

WEST OK WEEKLY



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Elk City Summer Block Party Kicks Off This Weekend



BLOCK PARTY

JUNE 10TH + JULY 1ST + AUGUST 5TH

- FOODTRUCKS
- LIVE MUSIC
- VENDORS
- COMMUNITY
- LOCAL SHOPPING
- CAR CRUISE

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Elk City's Summer Block Parties are back!

Get ready for some great entertainment and local shopping on June 10th, July 1st, and August 5th! The first block party also kicks off the Route 66 Festival!

On June 10th, from 6 pm - 10 pm, make your way to downtown Elk City for food trucks, community-fun games and activities, live music, and a car cruise!

A special meet-and-greet will be held as the Elk City Police and Fire Departments will be giving out free T-shirts! To get a meal voucher for the meet-and-greet, you can adopt a responder by supporting a \$50 per responder gift that includes a custom BruMate Bottle that will be given to the responders at the event! To adopt a responder or to send other gifts, contact The Everett Blake Society before June 10th.

While at the block party, you can sign up for the Route 66 Pup Run & 5K and the Corn Hole Tournament which will both be held on Saturday, June 11th. The Route 66 Festival includes food trucks, a burger cook-off challenge, poker walk, chalk art contest, car show, and live entertainment from 9 am - 3 pm. An entry form for the car/truck/motorcycle show can be picked up and dropped off from the Elk City Chamber of Commerce, The Everett Blake Society, or 580 Threads.

Hofmeister Strengthens Oklahoma Teacher Pipeline

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) announced that nearly four dozen Praxis subject assessments will now be available to help combat the state's severe teacher shortage. The suite of tests will provide an additional pathway to certification to teaching candidates or teachers seeking additional certification.

Teaching candidates will now be able to take 44 Praxis subject assessments as an alternative to the comparable Oklahoma Subject Area Tests (OSATs). All Praxis assessments are aligned to Oklahoma's academic standards, ensuring teachers are equipped with the content knowledge needed to support student learning.

Oklahoma law allows the state to certify individuals who have successfully completed a competency assessment used in a majority of other states. Praxis exams are used in teacher certification programs across the nation, ensuring comparability of Oklahoma teacher

candidates to test-takers from around the country and allowing out-of-state educators to teach in Oklahoma classrooms without the need to retake approved subject area exams after they have relocated to the state.

"While we grapple with a teacher shortage that the pandemic has only worsened, it is critical that we provide every opportunity for qualified individuals to enter the classroom and devote their professional talents to our students," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister. "This new suite of Praxis assessments not only ensures prospective teachers have demonstrated mastery of the subjects they will be assigned to teach, but provides a plethora of free test preparation resources."

"We welcome any option that opens the doors of Oklahoma classrooms to more qualified educators

(See Pipeline, page 7)



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— JOY HOFMEISTER —
STATE SUPERINTENDENT of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



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SATURDAY | JUNE 11TH | 9AM-3PM

CAR, TRUCK, & MOTORCYCLE SHOW
FOOD TRUCKS | VENDORS
RT. 66 PUP RUN 5K | CHALK ART CONTEST
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT | POKER WALK
FOOD TRUCK BURGER CHALLENGE

BLOCK PARTY
FESTIVAL KICK OFF FRIDAY NIGHT | 6PM-9PM

LIVE MUSIC | CAR CRUISE 8PM-10PM | VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS | LOCAL SHOPPING
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Bo Gray Sublett

Funeral Services for Bo Gray Sublett, two-month-old son of Hunter and Harlee Sublett, Clinton residents, were held 10:00 A.M., Thursday, May 26, 2022, in the First Christian Church, officiated by Jeff Johnson. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery and laid to rest by his maternal Great-Grandmother.



Bo Gray Sublett was born March 22, 2022, in Oklahoma City, and fought hard for his life and passed away Friday May 20, 2022, in the Oklahoma Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK. Bo was preceded in death by his maternal granddad Christopher Terry, great granddad Sam Terry and great grandmother Marilynn Schimmel. He is survived by his mother and father Hunter and Harlee Sublett, of the home; grandparents Melinda and Rodney Cabaniss, Clinton; Mattie and Adam Mortimer, Hydro; and Jeremy and Angie Sublett, Yukon, OK and Great-Grandparents.

