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## Groundbreaking Hosted for SWOSU's New Hodge Center



Provided

Community leaders from all around Western Oklahoma gathered on Friday, June 17 to commemorate the groundbreaking of SWOSU's new Center for Pharmacy and Rural Health endowed by the charitable contributions of Jerry and Margaret Hodge. Speakers included current SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell, former SWOSU President Dr. Randy Beutler, Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown and Western Oklahoma, Oklahoma State Senator Darcy Jech, and State Representative Anthony Moore.

## Deer Creek Hardware Grand Opening Celebration in Hydro

Chase Wright  
Staff Writer

Deer Creek Hardware is hosting a Grand Opening for their new hardware store! Deer Creek's new store footprint is nearly twice as big as the original, and they've used the increased area to add additional sets and products while expanding current selections. These updates include an expanded paint section, barbeque products, bicycle sets, automotive accessories, fishing supplies, additional hardware tools, and a toy section!

Deer Creek had a goal for the new store: to increase building size as well as the offerings within the store while maintaining the same great local service they're loved for. To ensure patrons have the chance to check out the store for themselves, Deer Creek's Grand

Opening Circular will take place over a limited period from June 27th thru July 2nd.

A lot of time and resources were spent to make the best version of the store to date, and this special will allow people to get an early access peek into the new store and the new items. During the special, the official Grand Opening ribbon cutting and celebration will take place on July 1st at 10 am. On July 2nd a Grand Opening celebration will be held from 8am to 6pm, featuring great food and fun with grilled hotdogs and giveaways! Join Deer Creek Hardware for this celebration at their new address 226 N. Arapaho in Hydro.



**DON'T MISS THIS!**  
The Town of Corn is hosting their annual **TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE** Saturday, June 25 8am until it's gone! 25+ garage sales



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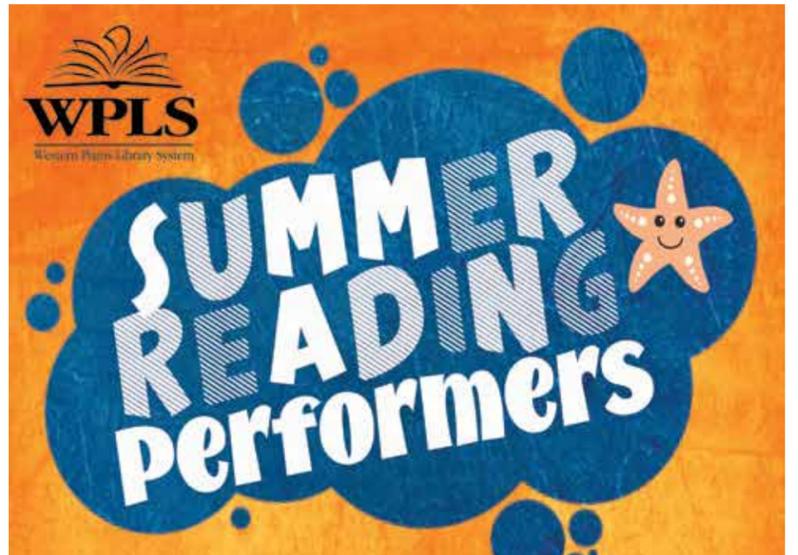
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# SUMMER READING PERFORMERS



PERFORMANCE AT  
10 AM @ Weatherford Public Library  
3 PM @ Weatherford YMCA  
Will Hill: June 23rd  
Will Hill is a full-blood Native American storyteller!  
Sherry Norfolk: June 30th  
Sherry Norfolk brings high-energy storytelling!

PERFORMANCES AT  
2, 4 & 6 PM @ Weatherford YMCA  
Extreme Animals: July 14th  
Extreme Animals are bringing the ZOO to YOU!

MEET YOUR READING GOAL BY JULY 15TH TO ATTEND THE END OF SUMMER PARTY AND BE ENTERED TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!  
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**James Lennis Brooks**

James Lennis Brooks, Jr. was born July 8, 1954, in Duncan to James Lennis Brooks, Sr. and Keela Laverne (Jones) Brooks and passed away Monday, June 13, 2022, at his home in Weatherford, surrounded by his family, having reached the age of 67 years, 11 months and 6 days.



James was raised and attended school in Duncan. He earned a Bachelor degree in Physics from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. On April 24, 1981, he married Cindy Nichols in Arapaho. They made their home in Weatherford where they raised their two sons. He loved music, woodworking, photography, and working with his hands. James believed in Jesus as his Savior and passed that on to his sons and was very active in Christ Community Church.

