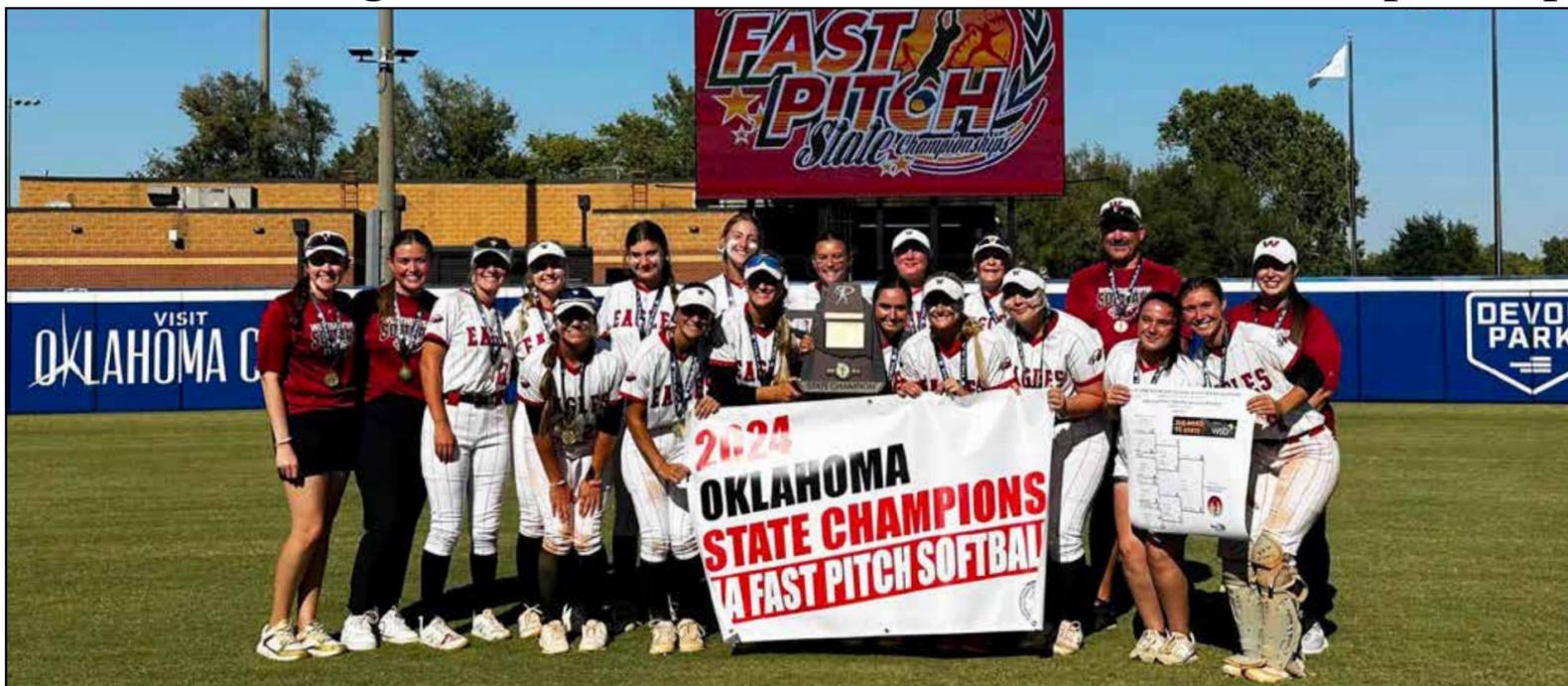


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Weatherford Eagles Claim 2024 Class 4A State Softball Championship



Courtesy Kelley Schmidt Photography

The Weatherford Lady Eagles soared to victory on Saturday, claiming the 2024 Class 4A Oklahoma State Softball Championship at Devon Park in Oklahoma City defeating Purcell 5-0. In a dominant display of skill, teamwork, and resilience, the Lady Eagles capped off their season by defeating their opponents and bringing home the coveted state title.

Led by a determined group of athletes and coaches, the Eagles battled through a tough tournament, facing Elk City in the first round winning 10-0 and Tuttle the second round winning 3-2. With solid pitching, timely hitting, and a defense that refused to break, the team fought its way to the top, earning the championship

trophy that now sits proudly in the Weatherford trophy case.

