

WEST OK WEEKLY



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Krystal Blackwell / WW

Weatherford Stafford Regional Airport hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of a crowd of community members, representatives, and pilots.

Weatherford Thomas P. Stafford Regional Airport Opens New Terminal

The Weatherford Stafford Regional Airport hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of a large crowd of local community members and aviation enthusiasts on Tuesday, November 22, in honor of the airport's new terminal building.

The \$1.6 million project began in December of 2021 and took nearly 11 months to complete. The new terminal building was necessary because the current building, attached to the Stafford Air and Space Museum, would not accommodate the increasing air traffic that the airport was experiencing. The improvements will provide visiting pilots and passengers with a grand new entryway as they fly into Weatherford.

"I am proud to help dedicate Weatherford's new terminal, which will be a significant asset for the surrounding region. Already home to a first-class air and space museum, Weatherford is a growing community because of its forward-thinking policies and prime location in western Oklahoma. This new terminal will empower economic development, support jobs and grow workforce opportunities as it draws new businesses to the area for years to come."

Senator Jim Inhofe served as the keynote speaker and led the ceremonial ribbon cutting, signifying the optimistic future of both the Weatherford Stafford

Regional Airport and the City of Weatherford. In addition to cutting the ribbon on the new terminal, this event allowed pilots and aviation enthusiasts, alike, an opportunity to provide Senator Inhofe with a collective thank you from the industry and a warm sendoff as his final term as US Senator comes to a close. With over 50 years of public service, Inhofe has been the number one supporter of aviation throughout the country as well as back home in Oklahoma.

One of Oklahoma's favorite astronauts and local hero General Tom Stafford was in attendance to provide remarks on this momentous occasion for Weatherford.

Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz stated, "This airport is evidence of the advanced commitment by the City of Weatherford for improving aviation infrastructure. Since the community's founding, civic leaders and citizens have dedicated their resources and time to invest in pro-growth projects. This airport has become a symbol of the character and integrity that embodies the Oklahoma standard."

This project would not have been possible without the leadership of the City of Weatherford, the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, and the FAA working together to find a funding solution to complete such a critical project.

"The Aeronautics Commission is proud to use this special ribbon cutting in Weatherford as a moment to commemorate the service of Senator Jim Inhofe to the aviation community in Oklahoma. Working with Mayor Mike Brown, General Tom Stafford, and others on this project has been one of the most rewarding experiences. They know the importance of aviation and infrastructure and how an airport terminal plays into the bigger picture of community economic enhancement," said Aeronautics Commission Director Grayson Ardies.

Weatherford is an important economic hub in western Oklahoma as evidenced by the airport's \$6.3M in annual economic impact and 4 based jets. Although several local maintenance shops call the airport home the main attraction is the world-class Stafford Air and Space Museum which sits on airport property. General Stafford has made the museum a key component over the years to help inspire the next generation of aerospace professionals. Thousands of kids from all over Oklahoma visit the museum every year to see the amazing history of this great industry. It is safe to say that Weatherford is doing amazing work to help create tomorrow's aviation and aerospace workforce which is so vital to the state's second-largest industry.



Holiday OPEN HOUSE

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Dec. 8th @ 5:30 pm

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Christmas Open House

at Lasley Family Farm

Saturday, December 3, 2022
9:00am-4:00pm

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James Smith

James Denver Smith was born on August 8, 1950, in Hinton, OK, to Howard and Josephine Smith and passed away on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at the Clinton VA Hospital in Clinton, OK, at the age of 72 years, 3 months and 11 days.



James was raised and attended school in Hydro, OK. James served in the military from 1967 until 1969.

He then returned to Hydro, OK where he became a truck driver.

He married Elaine Minton in Las Vegas, NV on December 26, 1993, and they made their home in Odessa, Texas.

In 2014, James retired from truck driving. Following his retirement, he and Elaine then made their home in Canyon, Texas.

James enjoyed coin collecting, drinking and discussing different blend of coffee, and visiting with friends.