James is survived by his wife of 41 years Cindy Brooks; two sons James Brian Brooks and wife, Misty and Jonathan Brooks and wife, Brooke; two sisters Carolyn Brooks and Marilyn Brooks; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother James Michael.

He is survived by his wife Belia Ramirez, of the home, daughter Cassandra Steigman and husband, Shane, of Clinton, OK and son Juan Carlos Ramirez, San Antonio, TX, four brothers Abel Ramirez, and wife, Maria, Butler, OK, Camillo Ramirez and wife Janet, Weatherford, and Salvador Ramirez and wife, Veronica, Woodward, OK; and sisters Carmen Torres, of Arizona, Aniceto Ramirez, Fort Smith, AR.

He is also survived by four grandchildren: Lucas, Ezra, Liam Steigman and Gabriel Ramirez numerous nieces and nephews.

The family has requested, NO PICTURES!

**Rex Harold Eagan**

Funeral Services and celebration of life for Rex H. Eagan, 78, Arapaho resident were held at 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, June 21, 2022, in the Life Fellowship Church in Weatherford, officiated by Pastor Rick Freeman and Pastor Dakota Marsh.



Burial was concluded at 3:00 P.M. at the Butler Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

Visitation was held 1:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M., Sunday, June 19, 2022, and 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M., Monday, June 20, 2022, in the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

Rex Harold Eagan was born June 16, 1943, to Willard Harold Eagan and Katie Luella (Jones) Eagan in Clinton, OK and passed away Tuesday, June 14, 2022, in the Clinton Therapy and Living Center in Clinton, OK.

Rex was raised and attended school in Arapaho where he graduated from Arapaho High School in 1961. He continued his education at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. While attending OSU he was affectionally known as "Duke". He graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry.

He was an avid farmer and rancher and soon after college graduation he returned to Custer County and farmed the family farm north of Arapaho.

He was married to two wonderful ladies. He married June Baker on June 30, 1973, Butler, OK and she passed away June 7, 1992, and he married Claudia (Stack) Tincer on March 29, 1997, in Weatherford, OK.

He was a faithful member of the Life Fellowship Church. He served in the U.S. Air National Guard at Tinker Air Force Base, served on the Custer County Rural Water Board, the Kiwash Electric Board and was a proud member of the John Birch Society. He enjoyed to square dancing, playing cards, watching old western movies, and loved to eat cherry pie and three cheers ice cream. Rex never met a stranger and was a friend to all. He was a lifelong Oklahoma State University Fan.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, parents, and brother Wayne Eagan.

He is survived by his wife Claudia, two sons: Burke Edward Eagan and wife Shonda, of Butler, OK and Jared Dale Eagan and wife Mary of Foss, OK.

He is also survived by his grandchildren: Paizley Eagan, Hadley Eagan and Jada Akin. Two stepdaughters: Dianne Lockhart of Parkville MO and Valorie Hallock of El Cajon CA.; Rex's sister Beth and her husband Jerry Parker of Tulsa, OK and their daughter Jill and husband Tom Graham; daughter Andrea Daniel and husband Mike; Blaine Eagan and wife Jennifer; Kaleen Clark and husband Brian and their families.

**Carol Ruth Webb**

Funeral Services for Carol Webb, 77, Clinton resident were held 10:00 A.M., Monday, June 20, 2022, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel, officiated by Doyle Kinney. Burial will follow in the Arapaho Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Carol Ruth Webb was born June 22, 1944, to Ike and Ruth (Owen) Fransen in Clinton, OK and passed away Sunday June 12, 2022, in the Emerald Care Center in Oklahoma City, OK.

Carol was raised in Clinton and graduated from Clinton High School in 1962. She married Dwight Webb on March 15, 2004, in Oklahoma City, OK. She was active and involved in farming and ranching most of her life.

She is a member of the First United Methodist Church; she is a member of the Maine Anjou where she served as secretary/treasury for several years. She enjoyed gardening, raising both flowers and vegetables, she loved her cats and her cattle and spending time and traveling with Dwight.

She was preceded in death by her brother Doug Fransen, son Brad Shindler and grandson Blaine Shindler.

She is survived by husband Dwight Webb, of the home, daughters: Nicky Webb and husband John, Pauls Valley, OK and Kathy Shindler, Clinton.

She is also survived by three grandchildren: Tamara Mata and husband, Chris, Ardmore,

Brock Shindler, Arapaho and Joani Webb, Ardmore, and two great -grandchildren Raelce Kendrick and Mata Kendrick, Ardmore.

**Juan Uribe Ramirez**

Funeral Services for Juan Ramirez, 62, Clinton resident, were held 11:00 A.M. Friday, June 17, 2022, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel officiated by Rev. Jessie Muscik. Burial will follow in the Butler Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau Lee Funeral Home.



