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GPF YMCA Takes Weatherford Students to 75th Annual YAG Conference



Jacie Powers / YMCA

Eleven Weatherford students were in attendance at the YMCA's 75th Annual YAG (Youth and Government) Conference.



Jacie Powers / YMCA

Students from across the state participated in a mock legislative session in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives.

Last month a delegation of 11 Weatherford High School Students sponsored by the Great Plains Family YMCA traveled to the State Capitol to participate in Oklahoma's 75th annual Youth and Government Conference. YAG is an annual event that teaches students the processes of government by having them participate in simulations of legislative sessions, mock trials, lobbying, as well as news gathering. From February 12th to February 14th hundreds of students from every corner of Oklahoma gathered at State Capitol to participate in the leadership exercise which "teaches students democracy, engages them civically, and inspires them to be changemakers in their communities," according to Oklahoma Youth And Government's website.

Jacie Powers, Youth and Family Director at the GPF YMCA, has run the Weatherford group for over 3 years now and has seen the program double as students spread the word about the group among their peers. "Throughout the last couple of years the kids have grown a lot more confident and they are proud of what they do," said Powers, "so they go back to the schools and they're explaining it to their friends at school and then that's kind of getting more attention, and making our program grow."

One of the students who is spreading the word at Weatherford High School is Junior Kevin Perez. Perez participated in mock legislative events at the 2026 YAG conference where he co-authored legislation for the conference. "It's just a really interesting and unique experience," said Perez "where you really learn the intricacies of the state government because we're doing exactly what the legislators do."

Stryker Klein, a Junior at Weatherford, also attended the event and participated in mock trial proceedings. Klein's efforts during the conference were noticed by judges and organizers and he was selected to represent Oklahoma at the national conference to be held later this year. "It's genuinely a life-changing experience," said Klein "I felt myself grow and I made so many memories."

And while the students who attended the conference may not pursue professional legislative or judicial careers the event will leave a mark on their adult lives, especially in an era marked with deep political division. "These kids are able to see that you're not always going to agree," Said Jacie Powers. "Your bill's not always going to pass. You might not always win a mock trial. But the impact that they have and the impact that you have on them will stick with them for a very long time."

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Lou Slaton

Wanoma Lou Slaton was born August 14, 1932, to Wayne and Margaret (Smith) Hubbard. She passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at The Gardens at Quail Springs Assisted Living in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the age of 93.



Lou graduated from Omega High School and attended Central State College in Edmond. She was united in marriage to Harold J. Slaton on August 3, 1952, at a country church near Kingfisher, Oklahoma. The couple made their home in Hinton, later moving to Mountain View, and eventually settling in Cordell, where they lived for 46 years. After retirement, they continued to live in Cordell and later returned to Hinton to be closer to family. Lou worked for many years as the office manager for Dr. William "Bill" Akers, optometrist. She was known for her creativity and talent, enjoying needlework, quilting, crafts, gardening, flowers, painting ceramics, and sewing clothes. She was a member of the Professional Businesswomen's Association in Cordell, was active in the Cordell Main Street program and other local organizations. She belonged to the Red Hatters Club and quilting clubs in both Hinton and Cordell. She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church in Hinton.

She is survived by her two children, LouAnn McCormick of Hinton and Greg Slaton of Edmond; four grandchildren, Amber McCormick and Lacey Morgan, both of Hinton, and Alison Slaton and Ashtyn Slaton, both of Edmond; three great-grandchildren, Mason McCormick and his wife Jordan of Weatherford, and Noltee and Nylee Morgan, both of Hinton; and two great-great-grandchildren, Mac and Miles McCormick of Weatherford. She is also survived by numerous nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Margaret Hubbard; her husband, Harold Slaton; daughter-in-law, Stacey Slaton; son-in-law, Don McCormick; one sister, Pat Challis and her husband John; brothers-in-law Harmon Slaton and Haskell Slaton; and one nephew, Gary Slaton.

