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**Western Oklahoma is Ready to Celebrate America's 250th Birthday**


Preparations are underway across all of Western Oklahoma to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Here's a rundown of nearly all the festivities taking place near you, so you won't miss the best and brightest events happening in our part of the Heartland.

**Canute** is set to host their fourth annual 4th of July Bike Parade which is presented by Regeneration Youth Ministries on Saturday, July 4th. People interested in joining the parade are encouraged to decorate bikes, scooters, power wheels, golf carts and themselves with awards being presented to the best participants. Judging for awards will begin at 9:30am and the parade is scheduled to begin at 10am on July 4th. The parade will run from the intersection of Rt 66 and main street in Canute to Regeneration Youth Ministry's parking lot.

**Cordell** will be hosting their 4th of July Hometown Celebration with several events taking place all day long Saturday, July 4th. The celebration, put on by the City of New Cordell and the Cordell Fire Department, begins at 9am and runs through 3pm at the Washita County Activity Center with a fireworks show planned to begin after dark at the Cordell airport. The celebration features a parade, vendors, a kids zone, a car show, a kid's power wheel/bike show and shine, a hot dog eating contest as well as All American Girl and Boy pageant. Registration for the car show and power wheel/bike show and shine run from 9am to 11am with awards being presented at 1:30pm.

**Corn** will host their Independence Day Celebration on Friday, July 3rd beginning at 7pm at the Corn Baseball Fields. Free hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks will served at the event with a fireworks show planned to begin after dark. Guests of the event are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

See AMERICA, Page 3

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**Charlotte Majors**

Charlotte Ann Majors was born on July 25, 1944, in Fairview, Oklahoma, to William and Edith Margaret (Schnell) Rade. She passed away at her home in Hinton, Oklahoma, on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at the age of 81.



Charlotte graduated from Geary High School in 1962 and later attended SWOSU in Weatherford, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

On June 7, 1964, she married the love of her life, W. L. Majors, in Geary, OK. They shared more than 50 years together before his passing on April 25, 2015, in Oklahoma City. Following their marriage, Charlotte and W. L. lived briefly in the Sickles and Lookeba areas before returning to the Niles community, where they made their home and raised their family.

Charlotte taught school at Eakly and Greenfield and later served as librarian for the Town of Hinton. After retiring, she continued serving her community through her work with the Oklahoma Election Board.

Charlotte devoted her life to her family and took great pride in raising her children until they graduated from college and started families of their own. She cherished every moment spent with her grandchildren. Her many interests included reading, painting, writing, cooking, gardening, raising houseplants, church activities, playing Rook, and helping feed those in need. She was a faithful supporter of Vacation Bible School and was a member of First Christian Church of Hinton. She also attended Scott Baptist Church.

Survivors include her four children, Dwight Majors and Lydia of Hinton, OK; Ann Bell and husband Brandon of Henrietta, TX; Lyndon Majors and wife Micah of El Reno, OK; and Nancy Warren and husband Justin of Piedmont, OK. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Andrew Majors of Hinton, OK; Aaron Majors and wife Dasha of Lookeba, OK; Kyler Bell of Henrietta, TX; Harper Majors of El Reno, OK; and Taylor, Jordyn, and Jase Warren, all of Piedmont, OK; her sister-in-law, Dorothy McBee and husband Charles of Hinton, OK; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Edith Margaret Rade; her husband, W. L. Majors; and her siblings, Darlene Leach, Edwin Rade, Mahlon Rade, and Gwendolyn Schilling.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to The Children's Center Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, 6800 NW 39th Expressway, Bethany, Oklahoma 73008.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 22, 2026, at Scott Baptist Church in Hinton, OK, with Rev. Tom Cooksey officiating. Burial followed at Niles Cemetery near Hinton.

Services entrusted to Turner Funeral Home, Hinton, Oklahoma. Condolences may be sent to the family at [turnerfuneralhomes@gmail.com](mailto:turnerfuneralhomes@gmail.com), find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/turnerfuneralhomes) (Turner Funeral Homes), or you can visit [turnerfh.net](http://turnerfh.net).

**Nova Long**

Nova Lynn Dudley Long was born on March 3rd, 1949 in Sulphur, Oklahoma, the youngest of three children, of Nova June Minyard Dudley Schafer.



