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2024's Miss SWOSU Scholarship Pageant Scheduled for November 9



Southwestern Oklahoma State University's (SWOSU's) annual Miss SWOSU Scholarship Pageant will take place on Saturday, November 9th, at the Weatherford Performing Arts Center (PAC) at the Weatherford High School campus.

SWOSU has featured beauty contests, pageants and competitions since 1919 in Weatherford. In addition to these annual competitions, Miss SWOSU also has a mentoring program called the Miss SWOSU Little Stars.

The event will begin at 7 p.m., bringing together seven contestants who will compete for the title of Miss SWOSU 2025.

Contestants participating in this year's pageant:

- Gabrielle Clayton–Clinton, OK
- Mia Macias–Leedey, OK
- Lauren Wicker–Mustang, OK
- Maddie Owen–Reydon, OK
- Mackenzie Brown–Tecumseh, OK
- Jessica Goucher–Waynoka, OK
- Sierra Stephens–Weatherford, OK

Phases of competition include Interview, On-Stage Question, Active Wear, Talent, and Evening Gown, where each contestant will showcase her skills and personality.

The current Miss SWOSU, Mackynsie McKedy, will perform during the evening.

Tickets are available in advance for \$10 to the general public or \$5 with a valid SWOSU ID. All tickets purchased at the door will be priced at \$15. Advanced tickets are available from any contestant, the SWOSU Education Center Room 120A, or the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

For additional information on the Miss SWOSU Pageant, please contact missswosu@swosu.edu, where you can reach Co-Directors Ellen Hamburger-Mol and Tia Sauer Blanchard.

The 2024 Miss SWOSU Scholarship Pageant will feature eight participating students. *Provided*

Pictured, from left: Lauren Wicker, Maddie Owen, Gabrielle Clayton, Miss SWOSU 2024, Mackynsie McKedy; Jessica Goucher, Mackenzie Brown, Sierra Stephens, and Mia Macias.

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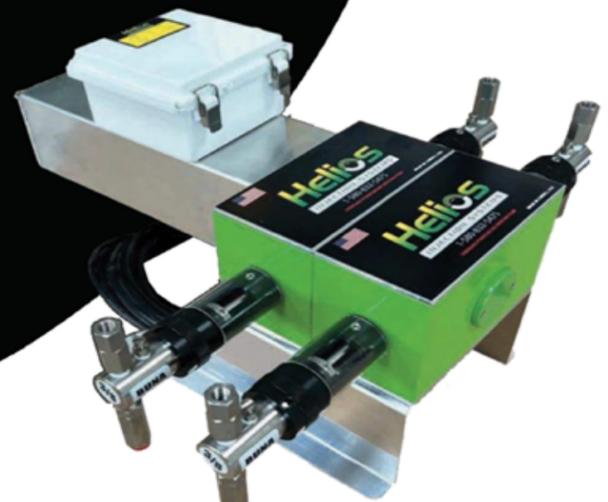
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Phillip Baker

Phillip Ronald Baker, 90, of Berlin, Oklahoma was born on June 2, 1934 at Berlin, Oklahoma. He is the first child of Mancel and Georgia Alta (Hamby) Baker. Ronald went to sit beside his Lord and Savior on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at Integris Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma surrounded by his loving family.



Ronald was born on the family farm during the dust bowl and shared many stories with his family about the challenges of that time. He married Shirley Jean Flenner on May 26, 1955 at Berlin, Oklahoma. The two of them met at Berlin in the seventh grade and they never dated anyone else. Shirley remembers Ronald being a very good basketball and baseball player.

In 1956 Ronald and Shirley moved to California to find jobs. They both ended up working for McDonnell Douglass Aircraft. But plans always seem to change later that same year Ronald was drafted and he served two years at Fort Bliss and then returned to his job at McDonnell Douglass.

Ronald and Shirley had two children. Debra Lynn in 1958 and Larry Glenn in 1959. In 1963 Ronald bought an A&W Rootbeer drive-in in Buena Park, California. It was the first of three drive-in restaurants in which he did very well with. The business was a good place to teach his children how to work.

He loved coaching baseball. He coached little league and pony league and even took his team almost to the pony league world series as the assistant coach. To this day there is still a case of baseballs in the barn.