Head coach Rick Morris, speaking after the game, praised the team's hard work and determination. "These girls have given everything they have all season long," Morris said. "This championship is a reflection of their dedication, the support of our community, and the heart they show every time they step on the field."

The victory not only marks the culmination of a standout season with a 33-2 record, but also cements the Lady Eagles' place in the rich tradition of Weatherford athletics. From the early practices in

the summer heat to the final moments in Devon Park, the Eagles remained focused on their goal, and now they stand as the best in Class 4A softball.

Fans, family, and friends in the stands cheered as the team posed with their state championship banner and trophy, a moment that forever be a highlight of Weatherford history. This title is not just a victory for the team, but for the entire community that has supported them throughout their journey.

The 2024 Oklahoma State Championship represents the pinnacle of an unforgettable season for the Eagles, who now look ahead with pride and the joy of knowing their hard work has paid off.



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Terry Nickel

Terry James Nickel, a dedicated farmer and beloved family man, passed away on October 6, 2024, in Safford, Arizona. Born on December 11, 1946, in Clinton, Oklahoma, Terry led a life characterized by hard work, simplicity, and a deep appreciation for the outdoors.



A proud graduate of the Custer City High School class of 1965, Terry went on to serve his country by joining the United States Army in June of 1970, where he served until his honorable discharge in June of 1973, after which he continued to serve in the Army Reserves. His military service was a testament to his commitment to his country and community.

Terry lived a simple yet fulfilling life as a farmer until 2016, during which he found joy in working the land and raising animals. He was an active participant in supporting the 4-H livestock shows, taking pride in nurturing young farmers and their projects. His love for agriculture was deeply ingrained in him, shaping not only his career but also his values and the way he raised his family.

In addition to his work, Terry treasured the times spent with his loved ones. He enjoyed holidays filled with laughter and memories shared with family, proving that it is the people around us who make life meaningful.

Terry also cherished moments spent with his friends, showcasing his very friendly nature that endeared him to many.

Terry is survived by his daughter, Tara Lynn Schindler, and her husband, Robert Schindler. He was a devoted grandfather to Brett Cohorn, James Schindler, Steven Schindler, and Karee Schindler, and a proud great-grandfather to ten great-grandchildren, all of whom brought immense joy to his life.

He was preceded in death by his father Andy Nickel, his mother Margie Nickel, his brother Elmer Nickel, and his grandson Brandon Cohorn. Each of these individuals held a special place in Terry's heart, and their memories will continue to live on through those who remain.

As we remember Terry Nickel, we celebrate a life lived with kindness, dedication, and love. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends, who carry forward his legacy of friendship and community spirit.

Daniel Robert Leigh was born on October 4, 1990, in Sayre, OK to Robert Leigh and Mary Margaret (Wooldridge) Leigh. Daniel grew up in Sayre and worked at Red Rock Construction as a concrete finisher. He also enjoyed working at Stout Excavating Group as a heavy equipment operator. He loved building, construction, and always had a project in progress.

On May 9, 2013, Daniel married Nimid Hadcamkoon in Taloga, OK and began building his family. They welcomed a son, Logan Leigh, on August 8, 2015.

Daniel loved going to church and attended New Hope Fellowship in Clinton, OK where he built his foundation for life through Christ. He loved reading his bible, listening to God's word, and being a deacon of the church. He loved God and building relationships with those around him. He was often described as ornery, but in a good way. Daniel considered himself as more of a prankster, jokester, and someone who loved smiling and laughing with his family and friends. Daniel was also very competitive.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Margaret, a brother; Andrew Leigh, and two nieces, Allison Leigh, and Violet Leigh. He is survived by his wife, Nimid Leigh; his son, Logan Leigh both of Arapaho; his father, Robert Leigh of Arapaho, two brothers, Nathan Leigh of Oklahoma City, and Matthew Leigh and his wife Emily of Clinton, three sisters, Rachel Leigh of Elk City, Hannah Weldon of Oklahoma City, Jessica Vinson and her husband Kaleb of Apache, OK. Daniel is also survived by a host of family and friends.