James was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers: Harold Joe and Dwayne; and two sisters: Billie Jean and Betty Smith.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Elaine of their home in Canyon, TX; two daughters, Tonia Robinson of Weatherford, OK and Monti Jo Smith of Amarillo, TX; one brother, Gary and wife Nina Smith of Weatherford, OK; four sisters, Linda Smith of Weatherford, OK, Cathy and husband Bob Chisum of Weatherford, OK, Karen and husband Rex Elkins of Henrietta, OK and Nita and husband Shane Patsolic of Columbus, SC; and two grandchildren.

Nile Vail

Nile Adeo Vail, Jr. was born on November 11, 1943 to Nile Adeo Vail Sr., and Grace Lillian (Poulsun) Vail in Tucson, AZ and passed away Monday, November 21, 2022, in Dill City, OK.



Nile's father was a military man, and the family moved several times while he was growing up.

He had homes in Tucson, AZ, and Hawaii. He graduated from Rincon High School in Tucson, AZ in 1962.

Nile was accepted as a Naval Cadet at the prestigious United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland earning an Engineering Degree specializing in navigation.

He excelled in his classes, became a part of the Rowing Club (N Club), Christian Union and Spanish Club.

His dream was to receive a commission on a Naval ship however that goal was cut short due to health reasons. He was Honorably discharged after graduation.

After college he moved to Texas and began a business who contracted to the U.S. government erecting communications towers around the world.

His final government job was in Guam where he fell in love with the island and chose to retire from communications and live his dream of Captaining a boat.

He married the love of his life Delorise "Dee" Caves in 1985 in Saipan, Marianas Islands.

He began working for Saipan Sea Ventures in the Marianas Islands where he proudly oversaw the ship "Puti on Saipan" for many years.

He also served as captain on many successful fishing charters. After several years on the island the dream of the ocean became a reality.

Nile and Dee began their adventure to sail around the world. They visited many islands unattainable by air, met various tribes, even encountering pirates while in Africa.

The Captain and his first mate (he also called her his last mate), returned to land life in 1996 returning to Burns Flat, OK to assist and operate the family business "Caves Realty" until the present.

He loved to be on the water, was an avid reader, watching college football, world history, playing trivia, photography, and attending auto racing events with his friend, Jeff.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and his wife, Dee in 2016.

He is survived by three daughters, Tenesha Braswell and husband, Casey, Granbury, TX, Christine Seidenglanz and husband, Chris, Santa Clarita, CA and Diana Copeland and husband, Rick, Burns Flat, OK and sister, Gloria Phinney, of California.

He is also survived by 13 grandchildren, Eric Seidenglanz and wife, Claire, Scott Seidenglanz, Camaron Vail, Kasie Braswell, Ethan Perkins Jessica Braswell, Emily Perkins, OK, Monica Holman and husband, Tanner Holman, William Adams and wife, Gaby, Melody Julian, Maci Julian, and Autumn Copeland; and seven great-grandchildren: Blake, Lyla, Arian, Lennon, Jasper, NOAA and Georgia.

Devert Hoelker

Devert Alexander Hoelker was born April 21, 1924, to Herman & Mamie (Klein) Hoelker at Anthon OK.



He was born in the home where he continued to live for 85 years.

He passed away November 17, 2022, at Corn Heritage Nursing Home in Weatherford OK.

Devert taught himself how to play the violin at an early age.

He then joined his brothers & sister, who were accomplished musicians, in the family band.

Devert met & later married his sweetheart, Minnie Lee Davis, on April 22, 1946.

They were active & faithful members of the Catholic Church all their lives.

Devert farmed & raised cattle his entire lifetime on the Hoelker/Klein homestead farms at Anthon.

He always stated "he loved every minute, farming" even despite its trials.

He continued playing his fiddle & guitar & became well-known for playing his "Bob Wills" country & western music. He even had his own band: "Devert Hoelker & His Western Swing Band."

Minnie passed away in November 2003, and he continued his farming.

He later married Ernestine Abercrombie in December 2004.