In 1980, Ronald and Shirley decided to move back to the Berlin Community. He was back to red dirt and cattle. Ronald went to work for Beckham County for eight years. He then ran for County Commissioner for Roger Mills County in 1990 and took over the office in January 1, 1991. He served as County Commissioner for Roger Mills County for twelve years.

Ronald instilled a love for hunting and fishing in his son, Larry, that Larry shared with his boys, Garrett and Steven.

Once Ronald retired, he and Shirley decided to try and travel to as many states as they could. They enjoyed many exciting trips and man could he take pictures!

Cherishing his memory is his loving wife of sixty-nine years, Shirley, of the home; his daughter, Debra Baker of Pleasant Hill, California; son, Larry Baker and his wife, Denette of Berlin, Oklahoma; two grandsons, Garrett and his partner, Stormie of Calumet, Oklahoma, Steven Baker of Elk City, Oklahoma; great-granddaughter, Evelyn Baker of Elk City, Oklahoma; sister, Barbara Sue Armstrong and her husband, Mike of Berlin, Oklahoma; his special cousin, Mack Law of Wayne, Oklahoma; sister-in-law, Linda Baker of Elk City, Oklahoma and numerous other family members and friends.

Ronald is preceded in death by his parents, Mancel and Georgia Baker, three siblings, Betty Lou Hardy, Benny Leon Baker and Wallace Eugene Baker.

Memorials can be made to the Berlin Cemetery Association.

Linda Ray

Linda Joyce Ray was born October 23, 1948, in Clinton, Oklahoma to Rupert and Stella (Kness) Caler and passed away on Friday, October 25, 2024, at her home in Custer City, having reached the age of 76 years and 2 days.



Linda was raised and attended school in Custer City graduating with the Class of 1966. When Linda was young her mother, Stella, passed away and she went to live with Myrtle Bailey and her family. In 1970 she married her husband, Douglas Ray, in Clinton, Oklahoma. Together they raised their two children, Loretta and Todd, on their farm in Butler, Oklahoma where they lived until 1998. Linda helped her husband on the farm chopping cotton and running the tractor. Linda loved Jesus and sharing her faith with others. She was saved and baptized at the Butler Pentecostal Church. She also loved her animals, especially her dog, Manly, who was always by her side. Linda enjoyed crafting, making jewelry, candle wicking and gardening.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Rupert and Stella Caler; stepmother, Theresa Caler; her husband, Douglas; brother, Frank Caler; sisters, Virginia Caler, Dorothy Denker, and Carol Lowry; grandson Raymond Lilley; and nephew, Tommy Webb.

She is survived by her daughter, Loretta Foust and husband, Darin, of Custer City, OK; her son, Todd Ray and wife, Sarah, of Radford, VA; brothers, Tommy Caler and wife, Linda, of Yukon, OK, Raymond Caler and wife, Eve, of Missouri, Clinton Caler of Custer City, OK, and Cecil Caler of Booker, TX; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, Micah, Destiny and Charity Ray and Randi Ray, and Zoe Justice and husband, Heath; nieces and nephews, Taffy Rigsby and husband, Chad, of Thomas, OK, Tim, Twilla, Tasha, and Robbie,

Also cherishing Linda's memory are countless nieces and nephews, among other extended family members. Memorials may be made in Linda's name to the Freedom Worship Center in Thomas at 211 N 15th St, Thomas, OK 73669.

Marilyn Tautfest

Marilyn Rae Tautfest was born on August 10, 1935 in Hydro, Oklahoma to Homer and May (Payne) Folks and passed away on Friday, November 1, 2024 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, having reached the age of 89 years, 2 months, and 22 days.



Marilyn was raised on the family farm southeast of Weatherford. She attended a rural school southeast of Weatherford through grade school and graduated from Weatherford High School with the class of 1953. After high school she attended Southwestern State College, where she completed a bachelor's degree in education.

While in college she met David Tautfest, and they were married in 1955. Marilyn and David made their home in Weatherford where they raised their three children, David, Todd, and Dana.

