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Seven SWOSU Golfers Named CSC Academic All-District for 2024



A total of seven student-athletes from the SWOSU golf program were named College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District selections on Tuesday, June 25.

SWOSU
2024 ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT MEN
Cameron Gallagher - Senior
Lukas Hendricks - Junior
Sutton McMillan - Sophomore
Anders Strand - Senior

SWOSU
2024 ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT WOMEN
Ashlyn Acosta - Senior
Drew Dodgion - Redshirt Junior
Rebecca Lau - Senior

Academic All-District selections were based on combined academic and athletic qualifications. Golf nominees must have competed in 70% of the team's events and hold a minimum of a 3.50 cumulative GPA. They must also be at least a sophomore. The 2023-24 Academic All-District® Teams, selected by College Sports Communicators, recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the diamond and in the classroom. The CSC Academic All-America® program separately recognizes honorees in four divisions — NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III and NAIA.

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Roger Moore

Roger Moore was born on March 31, 1945, to Archie and Imogene (Enyart) Moore in Carnegie, OK. He went to his new and glorious home June 11, 2024, at Binger, OK, surrounded by his family and many loved ones.



He graduated from Eakly High School in 1963. Roger attended one semester at SWOSU until the death of his father in 1964. He left college to take responsibility for the family farm and ranch.

He met the love of his life at the Caddo County Fair. There have been great stories told about them meeting in a pig pen. Becky Massey of Anadarko thought he was the best-looking guy in the entire world and became the happiest bride on June 11, 1965.

A daughter Pepper Lynelle added so much joy to their union on July 6, 1966. Those blessings doubled on February 8, 1969, when their second daughter, Stevani Dee (Dee Dee) was born.

The Moore's raised peanuts, cotton, wheat, and cattle. Roger discovered the abilities that cattle dogs had of herding and gathering cattle. The most amazing talent was that of Roger in training those dogs.

With a desire to promote the cattle dog, Roger was a founding member of the Red River Cattle Dog Association where he and Becky served as President and secretary for many years. He started attending cattle dog working events where he and his dogs Buzz, Slick, and Flash won every honor that could be won.

These wins afforded him the recognition of being one of the best cattle dog trainers in Oklahoma. As others recognized his talent, training became a professional career where he received dogs from all over the U.S. Roger gathered cattle to load for many local ranchers who stood in awe, watching Roger and his dogs work.

He accepted Christ as his personal savior in his 20's. He was very active in the First Baptist Church of Eakly, serving on many committees, including the building of the new church and parsonage until his declining health caused him to be unable to attend.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents Archie and Imogene Moore, a sister and brother-in-law Donna and Rea Gene Oglesby, a brother Robert Dee Moore, brothers-in-law: Nelson Hooker, James Horn, Buddy Troy (Pepper) Massey, and Jimmy Steve Massey, his mother-in-law and father-in-law Troy H. and Claudine (Money) Massey, and grandparents Hattie Enyart and Fred and Ethel Moore.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years Becky Moore, his daughters: Pepper Moss of Binger and Dee Dee Plumley and husband Dale of OKC, sisters Helen Horn and Linda Hooker, brother Rocky Moore and wife Ingrid, sisters-in-law Brenda Moore and Cathey Massey,

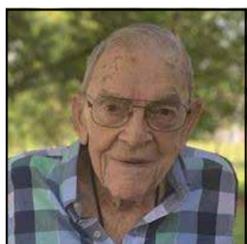
Robert is also survived by grandson Cord Coffey of Cogar; granddaughter Brooke Lange and husband J.J. of Binger; and great-grandson Wyatt Creede Lange, as well as many nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

He was Bapa to twins Kaylar and Neily and their brother Larkin James. Roger was a special guy to so many young people, leaving a legacy of nicknames, including "Mr. Perfect," "My Hero," "PaPa Botch," and, much later in his life, "Pops" at the Binger Nursing Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Roger's name to: Russell-Murray Hospice, 2001 Parkview Dr., El Reno, OK 73036 or Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, 4 Grand Central/PO BOX 4777, New York, NY, 10163-4777

Vernon Slagle

Vernon Alva Slagle was born April 29, 1922, south of Thomas, Oklahoma, to James Henry "Otho" Slagle and Fannie Elizabeth (Shantz) Slagle and passed away on June 18, 2024, at Maple Lawn Manor in Hydro, Oklahoma, at the age of 102 years, 1 month and 19 days.