Francisco Palacios

Funeral Services for Francisco Palacios, 91, Clinton resident, were held 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 31, 2022, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel, officiated by Freddie Dominquez. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Francisco Palacios was born May 17, 1931, to Alejo Palacios and Magdaleria (Maltos) Palacios in Durango, Mexico, and passed away Friday, May 27, 2022, in his Clinton home.

Mr. Palacios was raised in Durango, Mexico. He came to the United States at a young age and settled in the Brownville, TX area and did Migrant farm work. He returned to Mexico for a while but moved back to the United States in 1993 and lived in Odessa, TX. He worked in an oilfield shop, doing maintenance. He moved to Clinton, OK in 2012 to be close to family.

He was married to Maria Esparza in October of 1953 in Mexico, and she preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by a daughter Magdalena Rodriquez.

He enjoyed gardening and he loved to raise roses. He is survived by seven daughters: Martha Hernandez, Clinton; Socorro Perez, Clinton; Mahela Hinojos and husband Fernando, Odessa, TX; San Juana Gonzalez and husband Martin, Odessa, TX; Mary Gonzalez and husband Jorge, Clinton, OK; Lucy Adams and Juan, Waco, TX, Francisco Palacios, Clinton, OK; Maria Galindo and husband Juan, Odessa, TX; two sons Francisco Palacios and wife Fabiola palacios, Clinton, OK; and Manuel Palacios and wife Clary, Odessa, TX.

He is also survived by 26 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Pamela Jean Heap of Birds

Funeral Services for Pamela Jean Heap-of-Birds, 59, Clinton resident were held 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 31, 2022, in the Koinonia, officiated by Pastor Susan Hart and Pastor Gerald Panana. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



A wake service was held Monday, May 30, 2022, in the Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church. Pamela Jean Heap-of-Birds was born September 25, 1962, to Edgar and Clara (Thunderbull) and Edgar Heap-of-Birds in Clinton, OK and passed away Wednesday, May 25, 2022, in the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK.

Pamela was raised in Clinton and graduated from Clinton High School in 1980. Soon after high school she enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving a four-year stint. She returned home and attended college at Haskell University.

She worked for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma in Housing Authority for several years and most recently the Clinton Health Services as a Billing Technician.

Miss Heap-of-Birds was preceded in death by her parents, son David Heap-of-Birds and sister Dorothy Heap-of-Birds.

She is survived by a daughter Heap-of-Birds of the home.

Abraham Barrera

Funeral Services for Abraham Barrera, 23, a 2017 graduate of Clinton High School, were held 10:00 A.M., Friday, May 27, 2022, in the Corner Stone Church, officiated by Paul Allen Fuentes. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Abraham Barrera was born November 4, 1998, to Juan Barrera and Alejandra (Fuentes) Barrera in Clinton, OK and passed away very unexpectedly in his Clinton home on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

Abraham was raised and attended school in Clinton. He graduated from Clinton High School in 2017, and while in school, he was on the Red Tornado Soccer team and Wrestling team. He attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University for a couple of years.

He has been employed by Bar-S Foods, Torres Roofing and he did a lawn service as well as doing concrete work.

He is a member of the Edge Church, enjoyed watching wrestling, Ultimate Fighting Championship Wrestling and gong to Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Fights.

He is survived by his parents, son Matthew Barrera, sister Rubi Barrera, niece Karina Gordillo and nephew Ein Aviles, all of Clinton, OK

He is also survived by his paternal grandparents, Cecilio and Brijida Barrera.

Layman Ira Slagell

Layman Ira Slagell was born October 28, 1924, north of Hydro, in the home of his parents Dan and Jane (Waters) Slagell and passed away in the same home he was born, with his wife and family at his side, June 1, 2022, at the age of 97 years, 7 months and 4 days.