As a Christian, Marilyn was an avid student of the bible and loved to share her faith with everyone she came across - family, friends, and strangers. She was able to serve personally by teaching Sunday School and going on mission trips. Marilyn was devoted to her family and loved spending time with them. She was an active member in PEO and Sorosis Club. She enjoyed playing bridge, spending time with her family, hiking in Colorado and Arizona, being outdoors, and dancing.

Marilyn is survived by her two sons, David and Kelly Tautfest, Weatherford, OK, and Todd Tautfest and Keegan Cross, Atlanta, GA; Daughter, Dr. Dana Tautfest and Dr. Dinesh Telang, Colorado Springs, CO; Sister, Dorothy Ewing, Ames, IA; four grandchildren, Shawn and Katie Tautfest, Fort Smith, AR, Matthew Armstrong, Weatherford, OK, Amelia Sons, Chicago, IL, and Nora Sons, Royal Oak, MI. She was preceded in death by her parents, Homer and May Folks; brothers, Eldon, Dale, Leroy, and Homer; and sister, Rachel Amen.

Leon White

Leon Edwin White, 81, of Yukon, Oklahoma was born on July 10, 1943 in Elk City, Oklahoma. He is the son of Charles Edwin and Faye (Albert) White. He went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, October 27, 2024 at his residence in Yukon, Oklahoma surrounded by his loving family.



Leon married his best friend and sweetheart, Marilynn Counts on January 29, 1971 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

He proudly served his country in the United States Navy from February 8, 1968 until he was honorably discharged on December 20, 1971.

Leon enjoyed watching football, traveling, and anything to do with history. He loved collecting watches and history books.

Leon was a family man and loved spending time on the beach, and with his family and grandchildren. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Cherishing his memory is his loving wife, Marilynn White of Yukon, Oklahoma; two sons, Brant White and his wife, Amy of Edmond, Oklahoma, Chaz White and his wife, Megan of Edmond, Oklahoma; five grandchildren, Emma White, Izaak White, Bennett White, Oliver White, and Alice White all of Edmond, Oklahoma; one sister, Geraldine Bloomer of Bakersfield, California; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Leon is preceded in death by his parents, Charles Edwin and Faye White; and his two sisters, Doris Gayle Loyd and Lois McAmis.

Memorials can be made to the American Heart Association in Elk City.

Rita Corlee

Rita Carole Corlee, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend passed away unexpectedly at home on October 30, 2024, at the age of 76 Years, 11 months and two days.



Born on November 28, 1947, in Clinton, Oklahoma, to Joseph Allen and Vivian Judith (Ruckman) McDouggle, Rita's life was filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. Rita was raised in Hydro, Oklahoma, before moving to Florence, Alabama.

After graduating from Central High School in 1966, Rita loved traveling back to her alma mater every five years for class reunions. After graduation, Rita returned to Weatherford and attended Southwestern Oklahoma State College, where fate brought her back together with her childhood friend, Rodney Newton Corlee. They were married on June 11, 1967.

As Rod served in the Air Force, they embarked on adventures across the United States. In 1970, they welcomed their first daughter, Amy, in Columbus, Mississippi. Returning to Weatherford in 1972, they rang in the new year with the birth of their second daughter, Becky, Weatherford's New Year's Baby for 1975.

Rita's professional career as a Realtor® and appraiser spanned over three decades. She was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ.

Rita's greatest joy came from her family and friends. She cherished spending time with her grandchildren; her beloved fur babies, Daisy and Lola; embarking on travel adventures; and shopping with her dear friend Judy.

Rita is survived by her husband of 57 years, Rod Corlee, of their home in Weatherford; two daughters, Amy Hunter of Oklahoma City and Becky Storm and husband Brandon of Elk City; one brother, Billy Joe McDouggle of Weatherford; one sister, Rhonda Riley and husband Craig of San Antonio, Texas; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; sister-in-law, Patricia McDouggle; and a niece, Emily Jo Riley.

As we gather to celebrate Rita's life, we will remember her smile, laughter, warmth, kindness, and unwavering love. Her memory will forever be cherished in the hearts of all who knew her.