Vernon was raised in the Thomas area and attended the Swan and Mulberry rural schools. At the age of 13, he went to Iowa with his brother, Henry, and worked for area farmers. Times were bad and he worked hard. Vernon accepted Christ as his personal savior at an early age and was active in his church. He was spreading the good news of salvation to others up to the last couple days of his life. On June 19, 1942, Vernon married Lavern Bachman and six months later he was drafted. He served in the US Air Force for 3 years and 2 months. When the war was over, they moved to the Manson, Iowa area where he farmed and they raised their 6 children.

Lavern passed away June 28, 1993, after a long illness. Three years later Vernon made a trip to the area where he was born in Oklahoma to find a new home where he wouldn't have to shovel snow all winter. There he met Roberta Stutzman and they were married on June 22, 1996. They had 28 wonderful years together. Vernon was a great gardener and was known for his beautiful yards, bountiful gardens and hundreds of trees that he planted. He loved to hunt and fish.

Vernon is survived by his wife, Roberta of their home in Weatherford, Oklahoma; one son, Keith Slagle and wife Esther of Fort Dodge, Iowa; four daughters, Marilyn Lind and husband Don of Hutchinson, Kansas, Marlene Springer and husband Ted of Middlebury, Indiana, Cheryl Slabaugh of Chandler, Arizona, and Charlene Leaman of Manheim, Pennsylvania; thirteen grandchildren; thirty-three great grandchildren; and five great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Lavern; son, Phillip Slagle; and son-in-law, Glen Slabaugh.

Brenda Brunker

Brenda Kay (Collier) Brunker was born on November 12, 1951 in Enid, OK, to Weldon Lotan and Patsy Ruth (Alban) Collier. She passed away on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at her home in Weatherford, OK at the age of 72 years, 7 months and 7 days.



In 1959, Brenda, her parents, and brothers Steve and Marty moved to Clinton where Eric was born in 1960. The family moved to Weatherford in 1963, and Brenda finally got a sister, Cara, in 1964.

Brenda graduated from Weatherford High School in 1970. In 1971, she married John Pitman and God blessed them with a daughter, Tonya. They moved to Elk City in 1974.

In 1981, Brenda married Johnie Brunker and made their home in Weatherford. Together they owned and operated J & B Shooter, from July 1984 to January 2001. She worked at Kaiser Sign and Graphics, CrossPointe Church, and took care of her mother. Brenda accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior in 1992. They joined Zion Church in 1997.

Brenda enjoyed reading, working jigsaw puzzles, crocheting and helping at the church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Johnie; father, Weldon Collier; brothers Steve and Martin; sister, Cara Wheeler; and niece Rachel Collier.

Brenda is survived by her daughter, Tonya Pitman of Weatherford; her mother, Patsy Collier of Weatherford; her brother, Eric Collier of Ada; sisters-in-law, Luella and husband, Gordon Godfrey and Sharon Collier of Lamar, MO; and brother-in-law, Mike Wheeler of Binger.

She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews, as well as many friends and family.

Memorials may be made to Friends for Life Animal Shelter "FFLAS", PO Box 1965, Weatherford, OK 73096 or to a charity of your choice.

Peggy Prestridge

Peggy Prestridge was born on January 21, 1930, in Mangum, Oklahoma, to Hubert Lester and Lena (Burrow) Yarber. She went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, June 17, 2024, at her home in Cheyenne, Oklahoma, at the age of ninety-four years, four months, and twenty-seven days.



She was the third child of ten children. As a young child, the family moved to Hammon, Oklahoma, where she and her siblings attend Quarter Master School.