Viewing was held Friday, March 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Funeral services took place at 10:00 a.m., Monday, March 9, 2026, at the First Baptist Church in Hinton, Oklahoma, with Rev. Keith Gillham officiating. Burial will follow at Hinton Cemetery in Hinton, Oklahoma. Services entrusted to Turner Funeral Home, Hinton, Oklahoma. Condolences may be sent to the family at turnerfuneralhomes@gmail.com, turnerfh.net, or you can find us on facebook.com (Turner Funeral Homes).

Tiffani Gallagher

Tiffani Dawn (Smith) Gallagher was born on January 28, 1971, in Weatherford, Oklahoma to Donald Ray and Linda Jan (Saunders) Smith and passed away on March 3, 2026, in Medford, Oklahoma at the age of 55.



Tiffani Dawn (Smith) Gallagher was born and raised in Weatherford, Oklahoma and graduated from Weatherford High School in 1989. After high school, she attended Clarendon College where she played basketball.

Tiffani later moved to Weatherford and attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University, majoring in Elementary Education.

In the spring of 1994, Tiffani met Brandon Corey Gallagher, and they were married on June 16, 1995, at the First United Methodist Church in Weatherford, and continued to make their home in Weatherford. She graduated from SWOSU with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1996 and she got their first teaching job in Cyril, Oklahoma.

Tiffani and Brandon later moved to Enid and began teaching at Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Schools. They welcomed their son, Bode in 2002 and daughter, Piper in 2005, and the family made their home in Enid for the next 17 years. They then moved to Cordell, Oklahoma where Tiffani taught at Cordell Elementary School and was also Cordell High School's Counselor.

During this time, Tiffani earned her Master's Degree in Educational School Counseling in 2019. She went on to be the Watonga High School Counselor for 4 years, earn a second Master's Degree in School Psychology, teach Intro to Psychology at SWOSU and Master's Level Education Classes at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Most recently, Tiffani was working as a second grade teacher in Medford.

Tiffani loved reading, cooking and spending time at the beach and the lake. Time spent with friends and family were a cherished part of Tiffani's life.

Tiffani was preceded in death by her father, Donald Smith and sister-in-law, Carrie Moore.

She is survived by her husband, Brandon Gallagher; son, Bode Gallagher; daughter, Piper Gallagher; mother, Linda Smith; brother, Garrett Smith and wife, Laura; sister, Sydney Ward and husband, Abenicio; parents-in-law, Don and Paula Gallagher; sister-in-law, Tammy Eberle and husband, Frank; and brother-in-law, Dusty Moore. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Alfred Reyes

Alfred Cuellar Reyes, Jr. was born February 26, 1933, in Santa Maria, Texas, to Alfredo Cuellar Reyes, Sr. and Beatriz (Reyes) Reyes and passed away Sunday, March 1, 2026, at home in Thomas.



Alfred was raised and attended school in Texas. While in Texas, they picked cotton all the way to Mississippi until moving to Wichita, Kansas when Alfred was about 12 years old. He began working in horticulture early in life with his dad and later worked in construction. Alfred moved to Thomas in 1977 and started working in the oil field, briefly working in construction before his main job at Thomas schools in maintenance. Alfred met and married Alta Fern Black Owl, and they had seven children. He was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints in Clinton.

Alfred had a green thumb and liked planting bushes and trees. He enjoyed building and carpentry work, plumbing, electric and was a "jack of all trades". He was very mechanically inclined working on motors and could fix anything. Alfred loved going to pow wows, traveling in the motor home, visiting Idaho and Wyoming, and being with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Alfred was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Alta Reyes; brother, Raymond Reyes; and twin sons, Matthew Wade and Mark Evan Reyes.