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Regional Food Bank Raises More than \$1 Million for Kids in Oklahoma



REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF OKLAHOMA

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma raised more than \$1 million to fight childhood hunger in central and western Oklahoma during its Food for Kids Match. The match was made possible thanks generous donations from the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, Chesapeake Energy, Mark and Beth Brewer, Marathon Oil, Dolese Bros. Corp., Energy Transfer, David Gorham and David and Lezlie Hudiburg. For the third year, KOCO 5 News joined as the official television sponsor of the Food for Kids Match.

"We are so thankful for our match sponsors for helping the Regional Food Bank provide nutritious meals to Oklahoma's next generation," said Stacy Dykstra, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank. "This is more than just nutrition, it's a step toward a brighter future for Oklahoma children."

The Food for Kids Match Sponsors, like the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, helped to match every donation made to the Food for Kids Programs between August and September, up to \$315,000.

"On behalf of the Masonic Fraternity and the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, we offer our sincere thanks to all those who have supported this year's Food for Kids Match," said John Logan, the executive director of the Masonic Charity Foundation.

Overall, the Food for Kids Match raised \$1,036,529. The Regional Food Bank's Food for Kids Programs are the Backpack Program, the School Pantry Program, Kids Cafés and the Summer Feeding Program.

"Through the efforts of the donors, sponsors and KOCO, we have made it possible to continue making a difference in the lives of our youth," said Logan.

Last school year, the Food for Kids Programs served more than 1.2 million children in central and western Oklahoma. The programs are the most expensive programs offered through the Regional Food Bank.

As the official television sponsor of the Food for Kids Match, KOCO featured stories highlighting the impact of the Food for Kids Programs and promoted the match during newscasts.

"Our partnership with the Regional Food Bank is a central component of our overall work to serve our community. As we celebrate 70 years of service to Oklahoma our work to help families in need is immensely important and gratifying for all our team," said Brent Hensley, president and general manager of KOCO. "We are from Oklahoma and I feel it is our duty to help the people of our community when and where we can. Working with the Regional Food Bank is a delight and has immediate impact".

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WAEDF ANNUAL LUNCHEON

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The Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation (WAEDF)'s Annual Luncheon will be held on December 11, 11:30 a.m. at the Stafford Air and Space Museum. The Guest Speaker this year will be Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinell (pictured, left).

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HIGHER GROUND

God and the Church



Jim Morrison

Why do people go to church? Obviously, there are a multitude of reasons. We might say glibly, "to worship God, of course." While this is generally true there are lot of hidden or unknown reasons—even to the average church-goer. Some might be accused of going so it will "help my business when people see me at church." I believe this is rare.

This is not an attempt to analyze the motives of those attending church as much as it is an effort to help those who attend to make the most of the opportunity.

The earliest picture of the church (the called-out ones) is found in Acts 2:42 when those new believers "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

It seems the new believers were hungry (devoted) and eager to hear what it meant to be a follower of Jesus.

They kept fresh on their minds the great sacrifice Christ rendered to enable them to be forgiven of their sins and be assured of a heavenly reward. They had fellowship together. This was probably a lot more than our fellowship which is often centered around the weather or sporting events.

And they prayed. I suspect those prayers were not limited to asking God to be with them (since he had already promised that) or to simply bless so-and-so. They were facing life and death situations. They had been challenged to take a message to a world that was largely unknown to them.

This leads me to the point of asking, "What does God want to see happen on Sunday morning." Let's take a look at the average congregation. There will be those who are there out of duty or loyalty (which is not all bad). There are young people struggling to find their way in a world of confusion.

There will be young couples struggling through marriage/relationship difficulties. Others will be hurting from an unwanted divorce or a problem child. Some are facing health or financial issues beyond their control. Senior citizens will be hoping that they will still be recognized as someone still having something to offer. Hopefully, some will be seeking to find peace and hope in coming to know Christ. They may not know how to get there or what it means.

Many will desire to learn more and be given instruction as to a joyful life of service or ministry. All Christians are called to be on mission or in some form of ministry. So, as you go to church this next Sunday, give some thought to the question; "What does God want to see happen in church today?" Then pray along those lines.