Soon after living in Hammon, the family moved to Willow, Oklahoma. She and her siblings attended Ocina School. She attended Spring Creek Baptist Church and was saved as a young person. Her dad leased and farmed a school land quarter. In the hot summer, the family raised watermelons and chopped and picked cotton in the fall. The full sacks of cotton were heavy to pull through the rolls of cotton. Her brother dumped the heavy cotton sacks on the cotton trailer.

Peggy always worked to provide for her family. She was a great, short order cook, working in a drug store as a manager which sold soda fountain drinks and served food. The manager of the Drug store always wanted her to cook his personal steak meals, because she cooked them perfectly. In the early 50's, Peggy, while living in Oklahoma City, worked as an elevator operator in the historic Skirvin Hotel.

Peggy met and married George Wallace Prestridge in November of 1964. She had three children: Jimmy, Alvin, and Darla. Peggy and her children helped George on the farm during wheat harvest and in the alfalfa field.

Peggy loved her grandchildren and kept them often. She bragged about having two sets of great grandchildren twins. She was a loving and caring mother, wife, and grandmother. In the later years of her life, she would always tell you exactly what is on her mind and what you should do!

Peggy had a little dog Misty. Misty was a loyal companion and truly brought happiness to Peggys's life. Misty lived to eighteen years old.

Peggy is preceded in death by her parents Hubert L & Lenda Yarber, three sisters: Tena McClendon, Bernice Books, Shirley Smith; three brothers: H. L. Yarber, Rodger Yarber, R.B. Yarber.

She is survived by her children: Jimmy Eastman of Sayre, Oklahoma; Alvin and Rebecca Phillips of Kentucky, Darla and husband Russell Calvert of Cheyenne, Oklahoma. Nine grandchildren: James Calvert, Tammy Gonzales-Eastman, April Calvert-Butler, Amy Eastman-Long, Misty Eastman-Hartman, Chad Eastman, David Phillips, Nathan Phillips, and Jason Phillips; several great and great great-grandchildren; one brother Robert Yarber; and two sisters Melba Brackeen and Carolyn Sue Brockman; many nieces, nephews, extended family, and host of special friends.

Erma Neely

Erma Joe Neeley was born September 4, 1953, in Clinton, OK, to Ernest and Georgia Fern (Miracle) Frazier and passed away Monday, June 24, 2024, at her home in Weatherford, at the age of 70 years, 9 months and 20 days.



Erma was raised and attended school in Weatherford. She met Thomas (Tommy) Eugene Neeley in Cordell, when she hit his car! Erma and Thomas were married December 16, 1970, in Wheeler, TX and made their home in Weatherford. They later moved to Dill City but returned to Weatherford.

Erma enjoyed watching her grandchildren; thrifting at the Et Cetera Shop; socializing with people, going to the park, attending church; Pow Wows, genealogy; attending the kids ball games; and spending time with family and friends.

Erma is survived by her husband of 53 years, Tommy Neeley, of their home in Weatherford, OK; three sons: TJ Neeley and wife Grace of Weatherford, OK; Scotty Neeley and wife Elsa of Weatherford, OK; and Justin Neeley and wife, Christa of Elk City, OK; one brother, John Frazier of Weatherford; three sisters, Alta Reber of La Mirada, CA, Joyce Little of Bakersfield, CA and Frances Brooks of Weatherford; ten grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Rosie; and two brothers: Ernest Jr. and Doil Frazier.




Partly Cloudy H: 101° L: 79° Wednesday	Partly Cloudy H: 102° L: 75° Thursday	Partly Cloudy H: 95° L: 70° Friday	Partly Cloudy H: 94° L: 71° Saturday	Partly Cloudy H: 99° L: 73° Sunday	Mostly Sunny H: 99° L: 73° Monday	Sunny H: 99° L: 73° Tuesday
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Strengthening Oklahoma's Homes Program: What You Need to Know



Last month, Gov. Kevin Stitt signed House Bill 3089, the Strengthen Oklahoma Homes Act, into law and kick-started the Oklahoma Insurance Department (OID) into organizing the program that will help Oklahomans fortify their homes and reduce homeowners insurance rates.