Nova spent much of her childhood with her beloved grandparents, Simon Perry and Easter Minyard, on the family farm in Weatherford Oklahoma, to assist her in her struggle with Polio. She graduated from Weatherford High School in 1967.

Nova's life was immersed in bluegrass, country and gospel music. She was a founding member of a travelling family band, Country Couples, and later a local group, Yesterday's Tradition. Decades of Friday nights were spent performing at her uncle's venue, Denzle's Music Barn.

Nova held book keeping positions at Centra Leather Goods, Cal-Gas, and at her then husband Gary Long's business, Comfort-Temp Heat & Air. Gary's fish keeping hobby ultimately lead her to establish The Aquarium Pet Store of Weatherford in 1985, which closed in 1999. After a few years of owning/operating a small resort hotel in Arkansas, she returned to Weatherford to assist in her daughter's new business, re-establishing the pet store in 2003. She retained an active sales role for many years, and then continued her book keeping role until her final days.

Nova had a love for animals, especially cats. She had many cherished kitties throughout her life and amassed quite a collection of miniature cat figurines.

Nova will be remembered most as a loving and devoted mother by her daughter Amber Hudson, and husband, Chris, of Weatherford, OK.

**Lloyd Miller**

Lloyd Willie Miller was born on March 10, 1936, at the family farm near Bessie, Oklahoma, to Otto and Anna (Foote) Miller. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, at Shady Pines in Thomas, Oklahoma, on June 14, 2026, at the age of 90.



Lloyd was raised east of Bessie and attended Flynn Rural School before graduating from Cordell High School in 1955. He grew up attending the Bessie Mennonite Brethren Church with his family and accepted Christ as his Savior in 1945.

His faith remained a guiding force throughout his life and led him to lifelong service within the church.

It was at the Bessie Mennonite Brethren Church that Lloyd met the love of his life, Lucy Helen Jane Bartel. After choir practice one evening, he asked if he could take Jane home and they were later married on December 28, 1954, in the same church where they first met.

Together, Lloyd and Jane made their home in Cordell, Oklahoma, where they raised their two children, Rick and Connie. Lloyd was known for his strong work ethic and spent many years operating a backhoe and trencher, installing telephone lines throughout the area. In addition, he farmed and did custom harvesting, never shying away from hard work.

Family was at the center of Lloyd's life. He cherished spending time outdoors with those he loved, especially summers at Crowder Lake. A devoted member of the Cordell Bible Mennonite Brethren Church, he faithfully served as a trustee and generously gave his time helping with maintenance projects and church events.

Lloyd rarely missed an opportunity to attend family gatherings, school activities, and sporting events. Some of his most treasured memories were made taking his grandsons fishing and sharing simple moments together. He will be remembered as a handyman who could fix nearly anything and a good-natured jokester who enjoyed dressing up for Halloween.

Lloyd was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Jane; daughter, Connie Dodson and her husband, Gary; granddaughter, Brooke Caswell; sister, Esther Howard; sister-in-law, Jean Miller; and brothers, Herbert Miller and wife, Clara, Walter Miller and wife, Ann and Raymond Miller.

He is survived by his son, Rick Miller and wife, Donna; grandson, Colby Miller and his wife, Megan; grandson, Cory Miller and wife, Rebecca; grandson-in-law, Joshua Caswell; great-grandchildren, Iker Miller, Scout and Bo Miller and Axel and Abel Caswell; and brother Alfred Miller.

**Malcolm Patterson**

Malcolm Howie Patterson was born on September 9, 1941, in Washington, DC, to Edgar Howie and Suzanne (Otte) Patterson. He grew up in Silver Spring, MD, with a sister Suzanne and a brother Herb, who survive. He became a Christian as a teenager under the tutelage of Carl Brumbach who inspired him to attend seminary. His goal was always to become an overseas missionary.



He attended Holmes Theological Seminary in Greenville, SC, where he earned a Bachelor of Theology degree. From there he came to Bethany, OK, to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree and begin serious training in Spanish. In 1966, he began post-graduate classes to the University of Oklahoma, earning a PhD in Spanish while writing a dissertation on the impact of the novel Don Quixote on English Literature.