He retired in 2008 & they moved to Weatherford. His grandson Clay continues his legacy.

Devert is preceded in death by wives Minnie in 2003 & Ernestine in 2022, his parents; his brothers: Albert, Paul, and Louis; sisters: Agnes, Clara, and Esta, and son Paul Andrew.

He is survived by one daughter: Eileen Chittum and husband Joe Chittum of Clinton, OK; grandson Clay Chittum & wife Janae Chittum of Custer City, OK; granddaughter Lea Brown & husband Toby Brown of Stillwater, OK; great-granddaughter Allie Brown & fiancé Finn Bergbower of Stillwater, OK; and four great-grandsons: Benjamin Brown, Brady Chittum, Jacob Chittum, and Dwayne Hoelker.

Virginia Whitchurch

Virginia Mae (Livingston) Whitchurch was born on August 28, 1928, in Adair, OK, to Morton Lester Livingston and Edna Mae (Briggs) Livingston and passed at her home at the age of 94 years, 2 months and 22 days, surrounded by family.



Virginia was raised in Riverton, KS and was the oldest of five children.

Virginia graduated from Riverton High School in 1946.

Virginia worked at Galena Citizen's State Bank in Galena, KS. During that time, she met the love of her life Fred Gordon Whitchurch at her uncle's automotive shop.

Fred and Virginia were married on December 23, 1960 and had 61 wonderful years together.

In 1965, they purchased Galena Motor Company from her uncle where Virginia assisted in keeping the books and picking up parts from suppliers. However, the majority of Virginia's time was spent being a homemaker and a mother to Mark and Julie.

After the kids were grown, Virginia found joy in her grandchildren.

She always looked forward to her visits with distant family, where she played for hours and spoiled her grandchildren.

She attended Empire Mission Church until 2012 when she and Fred moved to Corn, OK and then attended Colony Baptist Church. Virginia enjoyed reading her Bible, catching up with the local news in the Galena Sentinel-Times, and going out on the boat to fish.

Virginia is preceded in death by her husband, parents, brother Bill Livingston, sister Juanita Livingston-Pennock, and brother-in-law Rick Pennock.

She is survived by son Mark Whitchurch of Galena, KS; daughter Julie Shipp and husband Ken of Colony, OK; three grandchildren: Kiersten Klassen and husband Frank of Colony, OK; Kaylee Shipp and fiancé Lantz Parks of Weatherford, OK; and Kyle Shipp of Colony, OK; and two great-grandchildren: Kase and Kinley Klassen of Colony, OK.

Virginia Stephens

Funeral services for Virginia Irene Stephens, 79 year-old Weatherford resident, was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 1:00 PM at Liberty Church in Weatherford.



Scott Page, a Senior Pastor at Liberty Church in Weatherford, will be officiating. Burial followed at Fairview Cemetery in Tuttle, Oklahoma at 4:00 PM.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Virginia Stephens of Weatherford, Oklahoma.

She was born July 2, 1943 and passed away on November 23, 2022, at the age of 79, leaving to mourn family and friends.

Thanksgiving was her favorite holiday and it brings some comfort to her family to know that she spent it with her husband and other loved ones who have gone home before her.

She loved everyone and her beautiful smile will be greatly missed.

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7 - DAY FORECAST

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SCAN ME



Remembering Your Loved Ones in Long-Term Care During the Holiday Season (SWODA)

Cherrie Nutley
 SWODA Ombudsman Supervisor

As we near the big holidays of this year please remember your loved ones in long-term care. Visitation is open and most facilities are no longer requiring the lengthy screening procedures, and many are now mask free.

Check with your loved one's facility to see the schedule of holiday events. Many have a Thanksgiving Meal and gathering time for family and friends and the same with Christmas. Be mindful of gifts to give loved ones in long-term care that they can use and enjoy. Some items always requested are lap robes, socks, house shoes, lotion, candy, cookies,

books, word games, puzzles, stationery and stamps. Most facilities post a wish list at the office. Give the most important gift which is the gift of your time. Residents in long-term care love to visit and to see people.