The Strengthen Oklahoma Homes Act will establish a grant program aimed at assisting homeowners in reinforcing their roofs with impact-resistant materials that meet FORTIFIED standards set by the IBHS. These funds will enable consumers to construct or retrofit their homes with impact-resistant shingles and other enhancements. Additionally, many insurance companies offer reduced premiums for homes with such modifications.

The recent destruction we have seen across our state is a grave reminder why this legislation will be so important to help Oklahomans rebuild and protect their homes from severe weather.

I am grateful to legislative leaders and the Governor for understanding our goal to help Oklahoma consumers reduce their homeowners insurance rates and fortify their homes against mother nature.

The Strengthen Oklahoma Homes Program is set to begin early next year, so this month, I want to answer some key questions about the program's timeline and criteria.

When will the application open?

The law will go into effect on November 1, 2024, and the application will open in early 2025. OID has already begun our implementation process, including creating consumer information materials, building the grant application and providing resources for evaluators and contractors. We will announce when the applications are open and continue to provide key updates to consumers.

What are the criteria for securing a grant?

Under the new law, grants will be made available to residential property owners who meet specific eligibility criteria. The grants are intended to help homeowners achieve safety standards outlined by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety.

The grants are open to homeowners who have their primary residence in any of Oklahoma's 77 counties. Your home must be in good repair unless you have sustained damage from a tornado, windstorm, hail, or other catastrophic event.

In addition, you must provide proof that you have an active homeowners insurance policy with wind coverage and an in-force flood insurance policy if your home is in a special flood hazard area. After completing the application, you will secure a home evaluator from our list of approved evaluators. Once the project is approved and work is completed, we will make payment to the roofing contractor directly.

What will the grant cover?

After evaluating your application and determining whether your home can be mitigated, the grant funds will be used to outfit your home to the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) standards, specifically IBHS FORTIFIED Home – Roof™ – High Wind designation with the Hail Supplement. Mitigation under this standard includes enhanced roof deck attachment, sealed roof deck, locked down roof edges, impact-resistant shingles by IBHS, and wind and rain-resistant attic vents.

How will I save on my homeowners insurance?

Insurance companies offer discounts for Homes with a FORTIFIED Home™ Designation on the wind portion of their homeowner's insurance premium. In making these enhancements to your home, you could qualify for discounts of up to 42%. You can find a list of some of the discounts on our website. Each company is different, and discounts vary. Check with your carrier to see which specific discounts would be available.

Which contractors can I use?

Contractors must become Certified FORTIFIED service providers to be chosen as part of the Strengthen Oklahoma Homes Program. This certification requires specific training and an examination. Once contractors are certified, they will submit their information to OID for final review and approval to be added to the list of approved contractors. You can read more about the FORTIFIED Homes service provider certification process on the FORTIFIED Home website.

I'm looking forward to helping Oklahomans make their homes more resilient to disasters and bringing some relief amid rising prices through this pivotal new program launching next year. To receive more information about the Strengthen Oklahoma Homes program and to get the latest updates, visit the website oid.ok.gov/okready and follow OID on social media.

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First Baptist Church
Date: July 22nd-25th
Age: Completed K-6th Grade
Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm
Register @ www.fbcweatherford.com

Pleasant View Mennonite Church
Hydro, OK
Date: July 8th-11th (Mon-Thu)
Time: 6:00pm-8:30pm
Supper provided

HIGHER GROUND

The Power of Love



Jim Morrison

"I do it myself!" Every parent can recall this statement or some variation of it coming out of the mouth of their youngster as he/she is trying to establish some sort of independence. That is not all bad. The child needs to establish some sort of identity, or self-awareness. The problem is when that mindset continues through adulthood. He then becomes resistant to being taught, takes undue pride in his achievements, and becomes a controlling force in the lives of others.