One June 1, 1969, he married Katherine Alvis, confirming his new status as an Oklahoman. They immediately went north and taught at Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville, IA. While there, they were blessed with two daughters, Clarissa Edy and Liberty Suelynne. Clarissa's middle name is in honor of her grandfathers and Liberty's in honor of her grandmothers.

In 1977, Malcolm's dream of becoming a missionary was fulfilled when they left for three years in Sincelejo, Colombia. He taught Bible college classes and traveled extensively into jungle areas. The Patterson's son, Glen Daniel, was born in Colombia. Later they moved to Mexico City, where Malcolm developed a children's ministry that continues today.

After returning to the USA, Malcolm taught at Texas A&M International University, Southwestern Christian College, and Southwest Oklahoma State University. His love of Spanish never abated. He taught ESL classes in churches in Oklahoma and woke up from surgery speaking Spanish.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, and numerous cousins. He is survived by his wife, his children, Clarissa Urbina (Martin), Liberty Joy (Chad), and Glen, his 12 grandchildren, Joseph Urbina, Seth Urbina (Shelbi), Emily Urbina, Emily Hartman (Aaron), Kaila Joy, Halle Maurer (Nick), Samuel Joy, LaNae Patterson, Daniel Joy, Luke Joy, Ava Joy, and Malcolm Isaiah Patterson and his mother, Cheri Tointigh, and two great-grandchildren, Wallace and Charlotte Urbina.

He fell from our porch steps in January 2025, suffering traumatic brain bleeds and increasing debility over the next 17 months. The family would like to express gratitude to the staff of Russell Murray Hospice and the Maple Lawn Manor in Hydro for their attentive care.

**Faye Shephard-Hamblin**



Julia Faye Shephard Hamblin, a beloved wife, cherished mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and dedicated professional, entered eternal rest on June 10, 2026, in Amarillo, Texas, at the age of 97.

Born on October 6, 1928, in Arapaho, Oklahoma, Faye was the sixth of nine children born to George Scott (Tuff) Shephard and Nellie Maye Shephard. Growing up as part of a large, close-knit family, she learned the values of hard work, honesty, frugality, and enduring love on the family's 480-acre homestead. Throughout her school years, Faye was popular and outgoing, actively participating in basketball, school plays, and the marching band, where she proudly served as Drum Major.

That Oklahoma farmland, where George and Nellie raised their children, remains a sacred cornerstone of the Shephard family legacy. Now generations later, the land is still proudly held by Faye's nephew, Dennis Shephard. It serves as the enduring heart of their traditions, acting as the annual gathering place where Vonnie Adams, cousins, nieces, and nephews return each year to celebrate their heritage and reinforce the tight-knit bonds that Faye cherished so deeply.

Married for 52 years, Faye and Bob Hamblin shared a deep, lifelong love, raising three successful sons. In 1961, Bob and Faye moved to Amarillo, Texas, where Faye built a distinguished, three decade career at Amarillo National Bank.

She began her journey as a teller, and through her dedication and strong work ethic, she later transitioned into the Trust Department, where she served as a trust officer. She retired after more than 30 years of local service to the bank and her community.

Faye lived a wonderfully rich and full life, centered around her family. Her greatest joy came from her three sons, and her precious grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In a beautiful testament to the immense love, warmth, and guidance she provided to every single generation, she was affectionately called "MOM" by them all. An avid sports lover, "MOM" never missed a moment to watch her sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren participating in their activities.

Faye possessed a gentle spirit, a quick wit, and a profound appreciation for the simple joys of life. Though she has left this earthly home, her legacy lives on in the laughter shared at family reunions, the soil of the family homestead, and the generations of the family members who carry her memory forward.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Bob; her parents, George Scott and Nellie Maye; and several of her beloved siblings.

She is survived by her three sons and their wives: George Bradley (Brad) Hamblin and wife Ann of Amarillo, Texas; Monte Paul Hamblin and wife Nancy of Ardmore, Oklahoma; and Robert Newton (Bobby) Hamblin Jr. and wife Mary of Katy, Texas; her sister, Vonnie Adams; six precious grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and a vast, loving network of nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members.