He is survived by his five children, Mario Reyes, Valerie B. Reyes, David Reyes, Nicholas Reyes and Danny Reyes; brothers, Mike Reyes and Erasmo Reyes both of Wichita, KS; sisters, Mary Pando of Wichita, KS and Josephine Marsh of Wellington, KS; and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Kathy Robben

Kathleen "Kathy" Robben, aged 78, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, passed away on February 25, 2026.



Kathy was born on April 5, 1947, to C.A. and Frances (Schott) Dunagan in San Antonio, Texas. She married Andrew Robben on September 20, 1976, also in San Antonio.

Kathy's family was the center of her life. She cherished every moment with her daughters, often living joyfully through their experiences, holding their triumphs close to her heart. Her greatest happiness came from the time she spent with her grandchildren, whose presence filled her days with warmth and purpose.

She also carried a soft, steady love for animals, especially her dogs and cats, who were constant companions throughout her life. Beyond her devotion to family, she enjoyed quiet pleasures—documentaries and crime shows, getting lost in a good novel, and sharing memorable meals with loved ones, especially when green enchiladas were served.

Kathy is survived by her daughters, Christine Knabe and husband Richard of Whitewright, Texas; Andrea Browning and husband Rusty of Seattle, Washington; and Amanda Robben of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Ryan, Devin, Caitlin, Robin, Evelyn, Asa, and George. She is preceded in death by her parents, C.A. and Frances Dunagan; husband, Andrew Robben; brother, George Dunagan; and sister, Janice Dunagan.

Kathy will be remembered for her loving spirit and the warmth she brought to those around her.



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SWOSU Palooza Concert Returns March 27

SWOSU PALOOZA

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) will host SWOSU Palooza presented by Qdoba on Friday, March 27, 2026, in the Pioneer Events Center on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford. Doors will open at 7 p.m., and the concert will begin at 8 p.m.

SWOSU Palooza is the university's annual spring concert and has been a campus tradition since 2000. The event is organized in coordination with the Student Government Association (SGA) and is intended to provide students with a large-scale live music event on campus each year. Over more than two decades, Palooza has remained one of the most anticipated student events of the spring semester.

The event will feature headliner Jacob Stelly, a red dirt musician from Liberty, Texas, who has built a following across Texas and Oklahoma through regional touring and live performances. The opening act will be American Slang, an Oklahoma-based band known for blending rock and country

in its original music, along with select cover songs during its shows.

The concert is free for current SWOSU students. Members of the general public may attend for \$10, payable by credit card at the door. Re-entry will not be permitted. Qdoba will operate a food vendor station inside the Pioneer Events Center and will serve as the exclusive meal vendor for the duration of the event.

"We are super excited to have Jacob Stelly and American Slang perform for Palooza this year," said Kambree Hammons, an SGA student.

SGA President Jake Estes said the event continues a focus on bringing emerging artists to campus. "We have always prided ourselves on bringing students tomorrow's stars, and this year we are excited to bring Jacob Stelly and American Slang to campus," Estes said.

More information about the event is available at www.swosu.edu/swosupalooza/.

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Teri Kimble / Hydro-Eakly Public Schools

Pictured, from left (top row): Hydro-Eakly's 2026 Valedictorians Brooklyn Bailey, Conley King, Baler Lott, Brylee Lowry, Priscilla Price; (bottom row): Oaklie Roof, Gracen Ruckman, Erin Smith, Skyler Sturgeon, and Salutatorian Sydnee Sullivan.

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Michelle Hartman / Weatherford Public Schools

Weatherford has named four Valedictorians for 2026. Pictured, from left: Ruby Wright, Katie Kreizenbeck, Macy Clark, and Hayden Sinclair.

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HYDRO / CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE - A man and a woman are in custody following a Hydro child sexual abuse case. Officials with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation say on January 28th, a minor disclosed that 47-year-old Rodolfo Perez-Solano got her pregnant. Forensic interviews showed that there were multiple instances of child sexual abuse and physical abuse dating back to 2020. Perez-solano and his wife, 44-year-old Jessica Perez, were arrested at their home in hydro and booked into the Blaine County Jail. Perez-solano is charged with multiple counts of child sexual abuse, child abuse, enabling child abuse and child sexual exploitation. Jessica Perez is charged with child abuse, enabling child abuse, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, and enabling child sexual exploitation.

