the Southwest Oklahoma Drug Addiction trust. "The whole purpose of the trust is to allow us to combine economic resources that we have obtained through that litigation and work collaboratively so that we can address the opioid crisis and the co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health conditions in southwest Oklahoma, because we have such a need for more of those types of services out here," explained District Attorney Angela Marsee. The program would be funded by a settlement against opioid distributors.

CLINTON / MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE - Clinton Public Schools Superintendent Nathan Meget reported that construction on the new middle school is going as planned. "The inside is on schedule to be finished by the end of November. We had an architect meeting the other day going through [the building]. They've started putting in ceiling tiles, and the flooring should start going in this week," stated Meget. "They've almost got everything put up on the outside. The next is pavement, and we're going to pave all the way to the baseball field with some really nice parking spaces." Students are expected to begin classes in the new facility on January 6th.

WEATHERFORD / CARING AND SHARING Christmas is just around the corner, and the Weatherford Ministerial Alliance is once again hosting its Caring and Sharing Holiday Drive. The program is available to parents and guardians of children who either live in the 73096-zip code or attend Weatherford Public Schools. This year's festivities have been moved to the Pioneer Senior Center on Gate Trail, as opposed to the Pioneer Event Center. "It's a Saturday where families can come and shop for their kids, but they've got to sign up ahead of time, get their kids, their families signed up," explained Minister Allan Carson. "They go to the Chamber of Commerce office in Weatherford on Mondays, starting Monday, November 3, as well as Saturday, December 8." Sign-ups will take place over the next two Saturdays in November. A photo ID and current utility bill are required for proof of residence, and the name and address must match on both documents.

WRH/DAUGHERTY - Officials with Weatherford Regional Hospital revealed a new provider is joining the family medicine clinic in late November, according to Chief Executive Director Darin Farrell. "One of the providers that you approve the credentials for is Bailey Daugherty," said Farrell. "She's a nurse practitioner that was in practice at Hydro, and she's now coming on employed with us. She'll be in the clinic with Dr. Aaron for family practice." Appointments with Dr. Daugherty may be scheduled in a few weeks.



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Happy Birthday Wishes for Nov. 5th - Mykel Banning, Wanda Byers, Freddie Cardenas, Mona Horn, Nikunj Damani, Troy Koch, Jerri Hutchinson, Ida Slagell, Mark Wade, Tiffany Wilson. **Nov. 6th** - Joshua Blackwell, Oliver Lane, Mike Livingston, Ranae Middleton, Neva Taft, Tabitha Middleton, Nancy Rodolph, Laurie Salcido, Brandon Stephens, Elmer Stucker; **Nov. 7th** - Jerri Devine, Jordan Ewing, MacKenzie Garling, Shayna Griffith, Debbie Heckard, Mary Phelps, Catherine Pitzer, Charlene Pope, Kayla Rodriquez, Stacey Scarlett, Richard Settles, Vercilla Roman Nose, Roberta Slagell, Clayton Thompson, Wilma Webb, Kim Williams; **Nov. 8th** - Lori Burns, Linda Carpenter, Jackie Kurts, Alice Lackey, Butch McCammon, Sandy Miller, Donna Newsome, Lance Pitzer, Ann Russell, Kory Selman, Chloe Settles, Paul Stange, Lori Walker, Shane Young. **Nov. 9th** - Ariel Cunningham, Sabrina Dungan, Norman Kissler, Heather Matz, Milly Maynard, Myrna Perkins, Joe Slann, Donna Webb, Brittany Wile, Ryan Wilson, Amy Young; **Nov. 10th** - Jamie Albright, Rick Goodall, Stetson Green, Braden Hinton, Garrett Holley, Linda Hulsey, Heather May, Naomi Nickles, Landon Scales, Rheba Smith, Amber Snider, Becky Stotts, Lindsey Thomason, John Towe; **Nov. 11th** - Kimberly Chervenka, T.C. Garrison, Blake Hook, Matt Lantz, Wesson Shaw, Nancy Stinson, Kenna Wise.