Daniel Leigh

Daniel Robert Leigh, 34, of Arapaho, OK, Daniel Robert Leigh was born on October 4, 1990, in Sayre, OK, and passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his family and friends on October 13, 2024.



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Source: Nielson's Oklahoma 2020 Radio County Coverage based on fieldwork from 2019.

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Weatherford's Special Recycling Event Announced for November 9th

Weatherford Environment
EARTH DAY EVENTS
April 1 - 30, 2024

The Weatherford Environment Group (WEG) announces an America Recycles Day event, happening on November 9th from 9am - 3pm.

Bring your items to the Materials Processing and Education Center, located at 602 E. Clark St. (two blocks south of Main St. on Illinois).

The Weatherford Recycling Events is sponsored by the Weatherford Environment Group composed of volunteers working to keep our city green, clean, and beautiful. The recycling event is organized by the efforts of our Weatherford citizens and it not a City of Weatherford function.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- Large Metal Items and Appliances
- Non-Working Electronic Items—Please note that we are **not** accepting TVs or monitors at this event.
- We will be accepting personal papers to be shredded. A \$5 donation is requested for use of this service. The "Shread-It" Truck will be on-site all day.

LIGHT BULBS BEING ACCEPTED:

- Flourescent Light Bulbs (8-foot, 4-foot, and spiral)
- LED Light Bulbs
- Incandescent Light Bulbs

BATTERIES BEING ACCEPTED:

- Lead Acid Batteries (found in cars and equipment)
- Household Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt, etc.)

ITEMS ACCEPTED ALL THE TIME:

These items are always accepted at the drop-off bins in the drive through recycling center:

- Cardboard
- #1 and #2 Plastics—no styrofoam will be accepted.
- Aluminum, Steel, and Tin Cans
- Office/Mixed Paper, Newspapers, and Magazines
- Phone Books

While the recycling event is being held on November 9th, "America Recycles Day" will be observed on November 15th.

To find out many ways you can support recycling and take care of the planet on which you live, visit the founders of "America Recycles Day," the Keep America Beautiful foundation, at KAB.org.

Contact Faye Henson, (580) 772 - 5984 if you have questions about recycling or if you would like to schedule a program for your organization or company. Thank you for your efforts to make Weatherford clean, green, and beautiful!

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Weatherford Asks for Bids on New Route 66 Construction Projects



Courtesy USA Softball / Amateur Resource Center

Bud Selsor (left), Scott Selsor (center), and Carolyn Sanders (right) put forward the opening bids for Weatherford's Route 66 Signage project.

Mike Smith
News Director

On Tuesday, October 15, bids were opened in the city of Weatherford for projects on Route 66 within the city limits, says Project Manager Scott Selsor.

"We've received bids on a "Welcome to Weatherford" sign that will be going in the roundabout out by the Heartland Museum," explained Selsor. "It'll rise up above the ground from the base to the top of a space capsule sign, and it'll be about 40 feet tall."

The other bids are for three steel Route 66 logos, big steel type signs that will be scattered across town. "The whole of the sixes will be cut out. People can get inside there. The photo opportunities are endless," said Selsor.

The bids were reported to come in at, or near, a dollar value that the city of Weatherford initially estimated. The bids still need to be approved by the Weatherford City Commission before work can begin.

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In a political year one of the statements often made is the need to get back to family values. Broken families often produce broken children, which leads to higher crime rates, children having children, and other societal problems. Certainly, some single parents have done an outstanding job raising their children. An example would be the mother of Ben Carson. But I'm sure she would admit that it was a lonely task, with many difficulties, and a faithful partner would have lightened the load and relieved much of the pain. It is certainly God's plan and ideal that a mom and dad rightly instructed, provide the best laboratory for developing successful children.

The traditional family with husband and wife staying together for life and unselfishly investing in their children is discredited or at least diminished in its significance in many circles today.

It is strange that we have more books written and more seminars available to help marriages succeed than ever before, yet the divorce rate is unaffected. So it's not that we don't have adequate information, it is a matter of the heart; it is a choice we make to "do it myself" much like a young child that resists help from an adult. Large amounts of money are spent on the wedding and an expensive honeymoon. Attendance at a well-done marriage seminar a year after the marriage would be far less expensive and yield far more lasting benefits. The question is a matter of values; do we want instant gratification or long term satisfaction.