"Lord, open the hearts of people today to hear the truths of your word. May the power of the Holy Spirit move in the hearts of people to bring conviction of sin and repentance Remove barriers that hinder growth and maturity in the faith. Give us undivided hearts. Give us wisdom and discernment in world of lies and confusion. Help our young people to stand firm in their faith and resolve to live an obedient lifestyle. We pray for our staff that they would sense your presence and live pure lives of loving obedience. Give our church creative ways of reaching the lost."

Think and pray along these lines as you attend church next Sunday.

E.M. Bounds stated: "Prayer is the language of a man burdened with a sense of need. It is the voice of the beggar, conscious of his poverty, asking of another the things he needs. Not to pray is not only to declare there is nothing needed, but to admit your failure to recognize how needy you really are."

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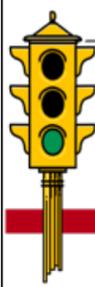
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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

WPLS Hosts Best-Selling Author James Patterson in Western Oklahoma



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WPLS Director of Customer Experience Conner Kirk chats with James Patterson during the VIP reception at SWOSU's Weatherford Campus.



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The Western Plains Library System (WPLS) and Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) hosted best-selling author James Patterson on Oct. 22, drawing a sold-out audience with all VIP Gold and Silver tickets booked in advance. Patterson's visit to SWOSU was a unique opportunity for both the community and local schools to engage directly with one of the world's most recognized authors.

Known for popular series like Alex Cross and Women's Murder Club, Patterson has also collaborated with public figures such as Bill Clinton and Dolly Parton. He has earned an Edgar Award, nine Emmies, the National Book Foundation's Literarian Award; and the National Humanities Medal.

Throughout the day, Patterson visited schools as coordinated by WPLS, beginning with Cheyenne High School, where students from Burns Flat, Cheyenne, Hammon, Leedey, Reydon, Seiling, Sentinel, Sweetwater, Taloga, and Vici were in attendance. He later spoke to students gathered at the Weatherford Performing Arts Center, where Weatherford, Clinton, and Arapaho-Butler students participated. Both stops offered students the chance to hear directly from Patterson, who took questions from the audience. These visits were an exciting opportunity for students to hear from a literary figure of Patterson's caliber.

Before the main event, a VIP reception organized by WPLS allowed a smaller group of guests to meet Patterson in person.

This smaller setting helped set the tone for the main evening event, where Patterson shared insights from his autobiography, James Patterson by James Patterson, and reflected on notable projects throughout his career. VIP guests received signed books and close interactions with the author.

According to Tim Miller, WPLS Executive Director, "The event was a rousing success, and Mr. Patterson was very authentic and relatable. He engaged with the audience extensively."

Micaela Marquez, WPLS Director of Marketing and Outreach, shared a moment that resonated with the crowd: "There was a big 'aww' from the audience when Mr. Patterson said, 'There are tons of days I can't stand my wife, but not a day goes by that I don't love her.'"

WPLS's team coordinated each aspect of Patterson's visit, from the school appearances to the evening event, creating a memorable experience for attendees.

"It was a surreal moment to be told personal stories by America's storyteller," said Conner Kirk, Director of Customer Experience at WPLS.

SWOSU extends its gratitude to the WPLS staff for their thoughtful planning and collaboration throughout this project. WPLS looks forward to the next author visit in 2026, while the Weatherford Public Library continues to offer a range of programs for the community. For a calendar of upcoming events, visit www.wplib.com.

CUSTER CO / BRYAN - A well-known actor on the television show "Home Improvement" is free on bond facing charges in Custer County District Court of 2nd felony DUI and operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license. 43-year-old Zackery Bryan was allegedly found sleeping in his vehicle by an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper after pulling off the side of a Custer County Road. After the trooper left the scene, Bryan then got behind the wheel and drove north away from the trooper, who then conducted a traffic stop and arrested Bryan for DUI. Bryan has had 7 other DUI offenses spanning from 2004-2024.

STELLAR ARTS FESTIVAL - The Stellar Arts Festival held by the Weatherford Regional Hospital reportedly was a success, says hospital CEO Darin Farrell. Proceeds from the event will help purchase a mobile ultrasound unit for the hospital.

WEATHERFORD / BURGLARIES - Officials with the Weatherford Police Department say several car burglaries have occurred this month. The police has advised Weatherford residents to lock their vehicles and to hide their valuables. The department welcomes any video that captures any suspicious activity in an effort to identify potential suspects.