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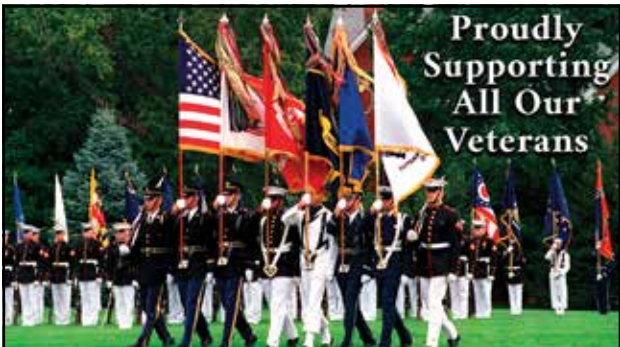
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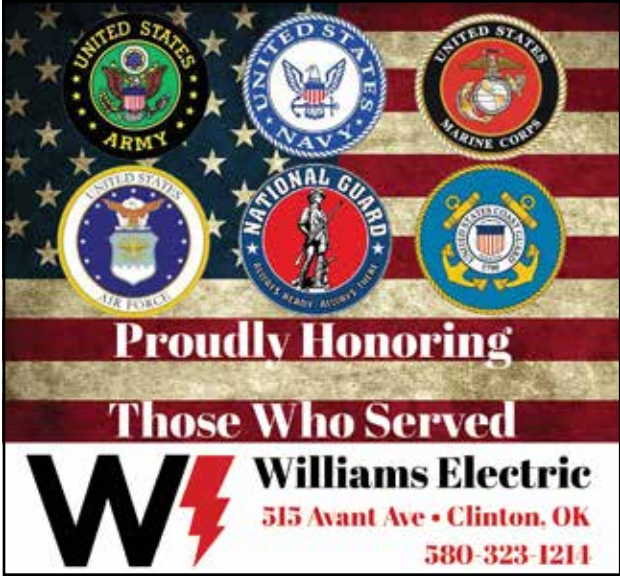
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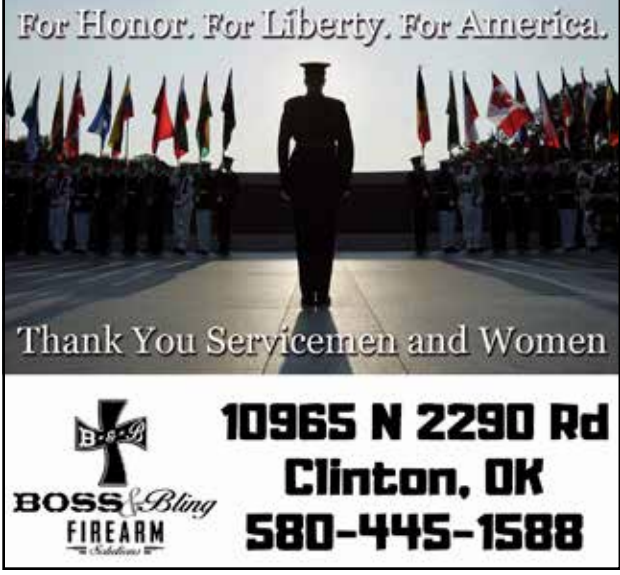
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The Heavener Runestone park just finished celebrating 55 years of the park, on October 25th with their Viking Festival. The park does multiple events throughout the year, announced through the website and social media. Additionally, November 8th is their next Volunteer Day.



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

Longtime Heavener Runestone researcher and enthusiast Gloria Farley (pictured, bottom left) and her children posing with the Heavener Runestone (1971).

The climb up Poteau Mountain is steep, but the payoff is a sandstone monolith rising out of the ravine. At roughly ten feet wide and twelve feet high, the Heavener Runestone resembles a marker from northern Europe more than something you’d expect in a creek bed in LeFlore County. Eight characters are carved into its face; each mark is about six inches tall. They have sparked arguments for nearly a century, brought Norse scholars and sceptics to a small Oklahoma town and inspired a state park that still welcomes visitors every weekend.

Local stories say Choctaw hunters noticed the carved stone in the 1830s and that trappers ran across it a few decades later. Early settlers called it Indian Rock, and many assumed the grooves were Native art. That changed in 1928 when a girl named Gloria Farley climbed up the ravine and thought the symbols looked like Scandinavian runes. A friend had mentioned the resemblance, but it was two decades before Farley mailed a tracing of the inscription to the Smithsonian. The experts responded that the characters were runic but likely cut by a modern hand. Farley refused to let the idea go. In 1951 she scrawled “Heavener Runestone” and the date into the lichen on the stone and spent the rest of her life investigating its origins.

