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Camp Invention to Spark West OK Students' Imagination in Late June



Students from last year's Camp Invention gather around their creations in the Explorers Room at the Stafford Air and Space Museum. *Provided*

Do you have an aspiring scientist, inventor or general problem-solver in your house looking for some fun STEM based activities this summer? Camp Invention, founded by the National Inventors Hall of Fame and run by local educators across the country, might just be the place for them.

For two weeks in June students from kindergarten to 8th grade will meet at the Stafford Air and Space Museum in Weatherford, OK for "a summer day camp filled with fun, hands-on STEM adventures

led by qualified local educators, designed to spark creativity, build confidence and ignite a lifelong love for learning," according to Camp Invention's website.

"I don't think that there's an opportunity for you to be bored at camp," said Camp Director and Weatherford Public Schools Teacher Ella Barnett. Barnett and her team will guide students through two all-new curriculums that will be divided by week.

Week one's curriculum, which will run from June 15-19, is named Spark and will cover "ocean innovation, forensic science, intellectual property and space exploration in ways that help them learn how to turn inventions into popular products, conduct an investigation, launch a space mission and file a patent application," according to a Facebook post by Barnett.

Week two's curriculum, from June 22-26, is named Illumination and will cover topics like "physics, electrical engineering, chemistry and more through four unique experiences. As students make global connections and design solutions to real-world water challenges, they'll also dive into prototyping and discover that innovation can happen anywhere. Then, they'll engineer their own one-of-a-kind Glow Box to investigate the properties of light and create their own sports ball as they explore the physics of motion," added Barnett on her Facebook post.

"Our town's lucky enough to have this facility dedicated to someone who is like these students, someone from Weatherford, Oklahoma, interested in STEM, so I think it really helps to inspire the kids to help them see that they can make a difference and they can have a huge impact like this with the right motivation and dedication and confidence in themselves," said Barnett.

The setting for the camp is also sure to inspire campers. Most Camp Invention programs are hosted at local schools, but the Stafford Air and Space Museum has agreed to host Camp Invention on their premises.

And despite the camp being tailored for younger students, there are opportunities for interested high school and college aged students looking to volunteer to lead campers in both sessions. All volunteers will be awarded a certificate for 40 hours of community service and experience that could help fill out their resume.

The cost to register for the camp is \$295/week and along with the camp experience students will receive a camp t-shirt, invention notebook and guide, as well as all inventions they create at the camp.

You can register online at invent.org/cisave. For more information you can contact Ella Barnett by email at ellabarnett003@gmail.com or by phone at 580-302-1975.

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Judy Frans

Julia Anne (Judy) Rogers Frans died peacefully in her sleep on May 28, 2026. Judy, the second child of Gerne and Elva Adams Rogers, was born in Thomas, Oklahoma on July 10, 1931. Tragically, her father was killed in a tractor accident when she was six years old. Judy was raised by two very strong women, her mother Elva and her grandmother Florence Adams.



At the age of twelve, she accepted Jesus Christ as her savior and was baptized in the creek on her grandfather's farm south of Thomas.

Judy graduated as Salutatorian of Thomas High School in 1949. The next week she went to work at the American State Bank of Thomas and continued there for the next four and one half years.

In December 1953 she packed her belongings and flew to Fairbanks, Territory of Alaska where she married Sam Frans the day she arrived. They were married at Ladd Air Force Base on December 19, 1953. While there, she was employed at the First National Bank of Fairbanks. Once Sam's Army tour was complete, they returned to their farm in western Oklahoma bringing home their seven week old daughter, Yolanda. Judy worked at First National Bank of Clinton for four years while Sam farmed and attended college.

They moved to Oklahoma City in 1959 and welcomed their second daughter, Doris. In 1964 they moved to Spencer. Their son Ross completed the family in 1966. Sam and Judy quietly raised their children together and lived a wonderful life devoted to each other. Sam preceded her in death on April 5, 2006.

Judy will be remembered by those who knew her for many things, her uncanny memory, her passion for genealogy, her flower beds, her love of reading, her ability as a seamstress making both clothing and her wonderfully soft quilts, and the way she loved and cared for Sam and all of her family.

In 2009 she moved to Cushing, Oklahoma where she enjoyed being near family, reading and gardening; still working her flowerbeds well into her 90's.

Preceding her in death were husband, Sam; parents, Gerne and Elva Rogers; step-father, Claude Harper; daughter, Yolanda Frans Peters; and sister, Lorraine Owens.