The Apostle Paul, while he was still Saul the persecuting Pharisee, was controlled by his zeal to wipe out the Christian community. He was compliant in the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian Martyr, and was on the heels of arresting

other believers when Christ revealed himself on his way to rout out more of this "dangerous sect." The risen Christ appeared to him and his prideful heart was broken. This powerful even so changed his perspective that he would never be the same.

Some twenty years later he wrote a letter to a church that was questioning his authority. This had resulted in factions that threatened the new church in Corinth. In his second letter to the church, he reveals his source of authority. "For Christ's love compels (constrains, controls) us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." 2 Corinthians 5:15.

Paul found that he was no longer the boss of his life. He had been died for (poor English but doctrinally true). He was no longer his own man. His source of authority was now found in a higher source. The one who had displayed such love as to die for him now controlled him. Now he "no longer regarded people from a worldly point of view." (vs. 16)

The love of Christ so controlled him that it changed his perspective. Often, when we think of

the term "love" we think of affection, sentiment, or romance. But love is really an action verb. Jesus said if you love me keep my commandments. Many years ago, I heard a preacher say, "When you become a follower of Christ you forfeit the right to choose whom you will love." Since Christ loves the world and every person in that world we must see every person as one worthy of our love. That was the curse of slavery and segregation. Those of color were perceived as being second-class citizens and inferior.

In Romans 8:35-38, Paul declares the extent of Christ's love for us. He declares that nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ. When all seems to be collapsing around us, just remember, "God loves me." Even when I fail, God loves me. Nothing I can do can make Him love me more or less.

When Paul got his mind around that great thought nothing could stop him—not beatings, being stoned, jail cells, or loss of friends. Toward the end of his life, he wrote; "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

OSDE: Walters Requires Bible be Taught in Oklahoma Classrooms



In a memorandum to Oklahoma school superintendents, State Superintendent Ryan Walters announced the implementation of “foundational texts,” referring to the Holy Bible, in curriculum. Effective immediately, all Oklahoma schools are required to incorporate the Bible, which includes the Ten Commandments, as an instructional support into the curriculum across specified grade levels.

The initiative has been met with praise from Oklahoma State Representatives, including State Senator Dusty Deevers (R-Elgin), who published a press release to comment on the Bible's inclusion in Oklahoma Public Schools.

“While the separation of Church and State is a good and Biblical principle, the separation of truth and state is not,” Deevers writes. “The truth is that the Bible is fundamental to the society in which we live, which is one of many reasons it ought to be included in Oklahoma curriculum.”

However, many local organizations such as the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, OK, have expressed deep concerns that Jewish Oklahomans, among other religious minorities, may be ostracized by this mandate.

“We urge Mr. Walters to prioritize creating inclusive educational settings that respect and accommodate the diverse religious and cultural backgrounds of all Oklahoma students,” writes Brae Riley, the Federation’s Community Relations Chair. “Upholding these principles is vital for preserving religious liberty and ensuring that public education remains a space where every student can learn and thrive without the imposition of specific religious doctrines.”

This directive is planned to be integrated with the “Oklahoma Academic Standards,” which serve as guidelines for what teachers must cover in public school depending on what grade of students they are teaching for.

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CUSTER COUNTY / FEMA - FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Crews are going door-to-door in 8 counties in the state, including Custer, Blaine and Caddo, to meet with residents affected by the May 19-28 storms and tornadoes. Custer County Emergency Management Director Mike Galloway says FEMA will be accessible locally to provide assistance for storm victims. According to Galloway, around 50 homes were damaged by the storm, with 30 of those households already completing their damage registration, via phone call, phone app, or online. FEMA officials finished their recordings for Hydro-Eakly High School on Friday, June 28 and will be located at the Custer County Courthouse in Arapaho until July 5. They will be in Altus July 8-12 and will be at Weatherford City Hall from July 15-19.