If you are interested in becoming an Ombudsman Volunteer, we will be hosting a training that will begin at 9 AM on November 28, 2022, at the Burns Flat SWODA offices. If you are interested or would like more information, please call your area Ombudsman Cherrie Nutley at 580-562-5032. Call this same number if you have concerns or questions about the care your loved one is receiving.

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HIGHER GROUND

Thanksgiving



The day of Thanksgiving set aside by the Pilgrims was not the first Thanksgiving. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Israelites as they moved into the Promised Land. They were to be thankful because God had delivered them from slavery in Egypt and brought them into the land of milk and honey.

Can we think of Thanksgiving as deliverance for us? Usually when we come to Thanksgiving we list all the things we have to be thankful for. But what about being thankful for all the things we have been delivered from, that we don't have to experience?

As you eat the leftovers from a bountiful Thanksgiving meal, will you be thankful to

be delivered from the hunger and malnutrition that plagues millions of people in the world? As we complain about the cost of gasoline will we be thankful that we have been delivered from incarceration that prevents any mobility?

I have set down a number of things that I am thankful to be delivered from.

I am thankful to be delivered from a broken home that would cause my children and grandchildren to have to drive all over the country to be fair to all concerned.

I am thankful that I have been delivered from having had rebellious children that would have broken my heart.

I am delivered from health problems that would have limited my usefulness.

I am delivered from an addiction to drugs that might have destroyed me.

I am delivered from a destructive lifestyle that would have held me captive, leaving guilt and lifelong scars.

But most important is that that which I have been delivered to...

- ...a loving relationship with family and friends.
- ...a life full of meaning and purpose.
- ...a hope that does not end with the grave.
- ...a capacity to love the unlovely.
- ...opportunities to minister in the name of Christ

to lost people.

...to enjoy a world of color and beauty.
 ...a table of plenty and a house full of love and life.

Most of all I am delivered to a God who knows my name and formed me from the foundation of the earth... whose love endures forever and whose ways are past finding out; who has made me for himself, whose faithfulness is renewed every morning...who is mighty in power, who has captured my tears in a bottle and heals my broken heart. I am delivered to a God who hears my cry and lifts me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire and who has given me a firm place to stand... who even now is talking to the Father on my behalf and is preparing a place for me and will one day come for me and take me to be with him forever.

Oh praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above all heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Psalm 116:12-14 How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

To comment, call 580-302-1142 or email me at jhm82@outlook.com

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

"The Coin Guy"

Gold Coin Breaks Auction Record




The coin pictured above is among the finest and rarest in the world of collecting. It is an 1885 \$20 gold coin in proof condition. The mintage for proof 1885 \$20 gold coins was a mere 78 pieces. It is believed that it is best looking coin of the 20 known ones in existence. It was certified by the Professional Coin Grading Service as Proof 67 Deep Cameo (which means the coin has a mirror-like appearance).

On November 1, 2022, in Costa Mesa, California, it sold at auction for \$990,000. It sold previously in 2011 for \$320,000.

Do you need help selling a coin collection? Need money for the upcoming holiday season? Call The Coin Guy at 580-890-8076. We can meet at the Downtown diner and discuss your needs. Coffee is on me. Thanks for reading.

Trent Boesen



David Tauffest celebrates 75 years as a member of the Weatherford Rotary Club. He is pictured here with General Stafford.



Weatherford hosted Fredrick and Oklahoma Christian Schools recently for a three way basketball scrimmage. The first game for Weatherford is Saturday vs Elk City at home, be sure to catch all the action at wright.media.

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15. HOLIDAY HOUSE 614 FRISCO AVE
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PSO/RATE REVIEW - The Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) has filed for a rate review. Officials say the proposal will provide funding to harden the PSO electrical grid, meaning power outages would be less frequent, smaller, and shorter. This proposal will also strive to encourage clean energy and protect not only the public, but PSO workers as well. If approved, the proposal would increase PSO net revenue by \$173 million annually to reflect current levels of investment and costs incurred to serve customers. For the average residential customer who uses 1100 kilowatt hours per month, the increase would be about \$14.11 a month.