One such seminar has been developed by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, author of the book, Love and Respect which has twice been on the New York Times best selling list. In his research in which he asked 7000 people the question, "When you are in a conflict with your spouse, do you feel unloved or disrespected?" It was found that 83% of the men said disrespected and 72% of the women said unloved. He noted that we all need love and respect equally but the felt need differs during conflict. The Bible said the same thing 2000 years ago: "However, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." Eph. 5:33. The Church should lead the way offering materials and encouraging the study and implementation of them.

Classes and seminars could be a regular part of the discipleship training and scholarships offered to attend week-end seminars.

Some churches have Marriage Mentors. This is a system where an older or middle aged couple could come alongside the newly married couple to befriend or serve as a go-to source when questions are raised and they need someone to just talk things out with. Of course the mentor would regularly be holding the couple up in prayer.

Too often, we just curse the darkness rather than making the effort to invest sacrificially in the marriage of our young people. In this day we should be excited about a marriage taking place rather than their choosing to just co-habit without the benefit of long term commitment.

Many would say I am foolish but, I believe it would be helpful if every couple would read at least one book on family and marriage each year. Most men have never read a book on marriage in their lifetime. Like C.S. Lewis's illustration of children settling for playing in a mud puddle when they could be enjoying a vacation building sand castles on a beach, we settle for surviving when we could be thriving and modeling a fruitful marriage for future generations.

To comment: 1580-302-1142 or jhm82@outlook.com

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

Weatherford Chamber Hosting Annual Boo Bash Event October 26th



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Get ready for a spook-tacular night of fun and festivities at the Route 66 Boo Bash in Weatherford! This highly anticipated annual event will take place on Thursday, October 26th, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM at Heritage Park, located at 522 W Rainey Ave, Weatherford, OK.

Food Trucks: Bring your appetite and enjoy a wide selection of delicious treats from local food trucks. Grab dinner while you're there and make a night of it!



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Presented by the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, the Boo Bash is the perfect way to celebrate the Halloween season with friends and family.

Live Music: Get into the Halloween spirit with live music from the Slim Pickens Band, performing spooky tunes to keep the energy high throughout the evening.

The event will feature a variety of exciting activities for all ages, making it the ultimate community Halloween celebration. Here's a sneak peek of what you can expect:

Tickets: Wristbands are required for entry to the carnival games and Haunted Bus, and they are available for just \$10 each. These wristbands ensure access to all the fun and activities throughout the evening.

Carnival Games & Haunted Bus: Explore thrilling carnival games and check out the spooky Haunted Bus, by the YMCA. With over 1,000 prizes up for grabs, everyone has a chance to win!

Whether you're young or young-at-heart, there's something for everyone at the Route 66 Boo Bash and it's a fantastic way to celebrate Halloween. So, mark your calendars for a night full of fun that you won't want to miss!

Trunk or Treat: More than 30 Trunk or Treat booths will be set up, offering a safe and fun way for kids to load up on Halloween candy.

If you're a local business or organization that's part of the council membership and are interested in being part of the Trunk or Treat, please reach out to the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce to reserve your spot. Contact them at (580) 772-7744 or email Director@weatherfordchamber.com for more information

Costume Contest: The Boo Bash will host a huge costume contest, so come in your best Halloween attire for a chance to win prizes. There will also be a Photo Booth by Jessy Frizzell Photography!

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WESTERN OK / DROUGHT - Drought conditions continue to affect parts of western and nearly all of southwestern Oklahoma. Custer County is mainly in the moderate to severe drought category with only a portion of the county in extreme drought. Washita County is suffering from severe to extreme drought. Meanwhile, Beckham County is in moderate to severe drought. Caddo County is the only area county in a burn ban, as much of the county is suffering from extreme drought.

CUSTER COUNTY / JAIL CAMERAS - Custer County Sheriff Dan Day says the county is working to make some upgrades at the county jail in Arapaho and says that includes working toward a new camera system. "Our camera system is just so old and dilapidated, but the commissioners are really working good with that," explains Day. "But that's an expensive item and so we've had a few bids already and it's something you have to have for liability and safety issues." Sheriff Day says the cameras will be updated in the future.