KARLIN/SUMMER HEAT - With the hot temperatures in western Oklahoma, it's that time of year to remember to not leave pets and kids in a locked vehicle says Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin. “A lot of newer cars now [remind drivers] to check their back seat,” Karlin said in a recent interview. “You may think it’s annoying, but it’s amazing how many times kids are left in a hot car merely by accident. We hear these unfortunate stories every year.” Karlin says make sure you always check your back seat when exiting your vehicle. “[If] it’s 95°F outside, it doesn’t take long for cars to get up to 120-150°F.”

WATONGA / INFRASTRUCTURE - Watonga City Council recently awarded contracts for water and waste water (sewer) infrastructure upgrades, says City Manager Karrie Beth Little. “We’ve got to take care of those things,” stressed Little in a recent interview. “They’re basic infrastructure. Water and sewers to any municipality [are] a must.” The work will take about 18 months to complete.

CUSTER COUNTY / ROADS - Custer County District 1 Commissioner Wade Anders says he has several miles of road work planned after the Fourth of July holiday. This includes “grounding up the old road and cleaning out the ditches along the side.” 12 miles have already been worked on prior to July 4. Additionally, Anders says Crews have been doing lots of mowing recently. He says his crew in District 1 mows about 5,000 miles each year during mowing season.

WEATHERFORD / MOU - The Weatherford City Commission recently approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the city and YMCA of greater Oklahoma City. The MOU acknowledges and formalizes an agreement to participate in a joint project for the development and operation of a multipurpose recreation facility. During the meeting, Mayor Mike Brown spoke about potential locations for the facility: either where the existing YMCA is located, utilizing unused land that the YMCA currently owns; or at Rader Park. Brown mentions that distance is the biggest concern for members. The current YMCA is about 48,000 square feet. The proposed new structure would be about 60,000 square feet with both indoor and outdoor swimming pools.

ROJEM / EXECUTION - A man convicted and sentenced to death for the 1984 kidnapping, rape and murder of 7-year-old Layla Dawn Cummings in Washita County has been put to death. Department of Corrections Director Steve Harpe outlines the process of the execution of Richard Rojem Jr. on Thursday: “The execution process began at 10:03 a.m.; inmate Rojem was declared unconscious at 10:08 a.m.; he was pronounced deceased at 10:16 a.m.” District 2 District Attorney Angela Marsee says it was a lengthy process to reach justice in the case. “July 7th marks the 40th anniversary.” Marsee stated in a recent interview. “This is one of those cases where justice was denied for far too long, but we were finally able to see justice for Layla.” Rojem maintained his innocence in connection with the crimes. The child’s body was discovered in a field near Burns Flat.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

HAPPY Day TO YOU!

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 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public. **OK Parkinson’s Alliance**, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford’s Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. Questions? Contact OK Parkinson’s Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@OKpa.org. **Iron Sharpens Iron** is a Christ-centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for July 3 – Ellen Arnold, Taylor Carder, Cameron Hines, Ryan Merrill; **July 4** – Alicia Allen, Cheryl Bell, Riley Bryson, D’Arsi Christensen, DeWayne Crawley, Anita Fransen, Mary Lou Kaiser, Jenna Maddox, Haley Merrill, Kristine Moreno, Danny Rhodes; **July 5** – Alecia DePasa, Renae McGregor, Milburn Outhier, Dana VanHuss; **July 6th** – Jenifer Edler, Jenn Gemaehlich, Allison Gossen, Trey Graybill, Eugene Hunnicutt, Campbell Jacobsma, Kadie Lucas, Ashley Oliver, Leslie Panee, Tiffany Parrish, Alicia Wingo, Scott Woodall; **July 7th** – Clausia Estala, Francisco Estala, Lylah-Ann Hanson, Ruth Kidd, Hollis Lee, Pat Pope, Allison Richardson, Daniel Rodriguez, Mike Roulet, Philip Smith, Brendon Stain, Doyle Taylor, Alex Tompkins, Dennis Vermillion; **July 8th** – Jeanine Berrong, Bradley Blackwell, Lou Hamilton, Jr., Billy Karlin, Robin Karlin, Terry MaGill, David Miller, Jim Rodemeyer, Terry Thomson, Julie Tisdal; **July 9th** – Carolyn Dibler, Jerry Hill, Frank Johnson, Glenda Jordan, Mark Lantz, Frances Moore, Caitlin Russel, Sheila Settles, Michael Webb.