The family greeted guests from 6:00 A.M. till 8:00 P.M. Thursday, June 16, 2022.

Juan Uribe Ramirez was born April 4, 1960, to Jesus and Antonia (Uribe) Ramirez in El Pajarito Rayon Potosi, Mexico, and passed away June 11, 2022 in OKC, OK.

Juan started his young life in Mexico, and he came to America when he was 12 years. He traveled alone and soon joined his older brother and made Butler and Clinton his home. He was much too young at the age of 12, so he stayed home and cooked and kept house for the others. When he was old enough to begin a working career, he stated at the Norbest Turkey Plant. For a few years, he tried other jobs, working in the oilfields and doing seismograph work. He later joined forces at the Bar-S-Foods and has worked there for over 22 years.

He enjoyed spending time at the Casino, watching championship Wrestling.

He is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers: Senovio Ramirez and Valentin Ramirez.

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<b>Mostly Sunny</b>  H: 97° L: 74° <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Sunny</b>  H: 99° L: 77° <b>Thursday</b>	<b>Sunny</b>  H: 103° L: 78° <b>Friday</b>	<b>Sunny</b>  H: 102° L: 70° <b>Saturday</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>  H: 89° L: 66° <b>Sunday</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>  H: 89° L: 68° <b>Monday</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>  H: 91° L: 70° <b>Tuesday</b>
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## SWOSU Biology Faculty Join Bean Beetle Microbiome Project

Biological Sciences faculty Drs. Eric Paul and Gina McGrane recently joined a project with collaborations between Emory University and Morehouse College to implement a curricular-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) in their General Microbiology Laboratory.

The principal investigators for this National Science Foundation-funded project, Drs. Chris Beck and Larry Blumer of Emory University and Morehouse College, respectively, intend to implement this CURE at universities and colleges across the country. The aims of their project include increasing student engagement, persistence, and performance in science classes and increasing the understanding of the importance of microbes that live in association with bean beetles.

Bean beetles are agriculturally important pests of stored beans; an infestation can reduce the overall mass of beans by approximately 11%. The microbiome of bean beetles likely supplies essential nutrients for insect survival. Increased understanding of the specific microbes involved in supporting the survival of the bean beetle may lead to novel control measures.

The CURE will be implemented in General Microbiology at SWOSU in spring 2023. Students participating in the CURE will learn the classical skills that are always a part of microbiology courses



and will also answer novel scientific questions using techniques for microbiome community analysis. Participating students will contribute to the societal understanding of both microbiomes in general and the bean beetle microbiome.

As participants in the CURE project, SWOSU will receive supplies and access to Sanger and next-generation sequencing and software for

bioinformatics analysis. Additionally, the project will fund travel for faculty and student to present their findings at scientific meetings. These resources and travel support are worth thousands of dollars. The travel for faculty attendance at the workshop was also funded by the project.

To learn more about bean beetles and their microbiome see: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33863703/>

To learn more about this CURE and its education initiatives see: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2020.577621/full>

### "The Coin Guy"

#### Go Big or Go Home

For Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee (70 years on the throne) the Royal Mint produced a very large coin for her. It is a gold coin weighing 15 kilograms (33.069 pounds). It is made from .999 fine gold and weighs 15,030 grams and its measurement is 220 mm (8.66 inches) in diameter. It is valued at £15,000 (\$18,836.70).

The artist John Bergdahl designed the gold coin and Queen Elizabeth approved it. The reverse shows a crown with EIIR (Elizabeth II Regina {Regina is Latin for Queen}). It also sports a privy mark of St. Edward's crown the number of 70. The obverse has the Queen's signature.

The workers of the Royal Mint spent 400 hours making the gold coin using special engraving and lasers.

Do you need help assembling a coin collection but don't know who to ask? Call The Coin Guy at 580-890-8076. Thanks for reading.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

**Advertising Deadline:**  
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## BUSINESS SRVCS/ PRODUCTS

**Cartwheel Coins of Custer County has silver coins for sale. I live in Weatherford. (580) 890-8076 thisoldcoin@yahoo.com Trent**