RT. 66 / PINELL GRANT - Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell was in Weatherford recently to discuss an expansion on grant dollars that have been allocated to the city of Weatherford for Route 66 projects in preparation of the route 66 centennial in 2026. One of the objectives is to have tourists spend time along communities located on Route 66, including Weatherford.

WEATHERFORD / BUDGET WORKSHOP - A budget workshop was held yesterday by the Weatherford City Commission surrounding the fiscal year 2025 spending plan. City Treasurer Dana Ratcliffe says one of the biggest projects is the construction of the community center in Rader Park.

WEATHERFORD / SSM AGREEMENT - The CEO of Weatherford Regional Hospital told the hospital authority board this week that work is beginning to renew the management agreement with Sisters of Saint Mary (SSM) Health. Darin Farrell says the latest addendum agreement will expire at the end of April 2025. Farrell says he is not requesting any changes to the agreement. Cindy Carmichael with SSM says they have contacted a third party for a fair market value of the services provided by SSM in the agreement.



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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 Nov. 6th - Joshua Blackwell, Oliver Lane, Mike Livingston, Ranae Middleton, Neva Taft, Tabitha Middleton, Nancy Rodolph, Laurie Salcido, Brandon Stephens, Elmer Stucker; **Nov. 7th** - Jerri Devine, Jordan Ewing, MacKenzie Garling, Shayna Griffith, Debbie Heckard, Mary Phelps, Catherine Pitzer, Charlene Pope, Kayla Rodriguez, Stacy Scarlett, Richard Settles, Vercilla Roman Nose, Roberta Slagell, Clayton Thompson, Wilma Webb, Kim Williams; **Nov. 8th** - Lori Burns, Linda Carpenter, Jackie Kurts, Alice Lackey, Butch McCammon, Sandy Miller, Donna Newsome, Lance Pitzer, Ann Russell, Kory Selman, Chloe Settles, Paul Stange, Lori Walker, Shane Young; **Nov. 9th** - Ariel Cunningham, Sabrina Dungan, Norman Kissler, Heather Matz, Milly Maynard, Myrna Perkins, Joe Slann, Donna Webb, Brittany Wile, Ryan Wilson, Amy Young; **Nov. 10th** - Jamie Albright, Rick Goodall, Stetson Green, Braden Hinton, Garrett Holley, Linda Hulsey, Heather May, Naomi Nickles, Landon Scales, Rheba Smith, Amber Snider, Becky Stotts, Lindsey Thomason, John Towe; **Nov. 11th** - Kimberly Chervenka, T.C. Garrison, Blake Hook, Matt Lantz, Wesson Shaw, Nancy Stinson, Kenna Wise; **Nov. 12th** - Carmen Arriaga Jr., Clint Bridgeman, Jamie Carrizales, Alex Gomez, Clinton Horn, Nathan Hunn, Keith Miller, Mike Parrish, Jeff Schneberger, Stephen Short, Cody Thiessen, Harold Wright.

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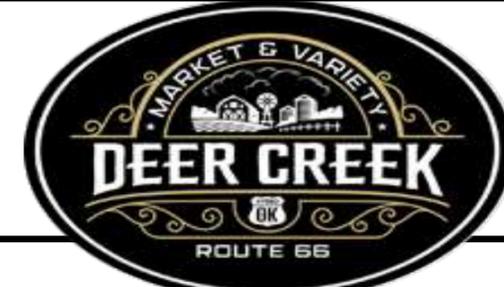


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Drug Takeback Event (DTE) Added to WEG Recycle Day November 9



The Weatherford Environment Group (WEG) has announced a Drug Take Back service as part of their "America Recycles Day" event on November 9, 2024, at 602 E. Clark. Rules are provided by SWODA, who will coordinate this part of the recycle event.

We accept pills, tablets, capsules, patches, and liquids (in a sealed container). You may remove or cover any patient-identifying information if you wish, but the meds will be kept secured until the day they are destroyed. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept any nuclear meds (radiation for cancer treatments), aerosols (inhalers), auto-injectors (Pre-loaded shots, and Epi-Pens for example), or syringes. Please consult your pharmacist with the medication name if you are unsure.