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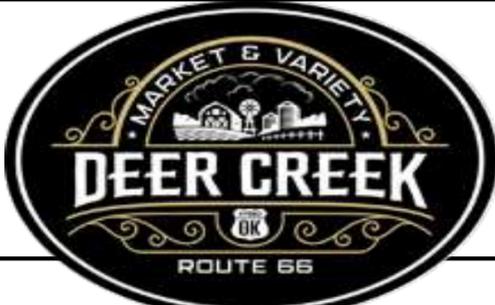
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Food Club Potato Chips All Varieties	2 for \$5.00	Food Club Lemonade or Limeade 12 oz.	2 for \$3.00		
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Food Club Pasta Sauce All Varieties	\$1.59	Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops	\$2.99 lb		
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Food Club Dip 12 oz. All Varieties	2 for \$4.00	Citrus Magic Sprays	\$4.59		
Food Club Biscuits 8 count	2 for \$3.00	Charking Pellets All Varieties 20 lb. Bag	\$4.99		
Kraft Sliced Cheese 16 Slice All Varieties	\$3.58	Simply Done Paper Plates 9 inch 100 ct.	\$2.99		
Food Club Sour Cream 16 oz.	2 for \$4.00				
Food Club Chunk Cheese 16 oz. All Varieties	\$3.58				

OK History: The First “Fourth of July” Celebration in Indian Territory



Courtesy Oklahoma History Center



Courtesy The '89er Trail / Oklahoma City Community Foundation

The 1889 Poster advertising the Oklahoma City festivities.

Labeled as the “Wreck of Grand Stand at Oklahoma City,” this photo shows the fallout after a hastily-built grandstand suddenly collapsed on many tourists seeking refuge from the sun.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The 1889 Fourth of July celebration in Oklahoma City, organized shortly after the April 22 land run, was a pivotal event designed to elevate the city’s profile and compete with the then-capital, Guthrie. The story behind this event is one of ambition, rapid planning, and unexpected tragedy. This flash in history was typically reported in a negative light, overshadowed by one tragic moment, until an interesting artifact from the era was uncovered in the opening of the First English Lutheran Church’s Century Chest in 1913. Inside was an original print of the poster for the 1889 celebration, it’s believed that almost all these posters have been lost, making the preserved one a rare piece of history. And the poster tells a unique story.

In the early days of Oklahoma City, a committee formed on June 8, 1889, with the goal of putting the city as the lifeblood of the territory, labeling it in the poster as the “Queen City of the Beautiful Oklahoma Country”, and they planned to do so by creating a grand Independence Day celebration. The committee ordered over 2,000 posters from a Kansas City printer before detailed planning even began, a testament to their eagerness to promote the event. Experts from the Oklahoma Historical Society believe that the creation of the poster before any solid planning exemplifies the excitement and enthusiasm that permeated the territory following the land run just a couple of months earlier. With the posters underway and news spreading, it was time to make the announcement come true.

They chose a location for the celebration near modern-day Bricktown that would give them ample room for all of their activities. They promised “colossal preparations”, a “Novel Pyrotechnic display”, and a “realistic Indian War Dance”. However, after traveling to Darlington, near present-day El Reno, the initial discussions with local Indigenous tribes looked grim. The committee first invited the Cheyenne and Comanche tribes to participate after already advertising their involvement in the poster. When only the Cheyenne agreed, the committee had to quickly extend invitations to the Arapaho and Caddo tribes, both of whom luckily agreed to join. The committee also gained permission from the Department of the Interior for the 200 Indians to be able to leave their reservations for the event.

The Independence Day celebration would take place over 3 days with the planned festivities including a parade that wound through Reno, Broadway, and Main streets, as well as a baseball game, horse racing, and tournaments. The event was heavily promoted out of state with hopes for a turnout of 20,000 people, fewer than half that number attended. Nevertheless, it still managed to generate considerable excitement among those who did come.