BECKHAM/ALBRIGHT - An Elk City man has waived a preliminary hearing in Beckham County District Court to charges of first-degree arson and attempted first degree murder. 24-year-old Alexander Michael Albright allegedly set fire to the outside of a home in Elk City that was occupied at the time by his ex-girlfriend and three others. Albright will be back in court for formal arraignment on December 7th.

CLINTON/HOSPITAL UPDATE - Clinton Mayor David Berrong says he believes "bigger and better days" are on the horizon for Clinton Regional Hospital as Carrus Health will manage the hospital on an interim basis over a 12-month period. Carrus will begin managing the hospital starting January 1st.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!



Have a birthday, anniversary, or other special event? Email us at sales@westokweekly.com to announce it here for FREE!

Alcohol causing problems? Alcoholics Anonymous meets daily at 928 W. Main, Weatherford. Call (580) 819-0727 for more information. **Christian Free Store** - Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK Community Center "Bible Study,"** Every Monday Night from 7:00-8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more Information contact (405) 643-9211. **Free and Open to the Public. Oklahoma Parkinson's Alliance,** monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford's Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. **Questions? Contact OK Parkinson's Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@oklahomapa.org.**

Happy Birthday Wishes for November 30 - D'Fawn Downs, Marjorie Loar, Sam Shell, Dalton Thomas, Matt Thorpe; **December 1** - Angela Castorena, Austin Castorena, Olivia Celsor, Barbard Dodd, Lyndon Hart, Kevin Kreizenbeck, Brad Lax, Natalie Meyer, Jacque Morlan, Franklin Ralston, Linda Smith, Justin Snider; **December 2** - Becky Ball, Raevyn Cavanaugh, Doni Duggan, Gavin Hayslip, Ronnie Hazel, Lisa Hearn, Konner Hood, Terry Jensen, Janet King, Cassandra Ladd, Sy Stewart, George Wilkinson; **December 3** - Tarra Barton, Morgan Brown, Ken Brown, Verda McKellips, Brian Tompkins; **December 4** - Fred Atna, Kristen Bailey, Elizabeth Byrd, Beverly Leonard, Richard Miller, Aubrey Robers, Avery Rottedcorn; **December 5** - Robin Cates, Retha Flue, Donna Gates, Scott Haven, Heather Hock, Kaylee Holland, Elizabeth Janning, Melissa Jett, Amanda Johnson, Madison Lax, Ted Lilly, Adam Lockstone, Gary Long, Rachal Maxon, Chuck Meyer, Kristen Roberson, Carl Schneberger, Chris Shaw, Susan Steiner, Randy Stucker, Harland Unruh; **December 6** - Austin Barragsee, Catherine Bryant, Zachary Carnahan, Larry Cozart, Lacy Crawley, Sarah Ivy, Debbie Kauk, Bonnie Moore, Kayla Schmidt, Season Simon, Odessa Tebhoe.

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

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2003 Toyota Rav 4 - New shocks, front-end, 02 sensors, windshield. Has back tire cover, good upholstery and back cargo cover. No check engine lights. 220,000 miles. \$3,500 obo. 580-799-7834

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SPORTS

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	1	2	F
William Jewell	24	38	62
Southwestern Okla.	31	32	63

Team Statistics		
	SWO	Drury
FG%	.413	.424
3FG%	.515	.345
FT%	.800	.556
RB	41	34
TO	11	18
STL	14	5

Buzzer Beater Lifts Dawgs over William Jewell

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Junior forward DeAngelo Adkins got a tip-in layup as time expired, giving men's basketball a 63-62 victory over William Jewell College on day two of the Drury Thanksgiving Classic.

The win makes it a perfect 2-0 showing for the Bulldogs at the event, heading into Thanksgiving Break. They move to 3-2 on the season and will rest up for another busy week starting next Monday.