KEATING / GOV CANDIDATE - A former state Highway Trooper is throwing his name in the ring as a candidate for Governor in 2026. Chip Keating was on the campaign trail in western Oklahoma, making a stop in Weatherford. "You got to have the courage to do the right thing. No outside interests influencing you. Let's go fix these things and position Oklahoma at the crossroads we sit at today," expressed Keating. "I think [this is] one of the most consequential elections. We can turn this place around, and this state should be overly rich and not poor." Keating says his areas of focus include education, modernizing the tax code, and attacking the illegal drug crisis.

CUSTER CO / MCDOW - An Arapaho man has waived a preliminary hearing in Custer County District Court and has been bound over for formal arraignment to answer to a charge of 2nd degree rape. 23-year-old Cain Joseph McDow allegedly was playing video games with a female around April 16th when the two started drinking alcohol. Court records show McDow allegedly forced himself on the victim after she laid down after not feeling well. Formal arraignment is set for April 6th.

CUSTER CO / DEPUTY ACCIDENT - Custer County Sheriff Dan Day told commissioners that the Oklahoma Highway Patrol is currently investigating an officer-related traffic accident. Over the weekend, a deputy was involved in an accident on Interstate 40," explained Day. "He was not hurt, neither was the semi...So the good thing [that] came out of it, there wasn't anyone hurt." No additional details have been released at this time.

CUSTER CO / BOARD OF ELECTIONS - It's going to be a busy spring for the Board of Elections in Custer County. Election Board Secretary Ann Brown shared that there's more than just a school board election for Weatherford Public Schools on April 7th. "April 1st through 3rd is Custer County candidate filing, which is County Commissioner District 1 and 3, which is Wade and Lyle. Also, Treasurer Janet Roulett and Assessor Brad Reynolds," explained Brown. "Early voting for the April election would be April 2nd and 3rd, so we'll be having early voting during candidate filing." Brown added that there is also a closed period for political affiliation changes this year from March 31st through August 31st.

WEATHERFORD / SHOOTING STAR PARK The Weatherford City Commission recently approved a bid pertaining to sidewalks at Shooting Star Park across from the Stafford Air & Space Museum. Museum Director Julie Lenius presented the sidewalk project to commissioners. "Since the majority of the park that we are funding and taking care of is slated to be done this summer, we didn't want our sidewalks to just end and it not be ended on the perimeter for when people are walking into the park," explained Lenius. "And so we worked with the city on getting this portion paid for, and we went out and got the free bids. Our general contractor for the park area is making a recommendation of the building of Parkland, and that is just so we can get the sidewalk completed with the rest of the park at the same time." Commissioners approved the project with a bid from Billy Karlin Construction at just over \$28,000.

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Happy Birthday Wishes for Mar. 11 - Angie Caler, Perry Cleaver, Megan Davenport, Laurie Garcia, Kelsey Granger, Sesario Sambrano, Keith Sawatsky, Carmelito Switzer, Duncan Taylor, Kevin Townsley, Jason Trout, Kurt Van Huss, Winnifred White Tail, Hailman White Tail Jr., Tara Williams; **March 12** - Donna Arganbright, Julian Borjas, Randy Devine, Tony Graham, Genesis Rose, Ronnie Schmitz, Bill Stamper, Kyle Wager; **March 13** - Richard Baugher, Matthew Cannon, Kim Cisco, Kevin Evans, Debbie Garrison, Betty Klaassen, Terrel Leonard, Eileen Mullins, Brandi Nabors, John Shaddon, Eva Zitterkob; **March 14** - Rudy Ahdokobo, David Altland, Summer Bass, Brandy Carlson, Elise Cornell, Erica Cresswell, Brandi Gateley, Mary Katherine Nail, Eddie Perkins, Steve Thomason, Sara Townley; **March 15** - Brenna Butler, Mike Groswen, Casey Murray, Jennifer Scruggs; **March 16** - Calvin Brownning, Tucker Goodall, Jara Griffin, Morgan Hanson, Richie Hull, Floyd King, Julie Maddox, Craig Nabors, Virgal Slagell, Darren Toczeko; **March 17** - Keith Ansted, Steven Bagby, Andrew Basgall, Ron Henderson, Patrick Janning, Mike Kidd, Robert Middleton, Sheresha Moody, Clifford Prichard, Katie Roach, Jennifer Schultz.