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**AMERICA**

*Continued from Page 1*

Elk City will host a fireworks display in Ackley Park West on Saturday, July 4th after dark. In addition to the fireworks display many of the amenities at Ackley Park will have adjusted hours to provide a day full of activities for guests. Thunderbird Bay Aquatic center will be open from 11am – 5pm and the train, carousel, and mini golf course will be open from 1pm – 5pm. Elk City will also open the park for fireworks to be shot off in select areas from 6pm to 11:59pm.

Foss Lake will host their 36th annual Christmas in July on July 10th and 11th. The fun is scheduled to begin on Friday July 10th at 1pm with vendors opening for business and the opening ceremony for the event, which will honor veterans as well as host a guest speaker will begin at 7:30pm. On Saturday, July 11th, the day will begin with the Foss Lake Fun Run at 7am and vendors will open for business at 8am. Other events planned for Saturday include a Kayak Trail beginning at 9:30am, a duct tape and cardboard boat race beginning at 2pm and a street dance with a performance by the Dean Jackson Band beginning at 8pm and running until 11pm with a pause in the dance for a fireworks show.

Hinton will host their 250th Celebration on Friday, July 3rd presented by the Hinton Chamber of Commerce. The event will begin at 6pm at the Walking Trail.

Festivities will include music, dancing, games, a cookout, and various live entertainment, as well as a fireworks show after dark.

Hobart is hosting their Red, White, and Local First Saturday Market on Saturday, July 4th featuring local goods and vendors. The event will run from 8am – 2pm and is hosted by the Rust Dirt Co.

Hydro will host their Town of Hydro Fourth of July Celebration on Saturday, July 4th, presented by the Hydro Chamber of Commerce. The celebration begins at 8am with two events happening simultaneously. Golfers will tee off at 8am for The Verlin Long Memorial Golf Tournament which will be hosted at Prairie West Golf Club and soapbox car racers will gather at 8am atop Arapaho Street in Hydro to begin the annual Soapbox Car Derby. At 10am a Horseshoe tournament will begin in the south side show barn at the Hydro Fair Grounds. Registration for these events runs until June 30th at 5pm.

Thomas will host their 4th of July in the Park on Saturday, July 4th from 9:45am – 1:30pm sponsored by the Thomas Chamber of Commerce. The day will begin with a parade on Main street featuring golf carts, ATV's, 4-wheelers and side-by-sides. Games in the park are scheduled to begin at 11am and prizes will be awarded to the winners. The games include turtle races, 250 cup stacking races, water bucket races,

free throw contests, 3-legged races, sack races and an egg toss. A bike decorating contest and parade will be held at 1:15pm. A national anthem and prayer will be held at noon and free burgers and water will be provided for the event. In addition to all the other events a Little Mr./Miss Firecracker contest will be held at Thomas City Hall for children up to 8 years old. Registration for that contest ends on July 3rd.

Watonga will host their 4th of July Celebration on Saturday, July 4th presented by the City of Watonga and the Watonga Lions Club. The celebration will feature music from DJ Evan Fast from 6:30pm – 8pm, a fireworks show to begin after dark, food from The To Go Burger Food Truck, Coffee and Lemonade from Brews with Drews Food Truck and the Splash Pad will be open until 9pm.

Weatherford will be hosting two 4th of July events. Early on Saturday, July 4th, the 11th Annual Indiana Street Bike Parade will begin at 10am and run from Indiana Street to Davis Avenue. Participants are encouraged to decorate their bikes, wagons, golf carts and anything in patriotic décor. Later in the evening The Weatherford Rotary Club will host their annual Fourth of July Celebration from 6pm – 11pm in Radar Park. The event will feature giveaways, vendors, children's inflatables, live music and a fireworks display to be held after dark.

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# LOCAL AND AREA NEWS

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**Mike Smith**  
News Director

## Camp Invention Sees Kids Explore Science Through Boats, Capybaras



Provided

Students at Camp Invention show off their boat creations during week one at the event.



Provided

Students test out the buoyancy of their boat in a small pool outside of the Stafford Air & Space Museum.



Provided

Students customized their motorized capybara at Camp Invention, which advertised itself as a “a summer day camp full of STEM adventures led by qualified local educators designed to spark creativity, build confidence, and ignite a lifelong love of learning.”