## AUTOMOBILES & AUTO MISC.

**For Sale-2000 Chevy Tahoe with 300K miles. \$1200. 405-929-9109 or 405-542-7498**

**\*16 3/4 ton Dodge pick-up bed - Brand new. \$1650.00 (405) 639-9667**

**For Sale- Ford V8 motor 5.4 engine with tinted windows. 4 door, tool box and step-side. 140K miles. \$6,000 OBO**

**For Sale- 2015 Dodge Flatbed pickup bed. \$1000. 405-639-9667**

**For Sale- 2006 Chevy HHR. Good on gas! \$4500. 480-330-3489**

**For Sale- Tractor Supply 5 Gal. Jerry Cans, fair to like new. \$15-\$25 each. WFD 9180415-4236**

**For Sale- 02 Mercury Sable, 130K Miles, \$4,800. Great Condition. New Tires. 580-330-3489**

**For Sale-20ft gooseneck stock trailer, almost new tires. \$3,500. 580-309-1988**

**For Sale: Chevrolet truck tires/wheels LT235/75/15 set of (4). 5 lug. \$225.00 WFD 580-330-1437**

**For Sale- 2013 Chevy Spark, runs great, everything works great, great gas mileage \$4,750. 580-330-3499**

**For Sale- 2 red military type Jerry fuel cans. \$30 each or 2 for \$50. 580-330-1437.**

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

**For sale or trade: 2002 Suzuki Savage 5500 miles. \$2,500 OBO or trade. Excellent condition. Go-Kart frame willing to trade. 405-639-9667**

**2001 Honda 600CC- good condition, new battery, navy blue, 16k miles, \$2,000. 405-892-8301**

**For Sale- New Carlisle Trail HD Trailer Tires, ST175/80R13, Load Range 'D'. 918-415-4236. Weatherford. \$150 for the pair.**

**For Sale- 2 Yamaha ATV's. \$3000 per or get both for \$5000. Call 580-628-1383**

**For Sale- NIB, Boat Trailer, "Bunk Glide" Kit, stainless hardware, Sized for Pontoon or smaller. 918-415-4236. located in Weatherford. \$300**

## FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

**For Sale - Large Beautiful Antique cedar chest; \$85 580-613-0108**

**For Sale- Washer/Dryer pair, Kenmore 80 Series. Dryer works, but washer needs work. With NIB timers/controllers for both. WFD \$175 918-415-4236.**

**For Sale - All wood rocking chair; \$65 580-613-0108**

**For Sale- Antique drawleaf oak pub table with six caned bottom barley twist chairs. \$750 (580) 445-6765**

**For Sale- Adirondack chairs, handmade with screws instead of nails \$70. 580-613-0108**

**For Sale- 2 matching swivel chairs with metal backs and padded cushions. \$35/each. 580-613-0108**

**For Sale- Anitque Curved glass China Cabinet. Mirrored and lighted. \$1500. 580-243-1143**

**For Sale- Washer/Dryer pair. \$150 for each or \$275 for both. 580-774-7242**

**For Sale- Dirt devil hand held vacuum (3). \$30/each. For Sale- Large fance framed mirror. \$50. Full length mirror \$10. 580-613-0108**

**For Sale- All wood Rocker. \$65. 580-613-0108.**

## FARM, LAWN & GARDEN

**For Sale- coil roofing air nailgun, like new, with 3 boxes of coil nails. \$400 for all. Text or call 580-330-1437**

**For Sale- Red Stack-on rolling tool chest (2 pieces) 13 drawers plus opening top with locking keys. 26"x53" like new. Very clean and always kept inside. Upgraded. \$450. Text or call 580-330-1437**

**For Sale-beautiful well made, Hutch with glass front. \$150.00 580-890-9442**

**For Sale- Large Wooden Entertainment Center. \$40. 580-330-1437**

**For Sale- Huge 9 piece Children's solid wood bedroom suite plus padded mattress by Ashley. Purchased at Bob Mills. Pastel Colors. Beautiful. \$485 OBO. 580-330-1437**

**For Sale- 3 Rider Mowers ( 2 working and 1 for parts) \$300 for all. 405-639-9667**

**For Sale- Troybilt garden tiller with 7hp motor, like new. \$600. 8N Ford tractor, good condition. \$1,500. (580) 729-0001**

**For Sale- 20-inch lawn mower with 155 C.I. Briggs Stratton engine, easy start, runs good, uses little if any oil. \$45. 405-246-8952, 10am-8pm**

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**For Sale- (1) 32 ft aluminum extension ladder. \$150.00. (3), new vacuum pump, sniffer gauges, etc. \$150.00 Thomas. 580-890-9442**

**For Sale- ANCO 1970/80's tall METAL wiper blade rolling box. 2'x2'x4" \$400.00 OBO. WFD**

**For Sale- Odds & Ends. Wood and sheet metal. \$150. 405-639-9667**

**For Sale- Oilfield Drillbit. 3 head and HEAVY. \$100. 580-330-1437**

**For Sale- Throwback Jerseys OJ Simpson throwback Jersey. 1970 USC #32. White. Size 56. \$125 OBO. World Series Ny Mets Jersey. #32 Hampton. Black. Possibly Game Worn. \$125 OBO. Deion Sanders Throwback Jersey #21. Blue. Signature embroidered into number. \$125 OBO. 580-330-1437**