SWOSU survived a scare from the Cardinals. The Bulldogs held a 10-point lead with just under four minutes to play in the contest and had that lead change hands with 12 seconds to play following a made WJC

jump shot.

Trailing 62-61 out of the ensuing timeout, Kamden Gipson drove to the hole and missed a layup but was saved by a crashing Adkins who grabbed the offensive board and quickly put the ball back in the basketball before the buzzer sounded.

The rebound marked Adkins' 11th of the game – tying a career high. He finished with a team best 15 points, also earning the first double-double of his SWOSU career.

It was a game controlled mostly by SWOSU, with five lead changes and one tie nearly all coming in the early going. After a back-and-forth start, the Dawgs

distanced themselves for much of the remainder – leading by seven at halftime and by as many as 11 in the second half before the Cardinals made their final run.

Final numbers showed SWOSU shooting 40% compared to WJC's 38%. After knocking down 17 three-point shots on Tuesday, SWOSU was just 7-for-24 on Wednesday.

On defense, SWOSU won the turnover battle 16-10 but got slightly outbounded 39-35.

Gipson was the second-best scoring option. After his career game against Drury, he finished with nine points and a season best five assists.

Mentioned above, the Bulldogs will rest up with the holiday before a three-game week next week. They begin on Monday (11/28) when they host non-conference opponent Randall University. Conference play kicks off Thursday (12/1) when Oklahoma Baptist comes to town. They'll finish the week on the road in Durant on Saturday (12/3) for more GAC action against Southeastern.

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Southwestern Okla.	18	25	9	15	67

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SWOSU Lady Dawgs Upset Bid Falls Short

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU women's basketball took on the Lubbock Christian in the Pioneer Cellular Event Center on Monday night. They fell just short of the upset, 73-67.

SWOSU came out on fire from the three-point line. They shot 50% from behind the arc in the first half. The catalyst for the hot start was Adysen Wilson. She went into halftime 6-9 from the field and 6-8 from three for 18 points. This scoring mark is her new career high.

The Bulldogs hustled into the locker room up 43-36 and looking good. SWOSU biggest lead was when they led by 11 at the 6:37 mark of the second quarter. They outshot and out rebounded LCU by slim margins in the first half.

The third quarter is where things turned. Lubbock Christian outscored SWOSU 19-9 in the quarter to retake the lead going into the 4th quarter, a lead they did not

relinquish. The last SWOSU lead of the game ended at 3:43 in the third quarter.

SWOSU went cold when they needed it most. After shooting 50% from three in the first half, the Lady Bulldogs went 0-8 from three in the second half. Wilson, who notched her career high in one half, did not attempt a shot in the final two quarters.

Wilson led with 18 points; Morgan Smith also had 18 points in the losing effort. Shamica Smith added 13 points and a team high six rebounds. Averi Zinn threw in 10 points and a team high six assists.

SWOSU drops to 0-4 on the young season. Their non-conference schedule halts for now, with their next game against foe Oklahoma Baptist. The game will be on December 1 at 5:30 pm, back in the Pioneer Cellular Event Center.