She is survived by her daughter Doris Pyles and husband Tracy of Cushing, Oklahoma; her son Ross Frans and wife Laurie of Wichita Falls, Texas; four grandchildren, Nathan Pyles and wife Amy of Edmond, Oklahoma, Vanessa Wheeler and husband Derek of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Rachel Long and husband Parker of Burkburnett, Texas and Sam Frans and wife Alexia of Weatherford, Oklahoma; eight great grandchildren, Nash Douglas Pyles, Lauren Elizabeth Wheeler, Avery Kate Pyles, Philip Durham Wheeler, Caroline Juniper Leigh Long, Amelia Joy Wheeler, Tomás Mateo Frans and Gideon James Wheeler; one sister-in-law, Sheila Mouse of Weatherford, and son-in-law Dan Peters and wife Sharon.

Jackie Threadgill

Jacqueline "Jackie" Threadgill was born November 23, 1942, in Enid, Oklahoma, to Charles Jefferson Brooks and Helen Chaldean (Deaton) Potje and passed away Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Seiling Nursing Center at the age of 83.



Jackie married Tommy Threadgill on July 26, 1963 in Thomas. She worked hard most of her life but enjoyed quilting and crafting when time allowed. She was very close with her sisters and they met regularly for rowdy card games for many years. She loved her family immensely, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Jackie was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one brother, Donald Campbell; and three sisters, Bonnie Yoder, LaSonic Southwell and Sharron Threadgill.

Jackie is survived by daughter, Sherri Steadham and her children: Justin Steadham and his children, Weston and Wyatt; Megan Deaton and husband, Nathan and their children: Novalee and Hartlee. Also survived by her sons, Shawn Threadgill and wife, Vicki and their children: Chance Threadgill, Courtney Threadgill and son, Colton Smith, Matthew Threadgill and fiancée, Amanda Pickering and their children: Kapri, Lucian and Brynlea Threadgill and Sarah, Michelle and Hudson Lamontagne; Amber Pruitt and husband, Tanner and their children: Savannah Dominguez, George and Taelynn Pruitt; and Drew Davis and son, Stefan Davis; her son, Shane Threadgill and his son, Tristen Threadgill.

Elaine Balch

Iris Elaine Balch was born on August 12, 1939, in Beaver, Oklahoma, to Charles Wayne Custer and Georgia Ellen Tilton Custer. She passed away on May 26, 2026, in Oklahoma City, at the age of 86.



Elaine grew up on a farm in Logan, Oklahoma, where she attended school and graduated from Darrouzett High School in Darrouzett, Texas. On November 24, 1956, she married the love of her life, Frank Lee Balch, in Beaver County, Oklahoma. Frank preceded her in death on September 30, 2009. Elaine devoted her life to her family and found great joy in caring for those she loved. She especially enjoyed quilting, sewing, cooking, and reading. Her kindness, generosity, and love for her family will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her children, Pamela Catt and husband Bud of Fairland, Oklahoma; Debbie Thowe and husband Merle of Loveland, Colorado; and Glenn Balch and wife Terry Bach of Hydro, Oklahoma; her grandchildren, Kerri Glancy, Michael Glancy, Logan Gemaehlich, Chelsea Thowe and husband Frederick Frank of Loveland, CO, Emilee Thowe of Loveland, CO, Kimmer Dougherty of Yukon, OK, Heather Koskie and husband Keith of Columbia, MD, and Frank McClain Balch and wife Charity of Moore, OK; seven great-grandchildren, Jocelyn, Stone, Tilton, Reagan, Liam, Kellen, and Fiona; her sisters, Norma Laurie of Booker, Texas, and Linda Ray of Kingwood, Texas; along with many other relatives and friends.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Georgia Custer, and her husband, Frank Lee Balch.

Joe White

Dubby "Joe" White was born in Midland, Texas on December 29, 1953 to Bob and Kattie Emma (Allen) White. He passed away surrounded by family in Oklahoma City on May 30, 2026 at the age of 72.



Joe was raised and attended school in Midland, Texas. After high school, he began a lifelong career in the oil field. He met Karen Diane (Webb) White in high school and they were married in 1976. The couple welcomed 3 daughters - Taria, DeAnna and Julie.