**Garage Sale- Friday June 11 from 9am-2pm. 611 North Custer in Weatherford. Craftsman lawnmower, Home goods and furniture. window ac's, heaters, doors, live animal trap, 100 amp power breaker, and Harley Davidson leather. 580-774-5771**

**For Sale- Justin Steel Toe boots. Brand New. 11D. Super comfortable. No Box. \$150. 580-330-1437**

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Bush Baked Beans 28oz All Varieties.....	\$2.48	Strawberries pint.....	\$2.99 each
Food Club Ketchup 38oz.....	\$1.89	Large Green Bell Peppers.....	\$0.89 each
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Food Club Bread and Butter Chips 32oz.....	\$1.99	Red or Black Plums.....	\$2.99 lb.
Food Club Relish Sweet or Dill 10oz.....	\$0.99		
Kraft Macaroni and Cheese Dinners 7.25oz.....	\$0.99	Frozen	
Austex Hot Dog Sauce 10oz.....	\$0.99	Food Club Peas - Corn - Mixed Vegetables 12oz.....	\$0.78
Head Country Barbeque Sauce 20oz.....	\$2.99	Blue Ribbon Ice Cream 4 qt. pail.....	\$5.98
Food Club Cereal 28-32 oz Assorted Varieties.....	\$3.88	Tombstone Pepperoni Pizza 18.5oz.....	\$4.99
Food Club Peanut Butter 16oz All Varieties.....	\$1.58	Budget Saver Twin Pops 18 ct.....	\$3.59
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Kingsford Charcoal 16 lb.....	\$10.99	Food Club Sour Cream 16oz.....	\$1.89
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# LOCAL & AREA NEWS



**Mike Smith**  
News Director



*Provided*  
The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce recently hosted the Legislative Candidate Forum allowing Republican candidates for State House and Senate races to voice their platforms for the upcoming Primary election. Pictured above, from left: State Representative Anthony Moore, forum moderator Jeff Berrong, State Senator candidate J.J. Stitt, and State Senator Darcy Jech.



*Provided*  
Weatherford held the annual Heartland Car Cruise on Main Street this past Friday. Car enthusiasts proudly showed off classic American muscle cars for the public to view while food trucks and street vendors provided refreshments.



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**BECKHAM CO DIST COURT** – Charges of first-degree arson and attempted first degree murder have been filed against an Elk City man in Beckham County District Court. Court records show 24-year-old Alexander Michael Albright allegedly set fire to the outside of a home in Elk City that was occupied at the time of the fire by his ex-girlfriend and three others.

**MUNICIPAL FILINGS/DAY 3** – The three day filing period ended at 5 for municipal seats in the cities of Weatherford and Clinton. No races formed as a result of the filing period. Jimmy Ingram will keep his Ward 2 commission seat in the city of Weatherford. Garrett Smith is returning to the City Commission in Weatherford after filing unopposed. Incumbent Mark Shadid did not seek re-election. Ernie Dowdell and Arthur Lloyd are returning to Clinton City Council without opposition, as is mayor David Berrong.

**CUSTER CO DIST COURT/PHILLIPS** – A Weatherford man who is serving 20 years of a 50 year prison term for first degree manslaughter has filed for judicial review for a modification of his sentence. Twenty-three-year-old Cole Isaac Phillips was sentenced last July in connection with the April 2020 shooting death of 20-year old Josh Price.

**EARLY VOTING** - Early voting begins June 23rd at county boards of election sites for the June 28th election. Early voting will be held Thursday, June 23rd and Friday, June 24th, from 8-6, and on Saturday June 25th from 8am-2pm. Polling sites will be open on election day from 7am-7pm.

**CUSTER CO DIST COURT/GAUTHIER** - An Edgewood, NM, woman charged with trafficking in illegal drugs will have a preliminary hearing in Custer County district court next month. Forty-year-old Theresa Marie Gauthier is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on July 21st. Gauthier and 55-year-old Dwayne Henry Shaw, also of Edgewood, New Mexico, were apprehended by Weatherford Police earlier this year during a traffic stop after authorities discovered heroin, meth and fentanyl inside the vehicle. Shaw is scheduled for a preliminary hearing conference on July 22nd.