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HOME & GARDEN

Air Conditioner Maintenance: Tips to Keeping Your Home Cool

As temperatures begin to rise, homeowners should prepare their air conditioning systems for the warm months ahead. Regular maintenance ensures that an air conditioner runs efficiently, reduces energy costs, and prevents costly repairs.

One of the most important steps in spring maintenance is replacing or cleaning the air filter. A clogged filter can restrict airflow, leading to decreased efficiency and poor indoor air quality. Experts recommend changing disposable filters or washing reusable ones every one to three months.

The outdoor condenser unit also requires attention. Leaves, dirt, and debris that have accumulated over the winter should be removed to allow proper airflow. Cleaning the condenser coils with a gentle spray of water can improve efficiency, and trimming vegetation around the unit ensures unobstructed air circulation.

Inside the home, the evaporator coils should be inspected and cleaned to prevent dust buildup that can hinder performance.

The condensate drain line, responsible for removing excess moisture, should also be checked for clogs. A simple mixture of vinegar and water can help keep the line clear and prevent water damage.

Checking the refrigerant levels is another crucial task. Low refrigerant can indicate a leak and reduce cooling performance. If the system is not cooling effectively, homeowners may need to consult a professional technician for inspection and recharging. The thermostat should also be tested to ensure it is functioning correctly. Sometimes upgrading to a programmable or smart thermostat can improve efficiency and help maintain a comfortable indoor temperature.

Electrical components play a vital role in the air conditioner's operation.

Loose connections or worn-out wires can lead to system failures. Homeowners should inspect electrical connections and tighten any loose components or seek professional assistance if needed.

Ductwork should also be examined for leaks, as air escaping through gaps can lead to wasted energy and higher utility bills. Sealing any visible openings with duct tape or hiring a professional for more extensive repairs can help maintain efficient cooling. For older air conditioning models, lubricating moving parts such as motors and bearings may be necessary. Some units have oil ports that require periodic maintenance to prevent wear and tear.

Running a test cycle is a good way to ensure the system is operating correctly. Turning on the air conditioner and listening for unusual noises can help identify potential issues before the peak summer heat arrives.



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HOME & GARDEN

Beginner Gardening Tips: A Guide to Growing Your Green Thumb

1 CHECK ROOF SHINGLES AND YOUR CHIMNEY

Let's start at the top. **Snow, ice, freezing and thawing can damage roof shingles, causing them to buckle or loosen.**

Missing or damaged shingles should be replaced by a qualified roofer to prevent further water damage. Ask your roofer if he or she is also qualified to inspect your chimney for cracks and to fill/repair them as needed.

4 SERVICE AC UNITS

Air conditioning units get a workout during the summer so use the spring to get them ready.

A qualified HVAC technician can clean the system to help it operate more efficiently. You should also prune nearby plants that could block airflow.

2 CLEAN AND INSPECT GUTTERS

Clogged or damaged gutters can let water seep into walls or get into the basement instead of directing it away from the home.

Clean debris from gutters and downspouts and replace damaged sections.

5 PAINT TOUCH-UP

Touching up cracked or peeling paint not only makes your home look better, but protects it from the elements as well.