In 1982, the oil field brought Joe and his family to Oklahoma and they eventually made their home in Weatherford. He worked from Texas and North Dakota and everywhere in between. He worked many years doing consulting but had other positions over the years as well. Joe retired when he was 65, but continued working and doing what he loved in the oil field. He enjoyed the casino, being outdoors and going to car races. Most of all, Joe cherished the time spent with his kids and grandkids.

Joe is survived by his wife, Karen; daughter, Taria Dawn Price and husband, Christopher; daughter, DeAnna Nickels and husband, Ricky; daughter, Julie Garcia and husband, Travis; grandchildren, Dalton Moore, Brittaney Theis, Tanner Garcia, Britton Nickels, Haylee Garcia, Lexi Evans, Dacoda Nickels, Kylee Garcia, Ace McCargish, and Paige Moreland; great-grandchildren, Liam Moore, Bailey Moore, WrenLynn Garcia, Kezlynn Lewis and Kehlani Richards. He is also survived by two brothers, one sister and their families.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund, "For the benefit of Joe White," is set up at Southwest National Bank, 720 East Main St, Weatherford, OK 73096.

Norbert Smith



Edgar Norbert Smith, 84, was born the son of Charles E. Smith and Opal E. Hansen in Lebanon, Oregon on July 6, 1941. Norbert, as he was known to his friends, is survived by son, Jayson and his wife Josette Smith of

Bradenton, FL, and daughter Weena Ruth McKenzie of Yuma, AZ, and her son, Christopher Brent Maddox. Norbert passed away May 29th, 2026.

Norbert was always congenitally cheerful and outgoing. He never lacked friends who appreciate his sense of humor and wit. He loved good stories and jokes. He was a political conservative with a very high regard for the U.S. Constitution. Norbert was raised by his mother, Opal E. (Hansen) Smith and grandparents Hans P. Hansen and Emma Hansen. They lived on his grandparents farm six miles south of Weatherford, OK. Norbert attended Weatherford High School, graduating in 1959. He joined the U.S. Air Force after high school. While stationed in Maine, he met Joan Mae Duplisea and they were married July 1, 1960.

After an honorable discharge from the Air Force, he worked in electronics circuit design in the Dallas, TX area. During that time he and Joan ran their own ham radio station and he wrote articles on electrical circuitry for hobbyist magazines. When he eventually decided to extend his education he returned to Weatherford and enrolled in Southwestern State College there. In 1970 he received a B.S. degree in biology, graduating with honors. He combined his knowledge of electronics with his biology studies by designing and building miniature radio transmitters capable of measuring animal heart rates and body core temperatures. He used those to track and study rattlesnakes in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Washita County and other places in Oklahoma. By designing button sized radio transmitters and feeding them to rattlesnakes, Norbert clearly set himself apart from people of more normal talents and interests.

After graduation from Southwestern, he moved on to Baylor University where he obtained a M.S. degree in biology in 1973. After graduating from Baylor he went on to doctoral studies at Texas Tech University. He completed his dissertation and received a Ph.D. degree in biology in 1975. In his dissertation work he continued to develop his radio telemetry circuits and skills and used them in studies of American alligators. Those circuit designs and studies eventually led to his being selected as a keynote speaker at an international telemetry conference held at Oxford University in England in 1979.

After graduating from Texas Tech, Norbert spent one year teaching at Rochester Institute of Technology. He abandoned snowy Rochester for Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK in 1976 and taught there until spring 1981. During his years at NSU he owned a boat for use on Lake Tenkiller.

In addition to the fun that he and his family had with the boat, he used it to transport students to islands on the lake where they used telemetry to study the various animals that lived on the islands. Norbert excelled in motivating college students to do their own biological research.

After NSU, Norbert worked for a time at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. He collaborated with Dr. Paul McCay, who became well known for his work in developing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of specific chemicals produced in metabolic processes in living muscle tissues. McCay's early work at OMRF was helped along by Norbert's knowledge of animal physiology.

Norbert later took a teaching job at Redlands College, El Reno, OK, sometimes commuting from his grandparent's home south of Weatherford by motorcycle or plane. He loved flying his small plane. While working at Redlands, he began teaching at the federal prison at El Reno. He considered that to be a Christian duty and calling and he made several lasting friends among the inmates.

Norbert took early retirement from teaching and began driving trucks, which sadly paid better. He grew to like the work as he and his small dog, Gator, traversed the U.S. from coast to coast and beyond its borders. He loved the scenery, always keeping an eye out for the local flora and wildlife. During his years as a truck driver, he made many friends, often like himself in being educated far beyond the needs of their work. There were MDs, mathematicians, and engineers among them.