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HISTORIC ROUTE 66 Gift Shop

**BECKHAM CO / GREELEY** - A 16-year-old Weatherford male is charged in Beckham County District Court as a youthful offender on an allegation of shooting with intent to kill. Court documents show Cameron Greeley allegedly fired a weapon at an occupied vehicle during a party in the 100 block of Panel in Elk City on May 30th. A second person, identified as 21-year-old Dalton Lane Potter of Cheyenne, is charged with a felony count of pointing a firearm during the incident.

**ROGER MILLS CO / FEMA** - FEMA officials have announced the approval of more than \$502,000 for Roger Mills County to help cover firefighting costs for the 840 Rd. fire last year. The Oklahoma funding is part of more than \$69.3 million. FEMA says it approved the funds for disaster recovery and mitigation projects in 5 states. The program helps states, local governments, tribal nations and certain public entities recover costs after disasters. The money can be used for work such as infrastructure repairs, public building restoration, road repairs and emergency protective measures.



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**HINTON SB / BIDS** - The Hinton School Board of Education has approved bid packages of \$3.2 million for upgrades in the district. Superintendent Marcy Derryberry says those upgrades include an add-on at Hinton Middle School. “[We’ll be] adding on 3 classrooms with restrooms,” explained Derryberry. “Currently, we only have a couple of restrooms available for students in the middle school.” Additional improvements include roofing projects to the multipurpose building and maintenance facility.

**THOMAS / SIDEWALK PROJECT** - Thomas Mayor Jeff Gose recently discussed a revitalization project, planned later this year in the city. “We have one sidewalk project that we’re going to be doing this year on Missouri Street, probably in the Fall,” explained Gose. “It’ll go from Orange Street, which is a block north of our Broadway Highway 33, and it’ll go to the school. It’ll also connect to our city park, which is going to be a really nice addition to the sidewalks we have. It’ll connect to Main Street also, which is also a new sidewalk we have.” The project was made possible by funding from a TAP Grant through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. A large part of the city’s matching funds for the project is covered by a grant the city received from SWODA.

**SWOSU / ENROLLMENT** - The Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University served as the guest speaker at the most recent Weatherford Rotary meeting. Dr. Les Ramos discussed the completion of the Jerry & Margaret Hodge Center for Pharmacy and Rural Health. According to Dr. Ramos, the School of Pharmacy is seeing more and more students enrolling. “We’re looking at probably over a 100% increase in our Fall 2026 admissions compared to Fall 2022,” he explained. “Our applications are up 40% from last Fall at this time.” Dr. Ramos also spoke about the relocation of the Weatherford Custer County Health Department into the Hodge Building.

**WEATHERFORD / CONNECTIONS** - The Connections Food and Resource Center in Weatherford has reported they are serving an average of 40-50 families per week, according to Executive Director Elizabeth Amen. “We are thoroughly happy to serve. Nothing makes me happier,” expressed Amen. “I used to panic when that would happen and God got a hold of me and just said, ‘this is why you’re here; this is what I need you to do. Just keep bringing it in because I’m going to keep bringing the people in.’” May 2026 was their busiest month in the past three years.

**CARNEGIE / DISPATCH** - Officials with the Carnegie Police Department say, effective July 1st, the department will no longer have their own dispatch. The regular non-emergency number will remain active; however, you’ll have to listen to the automated system. Dispatch for Carnegie Police will be dispatched through the Caddo County’s Emergency 911 Dispatch Center.

**WEATHERFORD / SIDEWALK PROJECT** Bids are anticipated to go out next month for a large sidewalk project in Weatherford, according to Mayor Mike Brown. “A little over \$2 million will provide sidewalks really starting from Lyle Road,” explained Brown. “[They will] go back east to the Airport entrance, which is Jim Cobb Drive, go down to the new Shooting Star Park, will go down Logan Road, and then out to Rader Park.” Brown says the city received a tap grant from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, who is funding the majority of the work. The city’s portion for funding the project is around \$400,000.


**CLINTON / DARE** - For the second consecutive year, the Oklahoma D.A.R.E Officer of the Year Award is coming back to western Oklahoma and the Clinton Police Department, with Andrew Wilson earning the title. Clinton Police officials say that having the Oklahoma D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year come from the Clinton Police Department for the second consecutive year is an incredible achievement and a reflection of the strong partnership between the department and Clinton Public Schools.