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CUSTER COUNTY / ROAD WORK - Custer County Commissioners recently approved the intent to solicit bids for an asphalt paving project on Lawter and Lyle Roads. District 2 Commissioner Bruce Walker says time is of the essence to choose a contractor and complete the project. The work on Lawter is expected to be completed at the same time as the rest of Lawter Road is finished and open for traffic again. The paving project is jointly funded through a partnership between the city of Weatherford and Custer County.

OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR Weatherford Fire officials say Tacoma Copeland has been honored as the Oklahoma Roll Call of Heroes "Paid Firefighter of the Year," presented by the Children's Foundation and hosted by Devon Energy. Copeland has been with the Weatherford Fire Department for 5 years and was recently promoted to Lieutenant.

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STAFFORD / MARKETING DIRECTOR - The Stafford Air and Space Museum has announced Julie Lenius as the new Marketing Director. "Julie brings a ton of experience," said Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown at a recent event hosted by the Stafford Air and Space Museum. "We're really excited for her to be the new marketing director at the museum." Lenius started her new duties at the museum as of last week.

WEATHERFORD SB / BUDGET - The Weatherford School Board of Education recently approved their budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. According to Superintendent Mark Harmon, the total has come to \$22.6 million. "It's a revenue projection that's going to be 90% of the previous year's revenue," Harmon said, adding that revenues are good, but the district is not accounting for any stimulus in this particular spending plan.

WEATHERFORD SB / OUT-OF-STATE TRIPS The Weatherford School Board of Education recently approved two out-of-state trips. One of the trips is allowing the boys basketball team and high school band to travel to Texas. "We're having a hard time finding people that want to play us, and we're also trying to strengthen our schedule, so this is a great opportunity to go out somewhere...and get challenged a little bit," says Head Coach Derrick Bull.

WEATHERFORD / SCHOOL PROJECTS Weatherford Schools Superintendent Mark Harmon says the ball is slowly beginning to roll on future needs of the district, including the recent purchase of land for construction of a new high school. Discussions are still underway on what to do with the current high school building, with a popular proposal being to repurpose it as a new middle school. Harmon says district officials are just trying to figure out a plan for the future. He says currently it's all in the preliminary discussion stage.

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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 October 23th - Morgan Clothier, Jett Entz, Alvin Epp, Janis Koch, Andy Koch, Harold Miller, Kierston Rodriguez, Brian Seeman, Larry Don Terrel, Ramona Tharp, Jerri Ynguanzo; **October 24th** - Michael Blagg, Dusty Brodrick, Bob Crum, Kenneth Garling Jr., Amy Palmer, Delaney Smith, Mariah Ynguanzo; **October 25th** - Jeannie Adam, Adeline Bieberich, Ann Brown, Maurice Gabriel, Kelsey Hampton, Danielle Harrington, Linda Hertzler-Crum, Jennifer Johnson, Teresa Seagress, Catrina Womack; **October 26th** - Abigail Agan, Ollie Brooks, Orpa Epp, Shanda Izaguirr, Cathy Miller, Addison Moore, Jesse Quintero; **October 27th** - James Adams, Mandy Amaya, Brantley Atchley, Barry Auken, Jayme Crosby, Steve Flamming, Jayme Hixon, Tommy Martin, Susan Miller, Kevin Naranjo, Clayton Shaw, Linda Stewart, Linda Hoffman, Helen Vowell, Trevor Weatherly, Louise Williams; **October 28th** - Eula Farmer, Christa Martinez, Jason Michael, Lloyd Ratke, Layman Slagell, Shyla Wilhite; **October 29th** - Kezia Hines, Seth Knight, Robert Malone Jr., John Nance, Earlena Shannon, Barbara Sinclair, Alexis Torres, Richard Waters.

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2014 Ford Focus - \$6,500. 580-330-3489.

2001 Honda 600CC - Navy Blue. 16k miles, \$2,000. 405-892-8301

2004 Trailblazer - Good tires. \$4,000. 580-330-3489

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Thomasville Bed - Comes with frame, mattress, and five-drawer chest. \$450. 580-774-4000.

23 Dinner Plates - 75 cents each. 580-613-0108.

Large Copper Skillet - \$45. 580-613-0108

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8N Ford tractor - Good condition. \$1,500. Call me at 580-729-0001.