Since beginning his telemetry studies of wildlife, Norbert published more than 100 technical articles in peer reviewed science journals as well as numerous books on varied topics. His studies rewrote what we know about the physiology of snakes, squirrels, swamp rabbits, alligators, opossums and some birds.

Norbert had a continuing interest in making science interesting to children. Even before starting college studies he wrote nature articles for Ranger Rick and other children's magazines. Norbert published a series of small books about various creatures written for children.

After retiring, Norbert enjoyed gardening for many years in what was his grandmother's garden. When Ray and Ginger Read bought his land and lived close by- Norbert generously shared his two acre garden with Ginger. They became close friends.

Norbert reminded Ginger many times that he wanted his ashes to be scattered in his grandma's beloved garden.

Norbert was a believer of our Lord Jesus Christ. He loved the Lord, he read the Word, and loved attending Liberty church when he was able. His Hanson grandparents were charter members of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Weatherford and he was a member of the Emmanuel Baptist Church.

He was a resident of Homestead in Clinton and Weatherford for the past three and a half years and enjoyed good health until a month ago.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 16, 2026, 10:00 A.M. at the First Baptist Church with Scott Page officiating. Services are under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.

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Weatherford's Rotary Club to Host Annual 4th of July Celebration Event at Rader Park

Alexander Shook WOK Contributor
 The Rotary Club of Weatherford's annual Fourth of July celebration will be held at the local Rader Park in Weatherford, from 6PM - 11PM.

Various vendors, many of which will be operated by the Weatherford Boy and Girl Scouts, will be selling food, fireworks, and more until 9:30 PM. Live music will be provided by Drey Hawkins' Americana cover band, and the local community band, also under the direction of Drey Hawkins.

Giveaways will be hosted throughout the evening, offering thousands of items like flags, buttons, glow sticks, and other patriotic goodies. This lineup includes a Fourth of July-themed trivia event with prizes donated by several businesses.

For younger guests, a total of eight inflatables will be set up at the event, featuring a mix of bounce houses, slides, and obstacle courses. The event will also offer facepainting stands, available to attendees for free.

At 9:45 PM, a quartet of Weatherford Rotarians will take the stage with a special patriotic lead, followed by a moving presentation by the local Scouts, who will host the colors and lead the National Anthem.

Finally, at around 10:00 PM, the night sky will light up with a spectacular fireworks display. According to Nate Downs, Director of SWOSU's Pioneer Event Center, this year's fireworks display will be the largest in the event's history.

This celebration would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors:

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Clinton Classic Run Held on Saturday, June 6



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Despite the rainy weather, over 200 runners came out to participate in one of the three races featured at the Clinton Classic Run.

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SWOSU / TUITION HIKE - Southwestern Oklahoma State University is seeking a small hike in tuition for the coming year. SWOSU President Dr. Joel Kendall explained that the rise in operational costs prompted SWOSU to seek an increase in tuition. We are going to ask for a small increase. Our tuition mandatory fee increase request is 2.5%," said Dr. Kendall. "The RUSO board did approve that, [but] we still need to get approval from the Oklahoma State Regents." According to Kendall, SWOSU's tuition hike is "the second lowest increase" among Oklahoma four-year universities in 2026.

CLINTON CHAMBER / ROUTE 66 - Clinton Chamber of Commerce President Julie Caldwell has announced that this year's Clinton Route 66 Festival is shaping up to be one of the biggest celebrations yet. "Last year we brought back the Route 66 Festival, [which] We haven't had since 2019," shared Caldwell. "We brought it back last year and we had almost 90 cars, so I'm hoping to double that this year." The event is being called "Clinton's Century Lap on Route 66." It will be held on Saturday, September 5th.

WRH / HOSPITAL COMMUNITY WORKER Weatherford Regional Hospital Chief Executive Officer Darin Farrell recently discussed the implementation of a community health worker, made possible by funding from the Rural Health Transformation Program. "The grant pays for the salary and the benefits for up to five years. It's renewed each year for those five years of the program," explained Farrell. "Their role is to connect patients, other community members to community resources for health reasons. It can be a position that helps in lots of ways — anything health related — so there's some things with the university that this person can help connect with resources through their Rural Health." Farrell added that the job is currently posted and funding for the position is set to begin within the next month.