Layman was raised on the family farm and attended Hopewell Rural School and Jabbok Bible School. When his father fell ill, Layman was needed on the farm and was forced to drop out and return to the farm where he spent the next 52 years, farming with his brothers (Slagell Brothers). In 1943, he was drafted into WWII, however, due to his father's health, he was given a farm deferment. In 1956, while in Oregon attending the wedding of his brother Carl Dean he was introduced to a pretty young woman and on August 23, 1959, he married the love of his life Dorothy Brubaker in Sweet Home, Oregon.

Layman accepted Christ as his personal savior and was baptized as a young man of 11. For the next 86 years, he led a life filled with love for Jesus and was an example of Christian life and love for all those who knew him. He was a faithful member of Pleasant View Mennonite Church, serving in roles as Sunday school teacher, elder and trustee for many years. Growing up during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years and being suddenly responsible for the family farm at a young age, taught him that a life of faith was important, and he continued that lifestyle for the remainder of his life. Farm life was difficult, and he confronted many adversities, including tornados and fires which destroyed barns and crops. He retired from farming in 1994 at the age of 70 but continued to be active by supporting and helping his son and son-in-law for the next 20 years.

Layman was blessed his entire life with excellent health and a great memory. One of his earliest memories were remembering his father bringing the horse and buggy around for his mother to take to "sewing" at the church and the completion of paving Route 66 between Hydro and Weatherford. He knew vehicles and tractors and was often a source of knowledge for mechanics and hobbyist in their rebuild and restoration projects. He enjoyed telling stories and social gatherings. Even into his 90's he was maintaining and making repairs to his beloved 1966 Chevrolet Biscayne. He also enjoyed traveling and took the family on trips every summer. He kept a bible and a road atlas beside his chair and would be quick to reach for either one if a place of interest was mentioned or a question was asked.

Layman is survived by his wife of 62 years Dorothy Slagell, of their home in Hydro; two sons; Dale Slagell and wife Rosa of Weatherford and Gaylon Slagell and wife Carin of Spring, Texas; two daughters: LeAnn Gossen and husband Kim of Corn and Geneva Penner and husband Hal of Weatherford; two foster daughters: Della Kelley of Weatherford and Tina Fergus and husband Tim of Enid; nine grandchildren; six foster grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers: Daniel, Carl Dean, and Maxton; one sister Beulah; and one foster daughter Stella Joseph.



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SWOSU Included in \$55 Million Oklahoma Healthcare Workforce Plan

The Oklahoma State Legislature has approved \$10 million in pandemic relief funds to assist Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) with establishing a new rural healthcare center on the Weatherford campus.

SWOSU is included in a \$55 million healthcare workforce training plan recently adopted by the legislature and enacted into law. The plan aims at increasing the number of healthcare professionals in Oklahoma. SWOSU's funds are part of the \$1.8 billion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding granted to Oklahoma and will assist in the building of the Jerry and Margaret Hodge Pharmacy and Rural Health Center.

"The legislature has asked our state's institutions of higher education to step up and help meet the healthcare workforce needs of Oklahoma," SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell said. "SWOSU views this charge as a core tenet of our public service mission and why we stand firmly on the Hilltop."

SWOSU will combine the \$10 million in ARPA funding with \$5 million in private support already received from SWOSU alumnus Jerry Hodge and his wife, Margaret, of Amarillo (TX). The Hodges' contribution, which was announced in 2021, represents the largest charitable gift in SWOSU history. An additional \$7 million in support will be provided via the Yes! Weatherford economic development sales tax extension initiative, which was approved by Weatherford voters in 2020.

The Hodge Center project will enable SWOSU's healthcare programs in nursing and allied health to substantially increase capacity and will significantly enhance the university's pharmacy doctoral program. The building will also expand the community health services



of the SWOSU Center for Rural Health. The center will allow for more strategic partnerships with other higher education institutions that could lead to SWOSU students having access to a physician's assistant program and the possibility of dual degrees program through the SWOSU College of Pharmacy.

"SWOSU has worked with our generous supporters in the city of Weatherford and with our involved, visionary philanthropic benefactors Jerry and Margaret Hodge—to whom we are abidingly and deeply grateful—to steward this pandemic relief funding in a way that will transform all of SWOSU's healthcare programs," Lovell said.