For Sale - Hoe, sprayer, ladders, post hole diggers, golf cart, kerosene stove and tanks, heaters, 245/60R18 tires, folding chairs, hand tools, work bench, lawn mower. 405-246-8952.

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Dixon Riding Mowers - \$400 for all three. 405-639-9667

Craftsman Riding Mowers 6 mowers/\$600. 580-886-2960.

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Boston Terrier Pups - ACA Registered. 580-614-1241.

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For Adoption - Puppies, born July 2, 2024. 3/4 Anatolian/Great Pyrenees, 1/4 Houndogs. \$50 each. Call me at 580-613-0108.

For Sale - Registered Australian shepherd, male. Standard female poodle. Mini male poodle. Mini female poodle. 580-614-1241.

MISC.

(2) Circuit Breaker - 100 amps. New in box. \$75 each. 580-772-7997.

Golden Compass Electric Wheelchair - Gently used. Original price was \$6,000, asking \$400. 580-375-9773.

Turkey Eggs For Sale - Call 580-225-6559

Fresh Peanuts - Located in Carnegie. www.gooberhouse.com. 580-654-1175.

High Quality Bulls - Horned or pulled bulls for sale. Cross-breeding steeds can be a lucrative business! 580-661-1146.

Organic Farm Eggs - \$5 per dozen. 580-613-0108.

Ladies Gold Rolex Watch - Purchased Locally. Asking for \$8,995. 580-772-7997.

Size 33 Record Albums - \$3 per choice or take all for \$1 each. Call 580-890-9442.

New Scuba Diving Masks Come in various colors. \$25 each. 580-772-7997.

Empire Strikes Back Lunchbox and Thermos - \$85.00 OBO. 580-330-1437.

Assorted Doors & Full Size Hutch - 580-890-0053.

Hydro Lots for Sale - Gazebo and storage building, located at 120 W Main St. 405-545-0179.

House for Rent - Swan Lake. Call 405-826-6376.

Walk-In Tub w/ Jets - \$1000 OBO. 405-663-2413

Return of the Jedi Lunchbox \$80.00 OBO. 580-330-1437.

Unicycle - Needs new inner-tube. \$50. 580-772-5100.

Housekeeping - Serving the elders of Weatherford. Call 747-220-9184.

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Assorted Materials - Aluminum, Iron, 2x4s, Plywood, Plastic Palettes. 580-890-0053 for pricing

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Ceiling Tiles - 209 sq ft. \$60. Call 580-799-7834.

FOR TRADE - Will Trade Shotgun for Handgun. Call 405-426-0461.

Large Gas Barbequer - \$50. Call or text 580-890-0053.

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Food Club Graham Pie Crust 9 oz. 2 for \$3.00	Golden Pineapple 2 for \$5.00
Food Club Flake Coconut 7 oz. 2 for \$3.00	U.S. #1 Russet Potatoes 10 lb. bag 2 for \$5.00
Vlasic Spear Pickles Asst. Varieties 24 oz. 2 for \$6.00	Ocean Spray Cranberries 12 oz. Bag 2 for \$5.00
General Mills Cereals Asst. Varieties \$4.59	Red-Yellow-Orange Bell Peppers 2 for \$3.00
Food Club Rice Squares 12 oz. 2 for \$6.00	Zucchini Squash .99 lb.
Food Club Syrup All Varieties 24 oz. 2 for \$4.00	
Food Club Pancake Mix 2 lb Box 2 for \$4.00	Frozen
Blackburn Preserves 18 oz. Asst. Varieties 2 for \$6.00	Sara Lee Fruit Pies All Varieties \$6.99
Crav'n Snack Crackers 13.7 oz. 2 for \$4.00	Fields Pecan Pies 32 oz. \$7.49
Cheez It Snack Crackers Asst Varieties 2 for \$7.00	Food Club Vegetables Asst Varieties 12 oz. 5 for \$5.00
Bugles or Gardettos Snacks 14.5 oz. 2 for \$7.00	Blue Ribbon Ice Cream 4 qt. pail \$4.98
Food Club Hot Chocolate Mix 10 ct. pkg. 2 for \$4.00	Red Barron Pizza All Varieties \$5.99
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Libby's Peaches, Pears, Cocktail 15-15.25 oz. 2 for \$5.00	Meat
Food Club Sweet Cut Yams 15 oz. 2 for \$3.00	Boneless New York Strip Steak \$11.99 lb.
Food Club Skillet dinners All Varieties 4 for \$5.00	Trimmed Beef Brisket \$5.99 lb.
Pillsbury Cake Mixes All Varieties 2 for \$4.00	Wrights Sliced Bacon \$6.99 lb.
	Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops \$2.99 lb.
Dairy	Baby Back Ribs \$3.19 lb.
Food Club Cinnamon Rolls 5 ct. \$3.79	Richards Boudin or Andouille Sausage 16 oz. pkg \$4.99
Food Club Butter 16 oz. 2 for \$7.00	Pilgrams Pride Fryer Drumsticks or Thighs \$1.49 lb.
Food Club Cream Cheese 8 oz. 2 for \$4.00	
Food Club Half and Half 16 oz. \$1.79	Dry Grocery
Food Club Sour Cream 8 oz. \$1.49	Kleenex facial Tissue 200 ct. 2 for \$7.00
Food Club Real Cream Topping 6.5 oz. \$2.29	Simply Done Liquid Laundry Detergent 50 oz. \$4.00
Food Club Texas Style Biscuits 10 ct. 2 for \$3.00	Fiora Paper Towels 6 Giant Rolls \$6.99