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**Happy Birthday Wishes for June 24** - Bruce Belanger, Heather Hall, Chelsea Lantz, Genny Lathrom, Naveenah Matrix, Dorothy Sloan, Dalton Sloan, Cecil Smith, Betty Snider; **June 25th** - Jordan Estes, James Fielder, Casandra Fraser, Greg Gainers, Mary Page, Jo Dawn Parrish, Dwayne Roark, Jana Rucks, Justin Savage, Larry Sharp, Michael Wright; **June 26th** - Marissa Gay, Briana Mooney, Rex Patne, Trey Waldro, Jennifer Wiest; **June 27th** - Dustin DeGarmo, Raydon Kuehne, Ayn Lamke, Duane Mapel, Bertha Miller, Connie Ringler, Dale Roark, Irving Schmidt, Cutter Taff, Derah Thomas, Polly Thompson, Kenneth Weightman; **June 28th** - Shelly Bonner, Trevor Brownen, Judy Fong, Taytum Goerend, Jack Johnson, Katy Murrah, Dustin Strong; **June 29th** - Al Chapa, Chrystie George, Chris Ladd, Gena McCullough, Michele Russell, Jim Scruggs, Taylor Smith, Tyrone Turner. **June 30th** - Verla Brice, Glynn Cobb, Tatum Duncan, Lindsey Edwards, Dwayne Graybill, Joe McPhearson, Michaela Roulet, Stephanie Strong, Cole Thomason.

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# Local Midterm Election Updates for Western Oklahoma: Results, Runoffs, and Upcoming

## WESTOK WEEKLY - ELECTION 2026

### WASHITA - BECKHAM - CLINTON - WEATHERFORD SENATE DISTRICT 26 - SENATE DISTRICT 38

**Mike Smith**  
News Director

Several local positions across western Oklahoma will be voted on in the 2026 Midterm elections. In-person voting will take place nationwide on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, with absentee ballot requests open until October 19, and early voting available from October 28 - 31.

It will take an August runoff to decide who will succeed Darcy Jech as State Senator in District 26. Rick Koch of Weatherford and Jessica Winegeart of Okarche will square off in that runoff.

"We'd like to build a team with anyone that hasn't supported me up to this point and try to represent them as best we can and try to figure out consensus ways to represent everybody in Senate District 26," Koch weighed in on the runoff.

"It has been incredibly amazing to be able to lead this campaign in the way that I see fit, the way that I think is what's best, and just really be myself and never have to compromise my values for anyone else or anybody else's values and just move forward that way," Jessica Winegeart said of the August showdown. "I promise to keep doing that as the next state senator of District 26."

The State District 38 Senate Seat was won by Rick Vernon, who will succeed Brent Howard who did not seek re-election. Additionally, Wade Anders wins re-election for Custer County Commissioner in District 1.

In Washita County, Kolby Dowell will serve as the new county assessor. Greg Chandler won re-election as district 3 Washita County Commissioner. There will be a runoff race in District 1 for Washita County.

In Beckham County, Butch Goldsberry won the District 1 County Commission seat. There will be a runoff in District 3.

In the city of Clinton, the mayoral position will appear on the 2026 Midterms ballot. Current mayor David Berrong faces opposition from current Ward 2 City Councilman Ernie Dowdell.

"It wasn't anything personal towards anybody, I just felt like I could maybe shake things up a little bit," Dowdell explained on why he's running for mayor. "Having a new councilman in that ward might bring a new perspective. We just need to be more aggressive on some things."

Kevin Rother was the lone candidate to file for the city of Clinton's Ward 2 City Council seat. In Ward 4, two former city council members, Bobby Stewart and Lucas Martinez are seeking to return to the council. The elections in the city of Weatherford will be held in August.

Meanwhile, in the city of Weatherford, two candidates each have filed for City Commission seats for Wards 1 and 3 in. Ward 1 incumbent Kendon Wood is challenged by Drew Terrel. In Ward 3, incumbent Warren Goldmann faces a challenge from Josh Adkinson.



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# SWOSU Graduate Wins First Place at National Research Conference



SWOSU graduate Adreana Aquino received first place for undergraduate research at the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society National Convention. Aquino, a recent SWOSU graduate from Edmond, received the Frank G. Brooks Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research for her oral presentation.