Upon enactment of the ARPA Act, Oklahoma received \$1.8 billion in pandemic relief funding for investment into projects that will benefit Oklahomans. To ensure funds are allocated in a responsible and transparent manner,

(See Workforce, page 5)

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Food Club Pancake Mix 2 lb. All Varieties.....	\$1.68
Mclihenny Tobasco Sauce 5oz.....	\$2.99
Kelloggs PopTarts 20.3oz.....	\$3.89
Food Club Coffee or Hot Chocolate Cups 12oz.....	2 for \$6.00
Food Club Skillet Dinners All Varieties.....	\$0.88
Hills Brothers Cappuccino 16oz All Varieties.....	\$3.99
Allen's Italian Green Beans 28oz.....	2 for \$5.00
Ritz Crackers 13.7oz.....	\$3.99
Nabisco Honey Grahams 14.4oz.....	\$3.99
Ellis Pecan Pieces 3oz bag.....	2 for \$3.00
Food Club Relish Sweet or Dill 10oz.....	\$0.99
Kraft Miracle Whip 30oz.....	\$4.49
Libby Peaches, Pears, Cocktail 15-15.25oz.....	2 for \$4.00
Campbells Cream of Chicken Soup 10.5oz.....	2 for \$3.00
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Charmin Bath Tissue 6 Roll pkg.....	\$5.99
Solo Plastic Plate 15 ct.....	\$4.99
Food Club All Occasion Plates 32 ct.....	\$3.99
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U.S. #1 Russet Potatoes 10 lb. bag.....	\$2.99 each
Golden Pineapple.....	\$2.99 each
Mini Sweet Peppers 1 lb. bag.....	\$2.99 each
Blueberries or Blackberries.....	\$2.99 box
Frozen	
Blue Bunny Ice Cream 46 - 48oz.....	\$3.88
Green Giant Spiral Vegetables 12oz.....	\$3.58
El Monterrey Beef Flour Taquitos 21oz.....	\$6.99
El Monterrey Bean and Cheese Chimichangas 32oz.....	\$4.99
Popsicle 18 ct.....	\$4.29
Meat	
Boneless Ribeye Steak.....	\$14.99 lb.
Trimmed Beef Brisket.....	\$4.99 lb.
Wrights Bacon.....	\$6.99 lb.
Boneless Pork Loin Roast.....	\$2.99 lb.
Pilgrims Pride Drumsticks or Thighs.....	\$1.49 lb.
Dairy	
Food Club Orange Juice 59oz.....	2 for \$5.00
Daisy Cottage Cheese 24oz.....	\$2.99
Red Diamond Tea All Varieties.....	2 for \$5.00
Blue Bonnet Spread 45oz.....	\$3.59

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LOCAL & AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

Workforce

Continued from Page 3

the Legislature and Governor Kevin Stitt formed the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding. SWOSU's proposal for \$10 million in funding was unanimously approved by a Health & Human Services Working Group and subsequently by the Joint Committee. SWOSU's \$10 million in ARPA funding was included in the \$55 million healthcare workforce training plan adopted by the Legislature on May 27.

"Special thanks are certainly due to Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat and Senators John Haste, Chuck Hall, Brent Howard and Darcy Jech and Speaker Charles McCall and Representatives Kyle Hilbert, Anthony Moore, Mike Dobrinski and Todd Russ for their visionary leadership in delivering an historic investment to Oklahoma's healthcare programs," Lovell

said. "We are also appreciative to our higher education governing board regents who took the time to learn about our Hodge Center proposal including A&M Regents Joe D. Hall and Jimmy Harrel and RUSO Regents Lake Carpenter, Connie Reilly, Amy Ford and Susan Winchester. Chancellor Allison Garrett and Oklahoma State University President Kayse Shrum have also been very helpful in this ongoing process. Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown has also been an invaluable partner as have all citizens of Weatherford who continue to support investment in the positive relationship between the Weatherford community and SWOSU. And my predecessor, former SWOSU President Dr. Randy Beutler, truly deserves high praise for commencing this important and impactful undertaking."

A groundbreaking date and ceremony for Hodge Center will be announced by the university.



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Brown Family Makes Major Gift to SWOSU Football



Father and son business partners Mike Brown and Matt Brown have made a generous major gift to the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) football program.