Oklahoma History: Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU)



Courtesy SWOSU

A photo of what is commonly referred to nowadays as the “Old Science Building,” named here as the “Science Hall” at “Southwestern Normal College.” Circa 1901.



Courtesy World Baseball Softball Confederation

Southwestern Normal College’s first President, James R. Campbell arrived in Weatherford in June of 1903 and served as the young university’s President until 1908.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

After the Organic Act established the Oklahoma Territory, a legislative staff formed to help create a more systematic governing body.

President Benjamin Harrison appointed George W. Steele as the new governor of the Oklahoma Territory, which would see tremendous advances in available public works/systems.

The territory, with many fresh faces from the Land Run of 1889, was in dire need of schools and forms of higher education.

Governor Steele worked for seventeen months. During his time, he was a major advocate for public schools and universities. By his urging, the First Oklahoma Territorial legislature set up three collegiate schools in December of 1890. The three universities were the Norman Territorial University (which would later become the University of Oklahoma), the Oklahoma Agriculture and Mechanical College (that would go on to form Oklahoma State University), and the Central State Normal School in Edmond (University of Central Oklahoma).

For these collegiate level schools to be at the same level of the rest of the country, they would need knowledgeable and well-trained teachers. So, two additional “teacher training” schools were opened a few years later; these normal schools were dubbed Northwestern State Normal (Northwestern Oklahoma State University) in Alva which opened in 1897 and Southwestern State Normal (Southwestern Oklahoma State University), established in Weatherford in 1901.

The legislation also established a college in Langston in 1897 for African Americans: Colored Agricultural and Normal University (Langston University). As part of the push for “equal” opportunity, a secondary institution, the University Preparatory School at Tonkawa, was created in 1901 to prep high school graduates for entry to the University of Oklahoma.

Quickly after the establishment of these colleges and secondary schools, Oklahoma Territory found itself preparing for statehood. Part of the proposed entry as a state to the United States would see the territory combine with the remaining portion of Indian Territory. Early discussions between the territories were heated due to the feeling of an educational imbalance as most of the college and university locations would be on the western side. As part of a compromise, “Oklahoma Territory offered to duplicate in the eastern part of the new state the number and types of institutions that existed in the west side” (Oklahoma History Society).

The agreement was signed, and the First Oklahoma Legislature established a list of schools for the east. The colleges created were the Oklahoma Industrial Institute and College for Girls (University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma) in Chickasha and the Oklahoma School for Mines and Metallurgy (Eastern Oklahoma State College) in Wilburton. Then, three normal institutes were opened: East Central State Normal (East Central University) in Ada, Northeastern State Normal (Northeastern State University) in Tahlequah, and Southeastern State Normal (Southeastern Oklahoma State University) in Durant.