**WEATHERFORD SCHOOL BOARD** - In a meeting of the Weatherford School Board of Education Superintendent Jill Henderson said Tom Stafford Elementary is almost completed and flooring should be completed in June. Henderson said the district should have full access to the school in early August and discussed possibly having an open house for the community.

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**Happy Birthday Wishes for June 22nd-** Mark Becton, Brownie Brown, Tyler Flyingout, Sage Fox, Robert Ingram, Jr. McCrary, Monty Proffit, Keenan Taylor, Shawny Twins; **June 23rd-** Debbie Blakeslee, Ruby Dillon, Madison Jade Dudgeon, Stetson Flaming, Gary Friesen, Meg Hook, Rayna Lax, Ruby Polly, Lisa Rockett, Steve Sauer; **June 24th-** Bruce Belanger, Heather Hall, Chelsea Lantz, Genny Lathrom, Naveenah Matrix, Vaida Kay Mogg, Dorothy Sloan, Dalton Sloan, Cecil Smith, Betty Snider; **June 25th-** Jordan Estes, James Fielder, Casandra Fraser, Greg Gaines, Mary Page, Jo Dawn Parrish, Dwayne Roark, Jana Rucks, Justin Savage, Larry Sharp, Michael Wright; **June 26th-** Marissa Gay, Briana Mooney, Rex Payne, Trey Waldrop, 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 D. Johnson, Katy Murray, Dustin Strong

# SPORTS *Presented by:*



## Wolaver Wins Gold Buckle, Women's Team Claims Reserve Championship

**Jon Chidester**  
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

Senior barrel racer Sadie Wolaver took home a gold buckle and a new title – “National Champion” – following the completion of the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) on Saturday. She and the rest of the SWOSU Women’s Rodeo team went on to finish as the national runner-up for the second consecutive year.

The Women’s Team, made up of Abby Hepper, Alli Masters, Winter Williams & Sadie Wolaver, compiled 530.0 points over the four-round event to finish as the national runner-up behind Weatherford College. The Dawgs were edged by just 8.3 total points.

SWOSU’s 530 team points in 2022 were nearly 100 more points than they scored in 2021.

The second-place finish is now the fifth top-10 national placing for SWOSU Women’s Rodeo team under head coach Mike Visnieski.

Wolaver’s first three rounds of the CNFR were consistent and solid. She posted times of 14.26, 14.24, and 14.22 to enter the short round on Saturday with the lead. The senior left nothing to chance in front of a packed house in the final round when she continued her trend of shaving off time on her runs and finished with a 14.14 to seal the deal.

She becomes the second SWOSU barrel racer to win



the CNFR and is the first to do it since 1979. Wolaver’s horse, Princess, was also recognized as the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Women’s Horse of the Year.

Abby Hepper also had a strong showing in barrels and finished eighth overall in the average. She helped account for 60.0 team points for the Dawgs. Her fastest round came in the third when she posted a 14.23.

In the breakaway, Alli Masters entered the short round in second overall and in serious contention but

was unable to get a score in the final round and finished eighth overall with 145 points for her team. Winter Williams began her campaign in round one with a 3.3 but did not get a score in rounds two or three to be able to qualify for the short round.

SWOSU’s lone cowboy, Marley Berger, represented well in tie down roping. He entered the final round in ninth place and shaved three seconds off his previous CNFR best with an 8.5 second run on Saturday that jumped him to sixth overall.



Provided

Zack Saunders held his annual baseball camp at Weatherford’s Kiwanis Baseball Complex this past June. Baseball players from all across Western Oklahoma attended to improve their baseball fundamentals, including hitting, pitching, and catching.

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# Heather Davis Joins Lady Bulldog Basketball as Assistant Coach

SWOSU Women's Basketball head coach Jeff Zinn has announced the addition of Heather Davis who will join his staff as an assistant.

Davis comes from the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) where she has been the assistant coach for the past eight years under former Bronchos head coach Guy Hardaker, who retired following the 2021-22 season. She has over 12 collective years of experience at the Division II level, as a player, graduate assistant, and full-time assistant.

Davis helped lead the Bronchos to more than 100 wins in her first five seasons at UCO and was 151-83 overall in eighth seasons as an assistant.

Prior to being upgraded to full-time assistant, she spent two seasons as a graduate assistant at UCO from 2012 to 2014.

Aside from UCO, Davis also had the opportunity to coach for the USA Sports Division II women's team on two separate tours – in 2019 as an assistant and 2021 as head coach. Team USA consists of 10 Division II players who travel to South America to compete in exhibitions against local competition.

As a player, Davis spent her first two years at Division



I Missouri-Kansas City before transferring to UCO to play under Coach Hardaker and close out her career.