Mike Brown, SWOSU class of 1978, was a two-sport athlete for the Bulldogs, playing both football and baseball while a student at SWOSU. Mike was inducted to the SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019. He is a past president of the SWOSU Athletic Association Board of Directors. Mike has served as mayor of Weatherford since 2004. He is a broker with American Insurance Group in Weatherford where he lives with his wife Debbie.

Mike and Debbie's son Matt is a 2008 SWOSU alumnus. Like his father, Matt played football for the

Bulldogs. Matt lives in Norman with his wife Kira, and their three daughters. Matt is a Norman firefighter as well as an agent with American Insurance Group with his father.

"We are so very grateful to Mike Brown and Matt Brown for their generous, ongoing support of SWOSU football," SWOSU Head Football Coach Josh Kirkland said. "The Brown family truly represents an enduring SWOSU athletic legacy."

Southwestern Oklahoma State University has locations in Weatherford, Yukon and Sayre. For more information about making a charitable gift to SWOSU football or another athletic program, please contact SWOSU Athletic Advancement Coordinator Allie Hoang at allison.hoang@swosu.edu, 580-774-3267.

SWOSU/ADLER RETIREMENT- A 36-year career at SWOSU comes to a conclusion for the Vice President of Marketing and Public relations Brian Adler.

During his career, Adler said he worked for 5 of the 18 presidents at SWOSU. A successor for Adler was named, Dr Boone Clemmons, will report for duty June 10th.

WEATHERFORD CC/SAFETY CONSULTING-

The Weatherford City commission approved an agreement between OKIE safety consulting and the city of Weatherford for the purpose of performing new and existing building plan reviews along with reviews and inspections of sprinkler and hood suppression systems.

BERRONG/FILING-

The filing period for municipal seats in the cities of Weatherford and Clinton is scheduled for later this month. Clinton Mayor David Berrong said he plans to file for another term in office. The filing period will be held June 13th-15th.

BLAINE CO/MISSING WOMAN-

Blaine County authorities were able to locate a missing woman in a heavily wooded and flooded area southeast of the Lucky Star Casino in Watonga. The Blaine County Sheriff's department said the woman was able to con-

tact dispatch and the 911 call center. The Blaine county dispatcher was able to determine the missing woman's location by using the gps information from her cellphone. Deputies used the information to coordinate search teams from the Watonga Fire Department who was able to bring the woman out of the flooded area safely.

WEATHERFORD SB/LEGAL COUNSEL-

During a special meeting, the Weatherford School Board of education approved an engagement letter with Rosenstein, Fist and Ringold to advise the board during an upcoming due process hearing for personnel. Superintendent Jill Henderson told the board that the date for the due process hearing on Jennifer Daniel has been tentatively changed to June 21st. The district has not released the reason surrounding the recommendation for dismissal of Daniel.

BURLESON/CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE-

An Enid man running on the republican ticket against long time U.S. third district congressman Frank Lucas of Cheyenne said he is running for the office at the encouragement of others. Wade Burleson said his decision to run is based on the voting record of congressman Lucas. In addition to Wade Burleson, Stephen Butler of Yukon is also running as a republican against congressman Lucas.



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Happy Birthday Wishes for June 8th- Kathy Barckholtz, Clare Blakeslee, Evelyn Bouma, Kathy Hanson, Lillie Peach, Melissa Reeves, Dawnellen Settles, Grant Sheperd, Elizabeth Sikes; **June 9th-** Cory Elder, Linda Ford, Sean Lampshire, Sarah Short, Cylan Tompkins; **June 10th-** Jasmine Cardenas, Russ Goerend, Dustie Hart, Dormie Klaassen, Vinson Lackey, Teal Pool, Gavin Powers, Keith Weichel; **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 Matthews Stinks, Fern Patrick, Chris Post, Richelle Ridling, Anna Kate Ross, Javan Shaw; **June 13th-** Paige Barnes, Letha Brown, Kale Ellis, Sue Meacham, Antonio Mejia, Alicia Van Huss; **June 14th-** Tyler Bowman, Darlene Cardwell, Steve Crane, John Gerber, Amanda Greer, Andy Janning, Gina Leonard, Lillian McCaskill, Mark Roark, Cody Don Wilburn

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Chad Gray/WW

Pictured left, Carter Teasley prepares to pitch against the Woodward Travelers who made the journey to Eagle field on Tuesday, May 31. Pictured right, The Weatherford Eagles prepare for their turns at bat in the 4th inning.