Her passion shaped the site’s future. Farley studied runes, travelled to see other runestones and wrote to scholars across the country. When a second carved fragment turned up nearby in 1954, she asked state legislators to protect the area. The Herbert Ward family eventually donated fifty-five acres around the stone, and a local senator helped secure funds for a park. At a packed town meeting in 1968, Farley described her research and pleaded for preservation. Two years later, on October 25th, 1970, Heavener Runestone Park was dedicated. Stone steps lead down to the base of the monolith, while other trails climb to overlooks of Heavener and Lake Wister.

Deciphering the inscription has proved harder. Early researchers thought the characters spelled GNOMEDAL, which they translated as “sundial valley” or “monument valley.” In 1986, Danish runologist Richard Nielsen re-examined the second character and suggested the reading GLOMEDAL—Glome’s Valley—arguing it could be a land-claim marker. The runes themselves appear to mix letters from the older and younger Futhark alphabets, an unusual blend that complicates any translation. The first seven characters fit the elder alphabet; the eighth is reversed and resembles a younger form. Signs at the park embrace Nielsen’s reading and hint that Vikings might have carved the message between AD 600 and 800.

That romantic theory fuels annual festivals and attracts Viking reenactors from as far as Austria. Other explanations exist. Some historians suggest a member of René Robert Cavelier de La Salle’s 17th-century expedition carved the runes; others think a Swedish captain leading German colonists cut them around 1720. Still, others note that Scandinavian immigrants settled in eastern Oklahoma in the late 1800s and might have left the inscription as a boundary marker. Archaeologist Lyle Tompsen sees no evidence of Vikings in the region and points out that the grammar doesn’t match Old Norse. Swedish runologist Henrik Williams visited the site in 2015 and agreed. He observed that the mixture of alphabets and lack of word endings hint at a modern origin and that no similar Viking inscriptions exist in Greenland or Iceland, making a Norse journey to Oklahoma improbable.

While scholars debated, Farley built a movement. She founded Friends of the Heavener Runestone, organised tours and lectured across the United States. She combed archives and wrote a book arguing that pre-Columbian explorers reached

Oklahoma via the Mississippi, Arkansas and Poteau rivers.

Her lobbying persuaded state officials to set aside land for the park, and until her death in 2006 she maintained that Vikings carved the message. The park’s establishment did more than protect the stone – it preserved a hillside of hardwood forest and brought much-needed tourism to Heavener. When budget cuts threatened to close the park in 2011, Farley’s nonprofit and local volunteers kept it operating. Today it welcomes tens of thousands of visitors each year and hosts a Runestone Festival featuring medieval crafts, demonstrations and food.

Park manager Amanda Garcia told a reporter in 2020 that the inscription uses letters from the elder Futhark and that Farley’s translation – “Glome dal,” land belonging to a person named Glome – remains the official stance at the park. She noted that the Poteau River and its tributaries were wider before dams shrank them, which would have made a river journey into eastern Oklahoma more feasible.

Experts remain cautious. Archaeologist Ken Feder argues there is no sign of Norse presence anywhere near Oklahoma and asks why Vikings would travel so far inland without leaving tools, camps or bones. Tompsen points to similar runic inscriptions found in Poteau, Shawnee and Pawnee that are clearly modern. He, Williams and others highlight the absence of ornamentation and proper grammar, features common to confirmed Viking runestones. Rather than citing sagas, they look to the influx of Scandinavian immigrants in the late 19th century for a more mundane explanation.

Whatever its origin, the Heavener Runestone endures as a monument to curiosity. It transformed a wooded ravine into a park, encouraged a community to rally around historic preservation and continues to prompt visitors to wonder who might have walked there centuries ago.

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BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK

Southwestern Oklahoma State Athletics

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Rivers (Frisco, Texas) delivered a season-high 282 yards through the air, completing 24-of-31 passes with two touchdowns in SWOSU's dominant win over Arkansas-Monticello. The performance marked the Bulldogs' first victory in the state of Arkansas since 2018. Rivers also posted the most passing yards of any player in the GAC during Week Nine. SWOSU has now won three straight games, averaging 39 points per contest over that stretch.

Sala (Mexico City, Mex.) closed out her fall season with another top-10 finish, placing fourth at The Tulsa Cup. Across five fall tournaments, she never finished lower than seventh, earning two fourth-place finishes and one runner-up showing. Sala currently ranks fifth in the Central Region.

2026 Miss SWOSU Pageant Set for November 15



Pictured (from left): Back Row: Evann Boyd, Gabrielle Clayton, Sophie Hodges, Caroline Snider, Presley Evans, Britlee Russell, Rylee Ferguson, Parker Coffman, Lauren Wicker. Front Row: Dakota Duke, Sierra Stephens, Mackenzie Brown, Kristen Range, Miss SWOSU 2025 Mia Macias, Avari Brown, Selah Bentley, Andrea Stalder, Jocelyn Treece.