While inspecting outer walls for paint needs, also check for wall damage or openings that developed over the winter and ask a licensed contractor to repair them.

3 FIX CONCRETE CRACKS

Cracks in concrete driveways and pool decks can worsen over time.

To prevent further damage, and avoid tripping hazards, power-wash the area then seal with crack filler or silicone caulk.

Spring is also a great time to spruce up your homeowners insurance. As your home changes, your insurance needs change as well.

Contact your independent insurance agent to make sure your home insurance grows with you.

SELECTIVE®

Gardening is a rewarding and therapeutic hobby that allows you to connect with nature while beautifying your surroundings. If you're new to gardening, the process can seem overwhelming, but with the right tips and approach, you can cultivate a thriving garden. Here are some essential gardening tips for beginners:

1. Start Small - If you're a beginner, it's best to start with a small garden. Choose a manageable space, such as a few pots on a balcony or a small raised bed in your backyard. This allows you to gain experience without feeling overwhelmed.

2. Choose the Right Plants - Select plants that are suited for your climate and soil type. Native plants, herbs, and easy-to-grow vegetables like tomatoes, lettuce, and basil are great choices for beginners. Check plant labels or consult local gardening resources for guidance.

3. Prepare the Soil - Healthy soil is the foundation of a successful garden. Test your soil to determine its pH and nutrient levels. Enrich the soil with compost or organic matter to promote plant growth and improve drainage.

4. Provide Adequate Water - Understanding your plants' water needs is crucial. Overwatering and underwatering can both be harmful. Generally, most plants need about an inch of water per week. Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation.

5. Ensure Proper Sunlight - Different plants have different requirements for sunlight. Some need full sun (6-8 hours of direct light), while others thrive in partial shade. Be sure to plant accordingly to maximize their growth potential.

6. Use Quality Gardening Tools - Invest in essential gardening tools like gloves, a trowel, pruners, and a watering can. Quality tools make gardening easier and more enjoyable.

7. Practice Regular Maintenance - Keep up with weeding, pruning, and checking for pests to maintain a healthy garden. Mulching can help suppress weeds and retain moisture in the soil.

8. Be Patient and Learn from Mistakes - Gardening is a learning process, and not every plant will thrive. Observe, experiment, and adjust your methods as needed. Over time, you'll develop a better understanding of what works best in your garden.

9. Join a Gardening Community - Connect with local gardening groups or online communities to exchange tips and seek advice. Experienced gardeners can provide valuable insights that help you succeed.

By following these simple gardening tips, you'll be well on your way to creating a beautiful and productive garden. Enjoy the journey and happy gardening!

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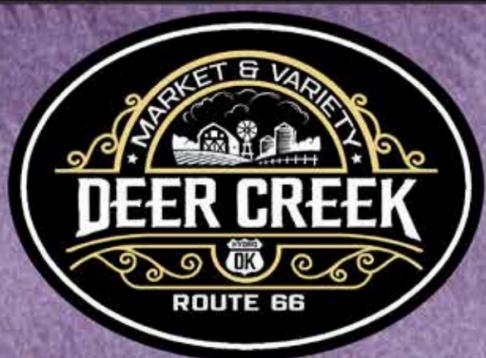
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SPRING HOME & GARDEN

Interior Design Trends: Embracing Nature and Functional Spaces

As spring approaches, interior design trends are shifting towards a balance of nature-inspired aesthetics, warm neutrals, and functional yet stylish spaces. This season's trends highlight sustainability, personalization, and a fresh approach to color and texture.

1. Earthy Tones & Warm Neutrals - Gone are the days of stark white interiors—this spring, warm neutrals like terracotta, beige, and taupe take center stage. These tones bring a cozy, inviting feel to any space while complementing natural elements like wood and stone.

2. Natural Materials & Rustic Textures Oklahoma's rural lifestyle naturally lends itself to rustic design elements. This spring, expect to see more natural wood finishes.