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A Carl Albert player attempts to dribble past Marley Teasley as another Carl Albert player sets a pick. The Weatherford Lady Eagles hosted a basketball camp this past week at the Weatherford High School gym.

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WPLS Hosts Magic Show to Promote Summer Reading



The WPLS hosted a Magic Show to launch their Summer Reading Project for 2022 with the theme Ocean of Possibilities. Pictured Right is Magician Doc Rogers performing a magic trick with his volunteer assistant. Pictured Left, local children enjoy the magic and comic stylings of Doc Rogers at the first Summer Reading project event of 2022.

Pipeline

Continued from Page 1

and helps retain those who may be interested in broadening the scope of classes they are able to teach. The availability of these tests is a win-win for teachers and kids.”

“Oklahoma is making nearly four dozen key Praxis tests available to provide Oklahoma’s future educators with choice in how they attain professional certification,” said ETS Praxis Executive Director Jason Carter. “This choice is opening the doors of Oklahoma’s classrooms to new educators, while also supporting the growth of teachers already leading our students. Praxis is delivering new and innovative opportunities to Oklahoma to increase the state’s teaching workforce and to ensure quality education for every student.”

Praxis test-takers will have access to a host of test preparation materials at no cost, including full-length interactive practice tests, study plans and companions, and test-prep videos. Additionally, Praxis test-takers

have the option to securely test at home with a remote proctor 365 days a year or at an approved testing center of their choosing. Additional information on test center locations and testing dates is available here.

For additional information on the Praxis tests available in Oklahoma, click here. For information on teacher certification in Oklahoma, visit the OSDE Teacher Certification webpage.



Express Landscape and Graden Center held a Grand Opening on Friday, June 3rd to celebrate the opening of their brand new facility located at 611 East Clark Ave in Weatherford.



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Training in Godliness



Jim Morrison

The Bible speaks of being equipped or to be trained for effective service. In fact in Ephesians 4:12 the ESV translation of this passage states that the job of pastors and teachers is to equip the saints (believers) for the work of ministry. In 2 Timothy 3:17, the Apostle Paul instructs his son in the faith that all scripture is given so that “the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” The writer of Hebrews prays that “The God of peace. . . will equip you with everything good for doing His will. . .”

The clear teaching is that we do not come to faith fully prepared to do the work of ministry. Just as in any work or profession there needs to be training. Any teacher hopes to have students who

are teachable—those who are willing to put forth the effort to gain the tools necessary to be equipped.

As Christians we are challenged to make disciples. Too often we assume this will happen if we get new Christians to attend church. While that is important, more important is that they get individual attention in the basics. How can I study the Bible effectively? What are the key doctrines of the faith? I want to learn to pray and share my faith. Where do I start? Let me share one idea that might help someone in their effort to get the teachings of the Scripture into their heart. I give credit to Jerry Fine who developed the One-On-One personal discipleship course, and who shared this with our students many years ago.

In the study of a passage of Scripture there are often special verses that speak to your heart. Don't take them out of context but write out the verse in your notebook and then paraphrase it, that is, write it down in your own words, put in personal pronouns. After that, write a prayer using the core ideas found in the verse. I have done this for I Peter, Romans, Hebrews, and Galatians. Following are a couple of examples.

Psalm 5:8: “In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”

Paraphrase: Lord, I begin my day by laying out

before you my needs and thanksgivings. I know you hear my prayers and I wait to see how you are going to work in my life today.

Prayer: Father, I am totally dependent on your grace today. I can't wait to see how you are going to work out your plan in my life. I know that you love me and I claim your promises for provision and protection. Give me the grace to forget about myself and worship you. In Jesus name. Amen

Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.”

Paraphrase: I must seek to be the light of Christ in the world, so that by doing good deeds in the name of Christ, people might praise God and be drawn to him.