Phases of competition include Interview, On-Stage Question, Active Wear, Talent, and Evening Gown, where each contestant will showcase her skills and personality.

Also present will be the spectacular Miss SWOSU “Little Stars,” the Weatherford High School Pom Squad with a special performance, a group from Cinderella’s Dance Studio (Weatherford Location) with a lively tap routine, and the legendary SWOSU Jazz Band.

Tickets are available in advance for \$10 or \$5 with a SWOSU ID. All tickets purchased at the door will be priced at \$15. Advanced tickets are available from any contestant, the SWOSU Hibler Education Building Room 118B, or the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

2025 Miss SWOSU Contestants:

Caroline Snider.....Laverne, OK
Jocelyn Treece.....Woodward, OK
Gabrielle Clayton.....Clinton, OK
Avari Brown.....Cheyenne, OK
Sophie Hodges.....Webbers Falls, OK
Dakota Duke.....Dewar, OK
Britlee Russell.....Dewey, OK
Sierra Stephens.....Weatherford, OK
Parker Coffman.....Bridge Creek, OK
Lauren Wicker.....Mustang, OK
Evan Boyd.....Yukon, OK
Presley Evans.....Clinton, OK
Andrea Stalder.....Weatherford, OK
Mackenzie Brown.....Tecumseh, OK
Selah Bentley.....Laverne, OK
Kristen Range.....Owosso, OK
Rylee Ferguson.....Mooreland, OK

For additional information on the Miss SWOSU Pageant, please contact Director Tia Sauer Blanchard at missswosu@swosu.edu.



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SWOSU Bulldogs Dominate Arkansas-Monticello in 49-7 Road Victory



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Football racked up a season-high 470 yards of offense, forced four turnovers, and dominated both sides of the ball in a 49-7 rout of Arkansas-Monticello on Saturday afternoon.

The win – SWOSU's third straight – gives the Bulldogs five on the year, matching their most victories since 2016, and pushes them above the .500 mark at 5-4 with two games left on the schedule.

SWOSU used turnovers to fuel its first-half offense. Damion Dunn intercepted UAM's opening drive, setting up an early touchdown connection from MJ Rivers to Baylor Nash from 19 yards out.

In the second quarter, after the Bulldogs' lone turnover of the game on a fumble, they immediately

got the ball back on a recovered UAM miscue. The Dawgs then drove 11 plays and capped the series with a two-yard Red Martel touchdown run to take a 14-0 lead into halftime.

Out of the locker room, SWOSU produced its most impressive drive of the season — a 19-play, 75-yard march that chewed up nearly nine minutes of clock and ended with a Braxton Etheridge short touchdown run.

The defense quickly forced a turnover on downs, and the Bulldogs struck again early in the fourth quarter when Isaac Norris hauled in a 24-yard touchdown from Rivers. That score ignited a dominant 28-point fourth quarter.

Duce Hart broke free for a 40-yard touchdown

run on the next possession for his first score of the season. Monticello answered midway through the quarter to make it 35-7, but SWOSU immediately responded with an 11-play, 71-yard drive that ended in another Etheridge touchdown.

Linebacker Felipe Tristan closed out the scoring in dramatic fashion, batting and intercepting a pass near the line of scrimmage and returning it for a touchdown — SWOSU's third defensive score of the season.

The Bulldog offense was a perfect 4-for-4 in the red zone, scoring touchdowns on all four trips. Their 470 total yards marked the second straight week with at least 450. Rivers threw for 282 yards and two touchdowns on 24-of-31 passing with no turnovers, spreading his completions to nine different receivers.

On the ground, SWOSU rushed for 188 yards on 47 carries, led by Martel's 58 yards on 20 touches.

SWOSU controlled possession for 37:14, converted 8-of-14 third downs and 3-of-4 fourth downs, and held UAM to 274 total yards — marking the fourth straight game the Bulldog defense has kept an opponent under 300 yards. SWOSU's four takeaways sets a new season high, as they won the turnover battle 4-1.

Shane Armstrong led the way with five tackles, including one for loss, and a fumble recovery, while Zack Roberts added a late interception.

The Bulldogs return home next Saturday, November 8, for Senior Day against Ouachita Baptist — their final home game of the season. The regular season concludes November 15 at Northwestern Oklahoma State in Alva.

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