CARNEGIE / WASTE MANAGEMENT - The town of Carnegie's Board of Trustees have accepted a contract with Veteran Waste Solutions as the town's primary sanitation provider, effective September 1st. The Mayor of Carnegie says residential sanitation rates for customers inside the town of Carnegie will not be impacted by the change. However, some commercial and rural customers may see adjustments to their service rates depending on their location and service needs.

BECKHAM CO / SAYRE SEARCH WARRANT The Beckham County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from Sayre Police, recently executed a search warrant at a residence in Sayre as part of an ongoing investigation involving reported copper thefts and stolen property. During the search, deputies located suspected methamphetamine, multiple digital scales, and property believed to be connected to several theft and burglary investigations. As a result, deputies were able to clear six burglary cases. The investigation began following a traffic stop and led to the development of information that resulted in the search warrant.

CLINTON CC / SETTLEMENT - The Clinton City Council recently approved a funding request to the Clinton Hospital Authority for a settlement between the authority and former hospital Chief Executive Officer Len Lacefield. The settlement amount is just over \$52,000. Lacefield was terminated by the authority in February.

WEATHERFORD / COMMUNITY CENTER Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown recently discussed adjustments being made to the ongoing Community Center project, which will be constructed in Rader Park. "What we're doing is trying to cut some of the square footage out just a little bit. Not a lot, maybe three feet here and there, but over a 100-foot area, it adds up," expressed Brown. "We're trying to get the price down. We haven't put it out to bid yet, but hopefully that'll happen in [either] September or October. We'll be able to put it out to bid and see what the final numbers are." The community center will be owned by the city of Weatherford and operated by the YMCA. Mayor Brown hopes the final cost will be, in total, around \$40 million. "We've been a little above that, but [that's why we're] trying to make some cuts here and there"

WEATHERFORD / MUSEUM ATTENDANCE According to Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown, museums in the city of Weatherford are experiencing more attendance this year. "Our museums are up 60% since the first of the year on the number of people coming in," explained Brown. "[With the] amount of money people are spending, it's really just the beginning as far as the summertime travel." Additionally, Brown believes the future Shooting Star Park being constructed across from the Stafford Air & Space Museum will become a destination for travelers. The park is expected to open to the public in late 2026.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!
Happy Birthday to YOU!
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"When Christ Comes Again" – current series theme, 11am Sundays, Christ Community Church, E Main & Lera (1/4 mile east of The Point), Weatherford. **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 June 10th - Beverly Axtell, Lonni Boone, Carla Maddox, Kirsten Nestell, Mary Perkins, John Postelwait, L.R. Sights, Chad Spencer, Lance Waldrop, Gavina Whitley; **June 11th** - Beverly Axtell, Lonni Boone, Carla Maddox, Kirsten Nestell, Mary Perkins, John Postelwait, L.R. Sights, Chad Spencer, Lance Waldrop, Gavina Whitley; **June 12th** - Mindy Cash, H.R. Cornell, Brandi Estrada, Susan Gates, Victoria Gonzalez, Crystal Hamons, Carlewchee Hutto, Meisha Johnson, Jon Stinks, Fern Patrick, Chris Post, Richelle Ridling, Anna Ross, Javan Shaw; **June 13th** - Paige Barnes, Letha Brown, Kale Ellis, Sue Meacham, Antonio Mejia, Alicia Huss; **June 14th** - Tyler Bowman, Darlene Cardwell, Steve Crane, John Gerber, Amanda Greer, Andy Janning, Gina Leonard, Lillian McCaskill, Mark Roark, Cody Wilburn; **June 15th** - Brad Berrong, Charlotte Burton, Joe Chittum, Bo Felch, Jocelyn Gooch, Karen Harris, Addison Hoffman, Ellen Johnson, Joyce Sloan; **June 16th** - Dylan Biggs, Larry Dowty, Nicholas Gere, Jesse Hampton, Kayla Harris, Shelby Maggard, Denene Naufeld, Brooke Poeling, Corey Shirey, Jean Simpson, Kayla Thompson.

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Sala Earns Second All-America Honor; Pair of Lady Bulldogs Golfers Named All-Region



Jared Steward
SWOSU Graduate Asst.

SWOSU Women's Golf took home multiple end-of-year recognitions, with Freya Sala earning her second Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) Second Team All-American honor. She was also named to the All-Central Region Team alongside teammate Maria Velilla, who earned the recognition in her freshman season.