The award recognized Aquino's presentation, "Investigation of Streptococcus sanguinis Reactive Intermediate Deaminase (RidA): From Crystal Structure to Bacterial Physiology," which was based on research completed under the mentorship of Dr. Vijay Somalinga, associate professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences.

Aquino advanced to the national convention after receiving the Frank G. Brooks Award at the TriBeta Southcentral Regional Convention earlier this year in Cedar Hill, Texas. That regional award also provided paid expenses for her to attend the national convention at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla. The national convention brought together universities from across the country and featured a keynote speaker from Florida State University.

The national award adds to a strong record of undergraduate research achievements for Aquino. During her time at SWOSU, she worked in Somalinga's lab and received several research honors, including the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation's Fleming Scholarship and the OK-LSAMP international summer research scholarship. Aquino graduated from SWOSU in May 2026 and now works as a food microbiology scientist I at Pace Analytical Services in Oklahoma City.

SWOSU's Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences gives students opportunities to work alongside faculty on research in areas connected to science, health and professional study. Aquino's national recognition is one example of the work students can complete through those undergraduate research experiences.

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## Great Plains Family YMCA to Host Discussion over Technology's Impact on Children's Minds

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!**

**Marissa Murley**  
YMCA Family Resources

The Great Plains Family YMCA Family Resource

Center, SWOSU Department of Education, and the Oklahoma Association for the Education of Young Children (OKAEYC) are partnering together to host "Screens, Brains, and Childhood: Helping Children Thrive in a Digital World." This free event will begin at 6PM on Friday, June 26 at the GPF YMCA Center in Weatherford.

This important community conversation will feature Audrey Rowland, Founder & CEO of Green Space Learning, a nationally recognized early childhood leader and speaker who is passionate about making research accessible and practical for families and educators.

Audrey's work focuses on protecting childhood through play, understanding how technology impacts brain development, and helping adults create healthier relationships between children and the digital world. During this event, attendees will learn: how screens impact early brain development;

what current research says about screen time; and practical strategies for creating healthy technology habits at home and in the classroom.

In addition to the presentation, attendees will also have the opportunity to meet our local Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a local group of parents and caregivers working together to strengthen support systems for families in our community. PAC members help identify gaps in services, provide valuable parent voice in community decision-making, and advocate for programs, resources, and opportunities that help families thrive.

This is a wonderful opportunity for teachers, childcare providers, parents, grandparents, foster parents, and caregivers to come together, learn from current research, and connect with others who care deeply about the future of children in our community. Thank you for helping us create stronger futures for children and families in Western Oklahoma.

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## Corn Bible Academy Student Jaden Zeller Makes OSCA All-State West Team for 2026



**Zach House**  
Corn Bible Academy

Jaden Zeller recently represented CBA in the Oklahoma Soccer All-State game. He is the first soccer All-Stater in school history.

“Playing in the All-State soccer game was an incredible honor especially since I was the first person in CBA history to play in it,” said Jaden.



Jaden represented Corn Bible Academy and the western Oklahoma team with joyfulness, poise, and an incredible work ethic.

“I got to represent my school and I got to share the field with other talented players in the 3A class,” Zeller expressed regarding the experience. “It’s an experience that I will never forget.”

## Steve Price Contributes to Football Suite Refresh



**Dr. Jon Clemmons**  
SWOSU Public Relations

Steve Price of Marble Falls, Texas, has generously contributed funds to help refresh the Football coaching and staff offices at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford.

Price, a 1983 alumnus of SWOSU and former Bulldog football player, has been a longtime supporter of SWOSU Football. Price currently serves as a SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Trustee and chairs the SWOSU Football Legacy Fund Steering Committee.

Price's gift provides a visual update to the exterior of the Rex & Rob Ryan Coaching Offices inside the Cecil Perkins Football Complex. The new renovation is a boost to school spirit, pride, and morale for the football team, coaching staff, prospective students and visitors to the suite.

SWOSU Football will kick off the 2026 season on September 3 at Arkansas Tech University.

To learn more about how to support SWOSU Football, visit [www.GivetoSWOSUFootball.com](http://www.GivetoSWOSUFootball.com) or contact Aaron Jeffreys, 580-774-3122.

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