At Muskogee High School, Davis was a prep standout. She earned All-District and All-State honors as a senior while also garnering All-Conference

accolades in soccer.

A native of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Davis earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice in May 2012 and her master's in criminal justice management and administration in May 2014.



**Pictured left:** Children's musician Eddie Spaghetti performed live at the Weatherford YMCA as a part of the WPLS Summer Reading Program. **Pictured right:** Children gathered at the Weatherford Public Library to craft balloon versions of aquatic animals as part of the WPLS Summer Reading Program.

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## HIGHER GROUND

### Spreading Good News



Jim Morrison

It is Vacation Bible School time again. Some churches have already concluded their program while others are in the planning stages, seeking volunteers, gathering supplies, etc. Depending on the church leadership it can be focused on the children of members or as an outreach tool to youngsters outside the walls of the church, in unchurched areas of town.

I have generally been involved in knocking on doors of trailer houses and apartments seeking those children often neglected from any church outreach effort. I seek those areas where there are toys or some evidence of the presence of children and pass those where no children are present.

However, this year I am planning to try something a little more challenging. I'm going

to every door in the area. I've found that when a stranger knocks on their door most people have two questions: "Who are you?" And, "What do you want?" So I say, (with a big smile) I'm Jim Morrison from First Baptist Church and we are having Vacation Bible School in few weeks and I am looking for kids that might be interested. That breaks down a few walls, because most people don't feel threatened by VBS. Many have had good experiences in VBS and this gives me a valid reason to be there. They see that you are not out to get something from them. If there are no children present I plan to continue with something like this: "Okay, That's fine. How are things going with you folks. Have you lived in Weatherford long? Do you folks have a church home here in town?" Depending on the response I may feel comfortable about going deeper into a spiritual conversation. Then I give them a copy of a Billy Graham DVD, "Heaven" as a gift. I may say something like this; "I believe everyone wants to go to heaven when they die. But a lot of folks really don't know for sure that they will go there. This DVD will give you an assurance about that question." You know, eternity is a long time and it is a good thing to know for sure.

"Now I would like to pray for you. What are some things that you would like me to pray for

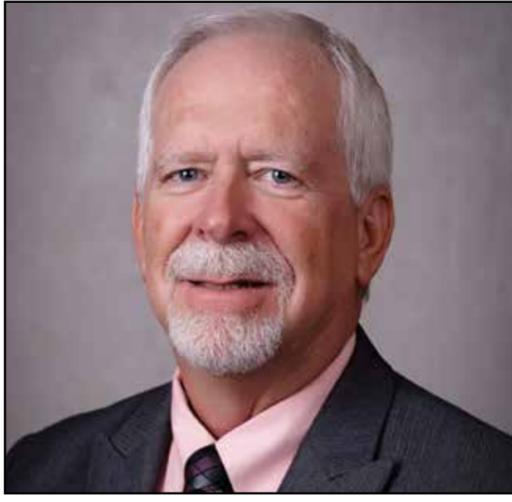
you about." They may mention a few things, but I have never had anyone refuse to let me pray for them. This allows me to pray that God will protect them, give them wisdom in making decisions, and for God to show them how much he loves them by dying on the cross for them. If there are children or grandchildren I will pray for them. I am comfortable doing this because I do it all the time at the truck stop and in the jail. I realize this might be difficult for some. Just understand that the Holy Spirit will help you and make the words clear.

This is a seed-sowing plan. In the parable of the sower, Jesus indicates that some seed will fall on fertile soil. We have no way of knowing where the Spirit of God is at work. The Bible says that he who sows generously will reap a generous harvest. Obviously, he who sows not at all will have a crop failure.

Being old has some advantages. I have passed the point of worrying about impressing anybody or fearing rejection; "if the General loves me, who cares about the Sergeant." If this pleases God, it doesn't matter what people think. I hope this gives you something to think about. You might just give it a try.

To comment: jnm82@outlook.com or 580-302-1142

# Dr. David Ralph Announces Retirement After 47 Years at SWOSU



Dr. David Ralph, who has served as the Dean of Pharmacy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University since 2016, has announced his retirement after 47 years on the Weatherford campus.

Ralph received his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and MBA and BS in Pharmacy from SWOSU.

Dr. David Ralph began employment as an instructor in Pharmacy Administration and Director of Continuing Education in 1975, immediately after graduating with a pharmacy degree. He took on the position of Assistant Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs within the College of Pharmacy from 1985 to 2000. He served as Associate Dean of the college from 2000 to 2016 before being named Dean in 2016. Ralph is the first SWOSU pharmacy graduate to become the college's dean.