Reclaimed wood furniture, shiplap walls, and vintage-inspired decor pieces bring character while staying true to country aesthetics.

3. Multifunctional Furniture & Smart Spaces Look for durable furniture that serves multiple functions, like storage ottomans, farmhouse-style kitchen islands, and cozy reading nooks. Comfort is a priority—think plush sofas, soft throws, and inviting porches that encourage relaxation after a long day.

4. Bold Statement Pieces & Textures - While minimalism remains popular maximalism is beginning to take some of its thunder, spring 2025 introduces bolder statement pieces—such as sculptural furniture, oversized artwork, and textured walls.

Plaster, limewash, and patterned wallpaper add depth and personality to spaces without overwhelming them.

5. Vintage and Handcrafted Touches - There's a growing appreciation for craftsmanship and unique, one-of-a-kind pieces. Antique furniture, handmade quilts, and locally crafted pottery can add a personal touch to any room. Flea markets and small-town antique shops are great places to find decor that blends history with modern style.

6. Soft Pastels & Vibrant Accents - Soft pastel shades like sage green, dusty blue, and blush pink are making a comeback, providing a fresh and airy feel. These hues are often paired with vibrant accent colors like deep emerald, burnt orange, or mustard yellow to create a dynamic yet balanced look.

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Oklahoma History - Indian Territory Borders and the 100th Meridian



Chase Wright
Staff Writer

In the late 1800s, the far southwest corner of today's Oklahoma lived with an identity problem. Depending on which fork of the Red River you believed was "the" Red River, you might be standing in Texas, in Indian Territory, or in a kind of legal fog between the two.

The roots of the dispute stretched back to the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty, which described the boundary as following the Red River west to the 100th meridian and then turning north. But when the treaty was signed, the upper Red River country wasn't fully mapped. To help anchor the line, negotiators leaned on the 1818 Melish map, which depicted the river as essentially a single channel. A simplification that later became a serious problem when explorers, surveyors, and settlers confronted the reality of multiple forks.

In 1852, expeditions led by Randolph B. Marcy and George B. McClellan pushed into the region to chart the rivers and pinpoint the meridian. McClellan used astronomical observations to place the 100th meridian, but made an error that set it about a degree east of where it truly belonged. That mistake, paired with the confusion over which river fork counted as the "main" Red River, fed decades of contradictory claims.

Texas acted on its interpretation first. On February 9, 1860, it created Greer County named for John Alexander Greer and treated the area as Texas soil for nearly forty years, issuing land certificates and encouraging settlement.

By the 1880s, federal control was established as Chester A. Arthur moved more aggressively to press the U.S. claim, and a U.S.-Texas joint commission met in 1886. Only deadlock over the same core question: did the treaty's Red River mean the North Fork, or the southern "Prairie Dog Town Fork"?

Congress finally forced a decisive test. In the Organic Act creating Oklahoma Territory in 1890, lawmakers directed the U.S. attorney general to bring the dispute to the Supreme Court. The case was argued in October 1895. Then, on March 16, 1896, the Court issued that the treaty's Red River followed the southern branch (the Prairie Dog Town Fork), meaning the contested land "constitutes no part" of Texas and was "subject to the exclusive jurisdiction" of the United States. In practical terms, "Old Greer County" was now Oklahoma Territory and about 1.5 million acres was added in a single ruling.

The change didn't stop at the courthouse door. Congress moved quickly to formalize governance, passing an act on May 4, 1896 establishing Greer County in Oklahoma Territory, with Mangum as county seat. Even then, the border had one more twist waiting. After a modern survey in 1929, the Supreme Court entered a decree on March 17, 1930 confirming the corrected line of the true 100th meridian, finalizing the boundary again and relocating a narrow strip of land, affecting roughly 500 residents, back to Texas. In the two separate March decisions in 1896 and 1930, the Court finally finalized the boundary line, and the rest is history.