As Oklahoma City sought to establish itself, the pressure to make this event successful was immense. Daily snippets and updates were published starting in the middle of June. This drive to impress led promoters to travel extensively, and the July 4th

celebration seemed destined for greatness.

However, the celebration was instead marred by a single moment. The rushed planning and inadequate amenities led to most vendors and patrons seeking refuge from the sun’s heat under the grandstands. These hastily constructed stands collapsed during the afternoon at the horse track, causing panic and chaos. The lack of organized emergency response compounded the disaster, and news of the tragedy cast a pall over Oklahoma City, earning the grim nickname from despairing locals as “the fall of Babylon.” This period of loss and adversity saw many settlers leave, and the city’s population dwindled to less than half its original number. Further disasters, including a severe drought, exacerbated the city’s struggles.

Despite these hardships, Oklahoma City’s resilience shone through. The feats of horsemanship and other entertainment successes over the 3-day event helped lay the groundwork for future Wild West shows, like those from the 101 Ranch and Buffalo Bill. The city’s revival began some time later with the advent of the railway, sparking a boom in arts, culture, and resources. This transformation underscored the tenacity and spirit of Oklahoma’s people.

Today, Oklahoma’s Independence Day celebrations serve as a reminder of the past and a celebration of community spirit. They highlight the state’s journey from a time of great trial to one of growth and prosperity, reflecting the enduring grit and resilience of our state and the nation.

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Time is Running Out to Sign Up for SWOSU's High School Band Camp



Courtesy SWOSU Music Camps & Music Academy
Joshua Bell, the Band Director at Dalhart High School, conducts the second performance at SWOSU Middle School Band Camp.



Courtesy SWOSU Music Camps & Music Academy
Campers at the 1st Annual SWOSU Jazz Camp gathered at 2 p.m. for an ensemble rehearsal following 45 minutes of warm-ups.



Courtesy SWOSU Music Camps & Music Academy
Solo Camp saxophonists, led and directed by Dr. Greg Rife (pictured, left), and flutists, directed by Dr. Shelley Martinson (pictured, right).



Courtesy SWOSU Music Camps & Music Academy
String camp students attending their 6:30 p.m. orchestra rehearsal.

Alexander Shook
 WOK Contributor

Since June 9th, SWOSU's 68th Annual Summer Music Camps have been in full swing. This program has been giving middle school and high school students a chance to explore various artistic disciplines since its inception in 1956, including choir, jazz, orchestra, theater, and more (pictured above).

The deadline to sign up for the final camp session of 2024—the High School Band Camp—is drawing near. From July 14 - 19, SWOSU will provide students completing 6th - 12th Grade with a unique opportunity to develop their woodwind, brass, and percussive skills to the next level.

An outstanding group of 70 band directors from Oklahoma and Texas will work alongside SWOSU students and faculty to provide campers with an encouraging environment they feel comfortable learning in.

Tuition will cost \$190. Room and meals are also available for an additional \$195. Students looking to commute to the campus each day will need to purchase individual meals at \$10.50, or bring their own lunch.

2024's SWOSU Band Camp will feature:

- A voluntary talent show on Tuesday evening. Performers may use props and accompanying music tracks brought from home. Auditions will be held on Sunday, July 14, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Private lessons for both honing students' talents and nailing their All-State Music auditions. Cost is \$15, which can be paid up-front via cash or check.
- Specialty classes, including Color Guard, Guitar, Jazz, and Marching Percussion.
- Memorabilia, including photos and recordings of all concerts performed by campers. Orders can be placed following the final concert on Friday.

Enrollment by mail closes on July 8, and online enrollment closes on July 13. Please visit www.SWOSUcamps.com/#band for additional information.

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Sports Camps Begin in Weatherford for 2024



Krystal Blackwell / WW

the Lady Eagle Softball Camp challenged students aged 11 and 12 to catch "pop flies" before they hit the ground.

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Krystal Blackwell / WW

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