Under Ralph's guidance, the College has met state and regional workforce needs for pharmacists while also

providing critical research and services for the area. Ralph has been instrumental in the creation and expansion of the Center for Rural Health within the college. Ralph also led the program through a successful reaccreditation process in June 2022 with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

Ralph has had leadership positions in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Southwestern Pharmacy Alumni Foundation, Southwestern Pharmacy Alumni Association, and Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association. He has professional licenses as Registered Pharmacist and Registered Preceptor.

A come-and-go retirement reception for Ralph will be held Monday, July 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Chemistry/Pharmacy/Physics building.

An interim dean for the College will be announced soon, and a search for Ralph's replacement will begin this summer and continue through the fall.

## New Data Released Shows Positive Impact from School Climate Grant

A five-year, \$3.7 million School Climate Transformation grant is making a significant impact, according to new data released by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). The grant was awarded in 2018 through the U.S. Department of Education and is administered through OSDE.

"The results from this data show an incredible turnaround at schools that have received the most comprehensive supports," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister. "The impact of improving school climate is twofold – a more positive overall school environment and additional high-quality instructional time for students and teachers to work toward academic success in the classroom. More than halfway through the grant, we are seeing outcomes that touch on all that we know about child development and learning – students' basic needs for safety, trust and security must be met before learning can occur."

School climate can be defined as the quality and character of a given school that reflects the shared norms, behaviors, priorities and expectations of its staff and students.

To date, the grant has funded statewide training and technical assistance on how schools and districts can implement integrated, multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to improve school climate, including Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and Pyramid Model frameworks, trauma-informed practices, mental health awareness and prevention curriculum. Additionally, 50 individual schools are receiving intensive coaching and training.

behavior and school climate.

Julie Bloss, principal at the Grove Early Childhood Center, has seen the grant's impact with her school's pre-kindergarten and first-grade students.

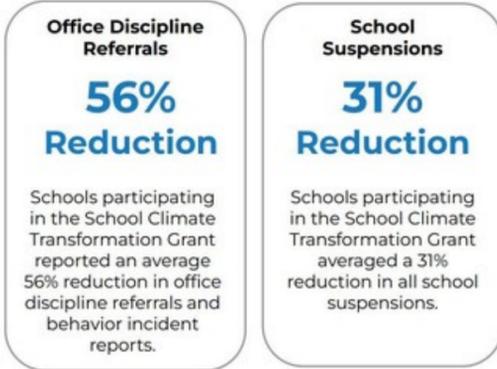
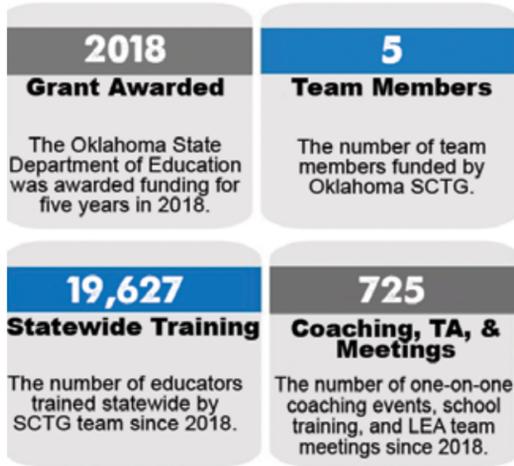
"Because we transition the youngest learners into school for the first time, we don't just teach academics," Bloss said. "We teach students how to do school – how to keep your hands to yourself, how to problem-solve, how to resolve a conflict and more."

"The grant helped us put in place a systematic approach to having schoolwide expectations for all students. Every day we are celebrating and recognizing positive things occurring in our classrooms with our students when they meet those expectations. This has helped us provide an exceptional academic atmosphere because we have the behavior under control. It really has been a game-changer for us – this school year, we are implementing what we have learned from the School Climate Transformation grant across every site in the district."

The grant has enabled the OSDE to develop a myriad of tools all schools in Oklahoma can utilize to improve school climate, including:

- School Climate Framework
- School Implementation Templates
- Behavior Coaching Resource Guides
- Universal Program Planning Guide
- Fidelity Tools

The OSDE and School Climate Transformation team are hosting a free two-day conference for educators, Supporting the Whole Child: 2022 MTSS Summer Conference, on June 21-22, at the Edmond Conference Center. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required.



Between the early stages of the grant's implementation in 2018 and the end of the 2020-21 school year, the intensive-intervention school sites saw a 56% reduction in discipline referrals and a 31% decrease in suspensions from school. In the same time period, 19,627 educators and support staff received targeted training in integrated multi-tiered systems of support to improve student



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