Provided

John Wesley Powell noted the line between the East and West along the 100th Meridian, initially proposed to separate the humidity of the East and the dryness of the West. To help plan for the settlement and development from the government in the western territories, regulated for water usage.

SWOSU Celebrates 125 Years of Excellence with Birthday Festivities



Jessy Frizzell / Frizzell Photography

Hundreds gathered in front of the SWOSU Clocktower in commemoration of SWOSU's 125th Anniversary since its founding in 1901. Commemorative copies are available for purchase from Jessy Frizzell Photography Contact their office to purchase.

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Provided by Kelley Schmidt Photography

The Weatherford Lady Eagles were named Area Consolation Champions after defeating the Bethany Bronchos 39-30. They're planned to face off against Locust Grove in the state tournament on Tuesday, March 10th at 12:00 p.m. after this publication is printed.

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Anton and Wakui Named Bulldogs of the Week

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Nerea Anton (women's golf) and Kotaro Wakui (baseball) have been named the Bulldogs of the Week presented by Wright Media — the official partner for SWOSU athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Anton (Madrid, Spain) recorded her best finish of the season at the Duffie Ford/Lincoln Invitational last week, helping lead the Lady Bulldogs to their second tournament victory of the year.

The freshman opened with an even-par 70 — matching the lowest round of the tournament — and finished tied for eighth overall as one of three SWOSU golfers inside the top 10.

Wakui (Niigata, Japan) had a huge weekend at the plate during SWOSU's series sweep of Southern Nazarene, going 7-for-9 (.778) with an .846 on-base percentage. He doubled and tripled in the series opener and recorded multiple hits in all three games while scoring five runs and driving in four.

SWOSU Starts Baseball Season with 2-0 Sweep

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Bulldog Baseball completed its first GAC series win after taking care of both games in this afternoon's doubleheader.

The Dawgs have now beaten the Crimson Storm 18 straight times, including finishing the year 4-0 against SNU. They will be back in action for a midweek meeting with ECU in Ada at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

hit with five strikeouts. The SNU offense provided just five hits on the afternoon, tied for the least allowed by the SWOSU Bulldog pitching squad all season.

Game Two - SWOSU 4, SNU 1

In a game that featured two of the top four teams in the GAC in scoring per game, it turned into a pitcher's duel in the final game of the series as neither team scored in the first three innings. SNU got on the board thanks to three singles in the inning, scoring with two outs.

That, however, would be their only run of the game, and for a while it looked like it was all they needed to steal the nightcap.

The Dawgs did not score until the bottom of the sixth, where the bats and pitching finally went their way as they picked up four runs on two hits while also using five free bases—three walks and two hit batters.

Wakui went 2-for-3 at the plate while drawing a walk. For the series, he went 7-for-9 with four RBIs, a double, and a triple, along with three walks.

Jared Adams got the start and went 3.2 innings, allowing seven hits and one run. Garrett Folmar (W, 3-0) came in relief and pitched 2.2 innings, giving up just one hit while striking out two. Kaegan Baker earned the save, his second of the year, retiring the final two batters.

Game One - SWOSU 15, SNU 3

Scoring was easy to come by in the opening game of Saturday's action as the Bulldogs and SNU scored in seven of the first eight half innings, but the Dawgs were able to stack runs while the Crimson Storm managed only one each time. SWOSU and SNU both scored one in the first before SWOSU broke the game open by scoring 14 runs over the next three innings, including seven in the fourth, before both teams were held scoreless after the fifth.

Rusty Wortman and Kotaro Wakui each had a team-high three hits in the game, with Wortman recording four RBIs, driving in at least one run every time he got a hit.

Starter Will David (W, 2-3) threw a strong five innings, allowing just four hits and three runs, two of which being earned while striking out four. Conner Watson and Jayden Minter each pitched an inning in relief while allowing just a combined one

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