To match the preparatory school for OU, the secondary Eastern University Preparatory School was established in Claremore.

With the addition of these higher education schools, the legislation wanted to ensure more students had access to adequate preparation to any of the normal secondary or university options. So, the formation of six additional district schools were created in 1909 to get students ready for entry to Stillwater’s Oklahoma A&M and the other normal colleges. These six district schools were split evenly between the western and eastern halves of the state.

The sheer number of schools opened by the first legislature was quite unorthodox, not for the number of universities available but for the number of schools that existed in the public sector. Oklahoma’s push to immediately establish a statewide system left the state trying to balance public school funding with a baseline and limited tax base. Oklahoma would toe the line for another 50 years before legislature would create a new institution. However, many of the already established schools would begin opening up additional branches and supporting vocational schools. Eventually, new community colleges and university extensions were opened.

Today, Oklahoma is working on finding the financial and practical balance that would actively increase the amount of people who hold some form of a degree. Currently, the site of Education Data from U.S. News & World Report has seen SWOSU climb in the rankings for Regional Universities in the West and maintain their prominence as a Top Public School for secondary education.

Uptown MarketPlace
Holiday Open House
Christmas Preview

Saturday, November 2
9:30am - 4:00pm

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* Earn 6 badges to
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Zoey Sparks and Terra Rybuck are Named Bulldogs of the Week

Grant Kopycinski
Sports Information Graduate Asst.

Zoey Sparks and Terra Rybuck have been

chosen as the newest Bulldogs of the Week. The weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media, the home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Sparks (Canyon, Texas) averaged 1.20 blocks per set in three wins for SWOSU Volleyball which pushed the team's winning streak to eight games. Against top-ranked Harding on Thursday, she put together her best performance of the season with 14 kills on a .400 hitting percentage and had seven total blocks.

Rybuck (Winnipeg, Canada) collected her second shutout of the season for SWOSU Soccer in her only game guarding the net with a five-save performance against Southern Nazarene on Saturday. The Bulldogs tied both conference matches on the week with a 1-1 result against Northwestern and a 0-0 final score against SNU.

2024-25 Bulldogs of the Week

- Sept. 9: Freya Sala, Cheyenne VandeStouwe
- Sept. 16: Heston Harrison, Samantha Kuzma
- Sept. 23: Julie Andersen, Desmond Greene
- Sept. 30: James Thomas, Lacy Mott
- Oct. 7: Drew Dodgion, Jack Phillips
- Oct. 14: Conrado Diaz Ermacora, Philippine de Sancy

BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK

Volleyball
Zoey Sparks

Soccer
Terra Rybuck

Stellar Arts Festival is Coming to Weatherford October 25 and 26

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Set off into a universe of creativity at the Stellar Arts Festival, happening during SWOSU Homecoming Weekend, this weekend, October 25th and 26th in Weatherford, OK!

This two-day festival will transform the Towne Centre in Weatherford into a cosmic wonderland of creativity, music, food, and out-of-this-world fun for everyone.

The exhibitions will be open Friday, October 25th, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM, and Saturday, October 26th, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Whether you're a fan of the arts, live music, or fantastic food, this event has something for everyone.

The Stellar Arts Festival promises to deliver an experience that's truly from another world. Explore a galaxy of art featuring local and regional Oklahoma artists showcasing their finest works. From paintings and sculptures to mixed media and craft items, the original works will be wondrous and amazing with proceeds from sales going to the participating artist.

Other income from the festival will benefit the Weatherford Hospital Foundation, to fund a mobile ultrasound for the ER and Women's Center.

So, grab your friends and family, and prepare for a stellar weekend and exciting SWOSU football! The countdown to blast off is on, see you this weekend for an incredible cosmic celebration!

Stellar
ARTS
FESTIVAL

WEATHERFORD • SPACE CITY • OKLAHOMA
OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2024

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

SAVE THE DATE!

Family Fun Night!

global disciples
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Come for family-friendly activities and giveaways, and discover your part in reaching the *least-reached*.

Come hear stories of how Global Disciples works alongside local churches in that third of the world where the *least-reached* live. And have some fun at the same time!

November 2, 2024
Drop in from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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Scan the QR code to RSVP

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OCT
26

AT HERITAGE PARK
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