Prayer: Lord, you have called me to be light in a dark world. I pray that I might not seek glory for myself but let others know that you are the source of all human kindness and mercy.

This takes some time and effort but I believe it will make you think about the verse and make it personal. It keeps us from just reading the Bible to fulfill a duty for the day. It becomes more personal and applicable.

To comment: jhm82@outlook.com or 580-302-1142

Rep. Anthony Moore Receives State Regents Distinguished Service Award

Oklahoma State Representative Anthony Moore (District 57) has received the Distinguished Service Award (2021) from the Oklahoma State Higher Regents of Education (OSHRE).

Moore was recognized and received the award from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) President Dr. Diana “Diane” R. Lovell on behalf of OSHRE during a recent visit to SWOSU Weatherford.

A fifth generation native of Custer County, Moore was raised on his family’s farm. After graduating from Clinton High School, where he won a state championship in golf, Anthony earned a bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma Christian University and a law degree from Oklahoma City University. He worked as a landman in the oil and gas industry prior to returning to Custer County to serve as Assistant District Attorney. Moore is now in private practice with Christensen Law Group. He and his wife Rachel have three children: Quinn (8), Karsten (6) and Cohen (2).

A deacon at the Church of Christ, Moore was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2020. He serves as Vice Chair of the Committee on Energy &

Natural Resources and sits on the Committee on Elections & Ethics. He represents constituents who reside in communities across Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, and Custer Counties.

Lovell, along with Weatherford Mayor and SWOSU alumnus Mike Brown, was joined by SWOSU’s academic deans and Cabinet executives in recognizing Moore during the visit. Moore provided attendees with a brief update on the 2022 legislative session.

“Anthony Moore has been a champion for SWOSU and our role as a workforce development engine in western Oklahoma,” said Lovell. “On behalf of Chancellor Allison D. Garrett and the State Regents for Higher Education, I am truly honored to present Representative Anthony Moore with the OSHRE Distinguished Service Award.”

About the Distinguished Service Award:
The Distinguished Service Awards for Higher Education recognize individuals who demonstrate distinguished leadership and support of higher education in Oklahoma during the legislative session. It is the highest award presented by the State Regents and the Council of College and University Presidents.



State Representative Anthony Moore, left, holds his States Regents Distinguished Service Award with Dr. Diana Lovell, right. Moore was honored at a ceremony hosted at SWOSU recently.

Provided

My Mom



Maxx McCullough

I was born at home, during the Dust Bowl and the Depression. I’ve written before about how outstanding a person my mother was. As I look back, I see how she shielded me for years from our poorness. Looking back to the 30’s I don’t remember being unhappy, hungry, or feeling poor, but we were. I can’t imagine how my mom and my two older brothers got by. My mom

always had a job, of some type. My dad was home off and on until I was in middle school, when he came home for good. He was a gambler and I think a boot-legger at some point. I always loved to see my dad. He always brought chocolate, while my mother was dealing with reality. I was totally oblivious to the situation. I spent many days on a farm east of Hydro with my maternal grandparents. Now, I see my mom just couldn’t work, take care of my two brothers and me, so she always had a soft spot for me to land, a safe place, on a farm of another kind and decent family, a sharecropper and his wife, my grandparents, Bob and Sally Lassiter.

The experience I had with them is a whole new story of its own. Coming into town riding in a wagon pulled by their team of horses to “trade.” These are people who raised seven really cool individuals, my mother being the

oldest. I want to thank my mother for shielding me from danger, sadness, poorness and making me feel I have worth. I also want to apologize to my mom for being such a fiery girl. I know she could have used a serious, thoughtful conversation occasionally.

I want my mom to know how proud I am of her. For so many years I just took it for granted. I’m 88 years old and things are beginning to dawn on me. It’s like I’ve just now slowed down enough to put things in their proper place, not being one to look back.

However, looking back isn’t always the happiest. Sometimes it’s sad and embarrassing. I just realized I think I’m being my own therapist.

By the way, I’m not slighting the man upstairs. Definitely the first and last to go to, as I’ve done many times. Anyways, I cherish the thought of my mom.

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