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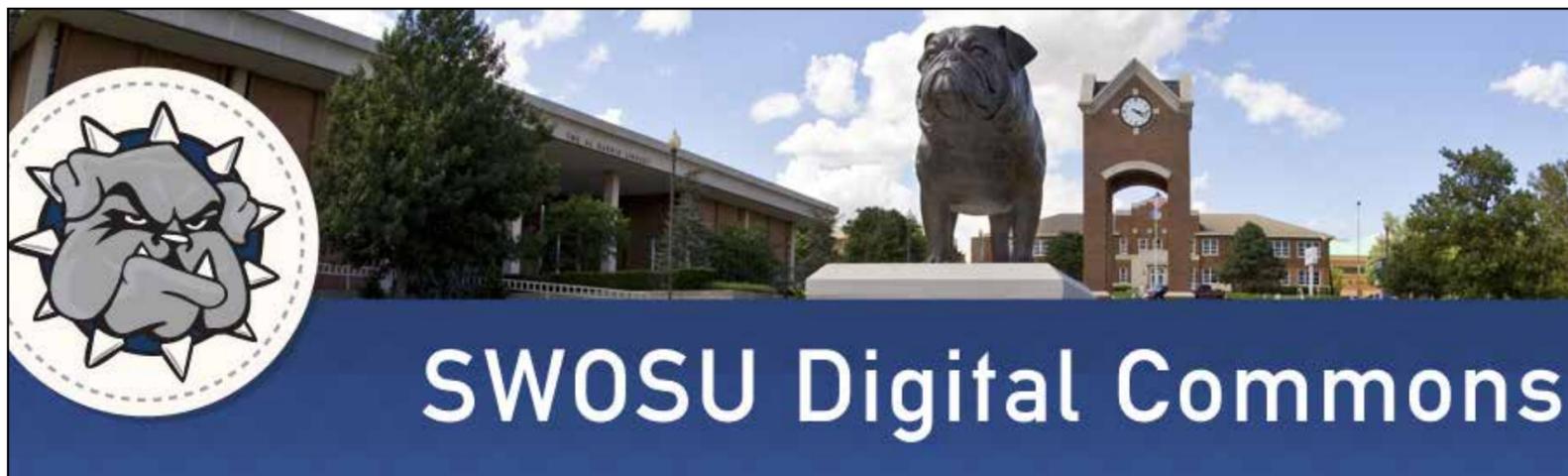
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SWOSU Digital Commons Reaches One Million Downloads

Jonathan Clemmons
SWOSU PR and Marketing

The SWOSU Digital Commons opened on March 7, 2016, and in only six and a half short years it has reached the milestone of a million downloads! On November 9, 2022, this milestone was reached with international engagement from over 220 countries! The digital repository collection consists of over 25,000 items. SWOSU Digital Commons can be located on the library's website or directly at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/>.

Here are some quick facts about our collections:
3,202 items, from SWOSU journals and publications, have been downloaded 242,344 times in 210 countries.

3,199 works, from SWOSU Faculty and Student

Research, have been downloaded 44,454 times in 191 countries.

13,408 items, from SWOSU History and Productions, have been downloaded 197,238 times in 191 countries

171 videos and audio recordings, from all SWOSU collections, have been streamed 2,112 times.

The Al Harris Library is constantly adding more collections to the digital repository representing the history and activities of SWOSU and special collections representing external organizations. One of these special collections is the General Thomas P. Stafford Collection. The new Stafford Archives houses the personal materials of General Stafford, a Weatherford native, during his time as a

NASA astronaut and beyond. The SWOSU Digital Commons (repository) includes three videos from the March 11, 2022, Dedication Ceremony of the Archive. If you are interested in viewing the Stafford Collection materials, please go to <https://dc.swosu.edu/stafford/>.

We welcome all visitors to see the Stafford Archive. It is open to the public during the week or by appointment.

If you need assistance with researching university history or your department needs to preserve historical documents, please contact University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Phillip Fitzsimmons at <https://library.swosu.edu/people/phillip-fitzsimmons.html>.

Weatherford Chamber to Celebrate the Season with "Miracle on Main" Parade and "Here for Cheer" Celebrations

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce invites everyone out for their "Here For Cheer" & "Miracle on Main" holiday celebrations. On December 1st, be at the Towne Center at 6p for the "Miracle on Main" Christmas Parade. After the parade, there will be pictures with Santa, live music

by the WHS Jazz Band, hot chocolate, caroling by the WHS Carolers, more live performances, and Christmas in the Park with a snow machine! If you want a little extra holiday fun, get to the Centre a little early for the Tree Lighting at 5:30p!

To promote a giving spirit, participating stores in Weatherford will be offering registration between

November 25th and December 14th. Registered shoppers will have the opportunity to be drawn on December 1st at 7p and on December 15th at Noon. The drawings will be done live on the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce Facebook page!

No one does Christmas like Weatherford; come join the fun!