Freya Sala, a senior from Mexico City, Mexico, is now just the second player in SWOSU program history to earn multiple All-American honors, joining Gloria Choi (2017, 2019). She is also the first player in program history to receive All-American recognition in back-to-back seasons. Sala remains the only player in school history to earn Second Team All-American honors and now holds two such selections. This season, she ended the year ranked #4 in the Central Region with a 74.6 scoring average. She finished inside the top 10 in each of her first seven events, including five top-five finishes.

After placing 14th at the GAC Championship, Sala captured the first individual title at the Central Region Championship in program history. She then led the Lady Bulldogs to just their second top-10 finish at the National Championship in school history, finishing tied for 10th individually to secure her spot on an All-American team.

Maria Velilla, from Calatayud, Spain, has now been selected as the GAC Freshman of the Year, a First Team All-GAC selection, and a member of the All-Central Region Team in her freshman season. She finished fifth at the Central Region Championship and was the highest-ranked freshman in the region.

Velilla recorded four top-three finishes during the season, while also winning the MWSU Women's Holiday Inn Express Invitational in just the fourth stroke-play event of her collegiate career.

This is just the second time in program history that the Lady Bulldogs have had multiple selections to an All-Region team in back-to-back years.

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Elk City Announces Route 66 Centennial Festival for June 12 - 13, 2026

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Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

The Elk City Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Route 66 Festival, celebrating the Mother Road's 100th Anniversary, starting this Friday, June 12.

The event will be primarily held at Ackley Park on June 12 - 13. Both days will feature vendors, food trucks, and inflatables. Live music will be headlined by Frankie Ballard and feature Tyler Wilhelm.

The festivities kick off Friday, June 12, from 5PM to 10:30PM. It will feature an Open Car Cruise throughout the evening, with a photo opportunity in front of the Route 66 Museum at 7:30PM. Those looking to show off their car, truck, or motorcycle can visit the Chamber at 102 S Main St. in Elk City to register.

The festival will also feature a blood drive, as well as an "Art in the Park" invitational. Additionally, the staple attractions of Ackley Park will be running for both days of the event, but will be free to the public on Friday only.

On Saturday, June 13, a Car Show will be held from 9am - 4pm, featuring a burn out contest, a Closed Cruise Route, and an Audio Contest presented by Midwest SPI.

Aside from the Car Show, the Rib Cookoff Association will be hosting a BBQ Cookoff, with an Art Show at the Elk City Museum, along with free admission to the museum proper.

For more info, go to VisitElkCity.com or find the Elk City Chamber of Commerce on Facebook.

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Brad Fleetwood Named WGCA's 2026 Central Region Coach of the Year



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Brad Fleetwood
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

East Region:
Dominic Guarnieri
University of Findlay

West Region:
Kenny Trapp
Dallas Baptist University

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Following one of the most successful seasons in program history, SWOSU Women's Golf head coach Brad Fleetwood has been named the 2025-26 Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) Central Region Coach of the Year.

The award marks Fleetwood's second WGCA Regional Coach of the Year honor in the last three seasons after guiding the Lady Bulldogs to an NCAA Central Regional championship and a top-10 finish at the NCAA Division II Women's Golf Championships.

SWOSU captured three tournament titles during the 2025-26 campaign, highlighted by the program's second NCAA Central Regional crown. The Lady Bulldogs advanced to the NCAA Championships for the fourth time and finished tied for ninth nationally,

the second-highest national finish in school history and the best among Central Region programs in the field.

Fleetwood's squad was led by senior Freya Sala, who became the first regional champion in program history and later finished tied for 10th at the NCAA Championships. Sala earned unanimous First Team All-Great American Conference honors for the second consecutive season.

Freshman Maria Velilla also garnered major postseason recognition after being named GAC Freshman of the Year and a First Team All-GAC selection.

The duo of Velilla and Sala finished the year ranked fourth and fifth, respectively, in the NCAA Central Region.

Despite competing with a five-player roster

throughout the season, the Lady Bulldogs' golf team produced seven top-three finishes and established themselves as one of the nation's premier teams throughout the spring.

About the Women's Golf Coaches Association

The Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA), founded in 1983, is a non-profit organization representing women's collegiate golf coaches. The WGCA was formed to encourage the playing of college golf for women in correlation with a general objective of education and in accordance with the highest tradition of intercollegiate competition. Today, the WGCA represents over 750 coaches throughout the U.S. and is dedicated to educating, promoting and recognizing both its members and the student-athletes they represent.

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