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Board Member Amanda Haggard recruited her family to volunteer while they're in town for "Christgiving." Her sister-in-law and two nieces came all the way from Spokane, WA to fight hunger and feed hope, her mother-in-law came from Butler, OK. Daughters Macki and Oakley are regulars and showed their cousins the ropes. 146 Western Oklahoman's have a full fridge, freezer, and pantry thanks to these awesome gals!

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Wilson and Adkins Claim Bulldogs of the Week

Adysen Wilson and DeAngelo Adkins are named the newest Bulldogs of the Week. The award is brought to you by Wright Wradio, the official partner of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Wilson (Omega, OK) put together her best game as a Bulldog in the 67-73 home loss to nationally ranked Lubbock Christian this past week. She led the Lady Dawgs in scoring with 18 points on 6-9 shooting. This mark is her new career high. She also went 6-8 from three, which is her career high for three pointers made. She added five rebounds in her effort.

Adkins (Edmond, OK) was instrumental in helping the Bulldogs go 2-0 the week of Thanksgiving break. He put down a missed layup as time expired to defeat William Jewell, 63-62. Adkins posted his first double-double in a SWOSU uniform with 15 points and 11 rebounds, tying his career high for rebounds. He claimed three steals and two blocks as well. In the first matchup of the Drury Classic, he had a team high seven boards and added five points in an 85-65 win over Drury.





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SWOSU Students Awarded "Reach Higher" Scholarship

Twelve Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) students involved in the Reach Higher degree program were recently awarded scholarships. Eight students received a \$1500 Finish Line scholarship from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education: Rhonda Bennett (Anadarko), Denise Boswell (Weatherford), Janessa Bustin (Sayre), Tara Denney (Cheyenne), Brayan Flores (Oklahoma City), Jennifer Nightengale (Foss), Antonae Thompson (Oklahoma City) and Tyler Welch (Gans). Four students each received a \$750 Reach Higher Scholarship from the SWOSU Foundation: Amanda Blankenship (Owasso), Joshua Gossman (Moore), Brad Jones (Mustang), and Abigail Ulery (Oklahoma City).

The Finish Line scholarship program funds State System colleges and universities participating in the Reach Higher adult degree completion programs to target scholarships for adult students nearing degree completion. Reach Higher is a degree-finishing program designed for adults who have successfully completed some college coursework but still need a college degree. The program of study results in a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership with an area of focus

in general business.

"The . . . program is "a life-changing opportunity for me," stated Jones. "As a working adult raising a family, I've wondered if I would ever finish what I started over 20 years ago. The Reach Higher program has given me renewed confidence in myself as a student. It is lifting the burden of disappointment I've had in not achieving something my parents and others invested in."

Nightengale stated that completing her degree sets a positive example for her children. "I believe the benefits from the Reach Higher program and from getting a college education will lead me and my family to a better future."

Ulery has overcome some challenging life experiences and sees the Reach Higher program as a path to overcome those struggles while financially supporting her family. "What the Reach Higher program means to me is flexibility," stated Ulery. "I can complete my work after I get off from my job."

The Reach Higher program "has helped me in so many ways," said Boswell, "being a single mom with three kids, working and going to school, [Reach Higher] made it possible for someone like me to finish my degree."

Boswell also plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree at SWOSU.

Dr. Todd Wigger, the coordinator of SWOSU's Organizational Leadership program, Reach Higher Flex Finish, said the Reach Higher adult-friendly degree completion options through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education encourage adults who have earned some college credit to complete their degrees successfully.

"The program is really geared to working adults by offering flexible enrollment and online coursework. Students can go as fast or as slow as they want and are able," Wigger said. "Many of our students may only take a class or two a semester due to their other obligations, and others will take five to six courses to try and finish as rapidly as possible. It is truly up to the individual." The program is also waiting on approval of other areas of focus options, including education, psychology, and technology, to provide even greater flexibility for students.

The Reach Higher/Organizational Leadership program is currently accepting students for the 2023 spring semester at SWOSU. Additional information is available by contacting Wigger.



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