If you are unable to attend the Recycling Event, there are several other resources you can take advantage of in Western Oklahoma for proper drug disposal.

There are disposal kiosks in Arapaho at the County Sheriff's Office, in Clinton at Salisbury Pharmacy, and at Weatherford Police Department. Additionally, SWODA, Oxford Houses of Oklahoma, and Red Rock Behavioral Health will provide Rx Med Lock Bags, At-Home Rx Med Disposal Kits (in case you forgot to bring meds), Naloxone (a life-saving medication that quickly reverses Opioid Overdose and restores breathing), and information about local recovery and treatment support providers in the area.

Contact SWODA or Red Rock Behavioral Health and ask about At-Home Rx Med Disposal Kits. These kits allow you to render meds unusable and then you can dispose of them in an environmentally friendly manner.

Opioids are also frequently misused and diverted or stolen from patients, so it's important to lock up your medications safely.

Rx Med Lock Bags are very important to maintaining your medications and preventing diversion and/or misuse.

Medication like opioids can easily cause an overdose if taken accidentally or if dosages are doubled. Children, people with intellectual challenges, and older adults with memory deficits are especially vulnerable. Please consider the safety of your pets as well.

Although not environmentally friendly, there are certain medications that have potential harm to keeping them if expired or no longer needed. The Food and Drug Administration recommends that certain meds should be flushed into sanitary sewer and/or septic systems.

For a list of these medications, please scan the QR code above or visit www.fda.gov/drugs

For more on the impacts of flushing these meds, visit pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28787777

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(Please note that we will NOT accept styrofoam.)

America Recycles Day 2024
Weatherford Environmental Group (WEG)
Special Emphasis Items Accepted:

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(Accepting Lead Acid Batteries from cars and equipment, as well as Household and Watch Batteries)

Drug Take Back
(Accepting Pills, Tablets, Capsules, Patches, and Liquid in Containers)
(Please note that we will NOT accept nuclear meds, aerosols, auto-injectors, or syringes.)

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NOVEMBER
7TH, 8TH, AND 9TH

Anna Bager and the SWOSU Rodeo Team are Bulldogs of the Week

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

Anna Bager of SWOSU soccer and the entire SWOSU rodeo team are the latest Bulldogs of the week, brought to you by Wright.Media – the official radio & livestream partner of SWOSU Athletics.

Bager (Juelsminde, Denmark) delivered the game winning strike in the 55th minute against Ouachita Baptist last week. Not even two minutes after the Tigers knotted up the game at 1-1, Bager took a kick from Ouachita's goalkeeper far outside the box and sent it right back in line drive fashion to put the Dawgs up for good. It was her first goal of the season.

SWOSU Rodeo completed a sweep at Northwestern Oklahoma State over the weekend, after both the women's and men's teams took home the top spot. It's the first time both sides finished first place at a rodeo since 2015. The teams had three win the average in their events, four round winners, and 10 total competitors who finished inside the top-5.



Oklahoma History: The Spook Lights Between Oklahoma and Missouri



Courtesy American Hauntings

The Spook Lights hovering along the dirt road near the Missouri-Oklahoma state line. Their name varies from town-to-town, but they're primarily named after Hornet or Joplin, MO. Photo circa mid-1900s.



Courtesy Popular Mechanics / Sept. 1965 Issue

"Spookville" was opened in 1940 by Arthur Meadows and operated by his son-in-law, Garland Middleton (pictured). The tourist attraction was closed, and eventually burned down, following Middleton's death.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Gather 'round and let me tell you about a mystery that's haunted the backroads of northeast Oklahoma for over a century. Out there, bobbing and bouncing along a lonely, gravel stretch of road known as Devil's Promenade, glows an eerie light, something the locals call the Hornet Spook Light.

They say if you're lucky enough—or unlucky, depending on how you look at it—you might spot it just after nightfall. This ball of light, orange as a flickering candle flame, travels along that stretch, darting and weaving as if it's got a mind of its own. It doesn't just float around aimlessly, though; it sways side-to-side like a lantern carried by invisible hands, or hovers high above the treetops before dipping back down. Some folks even swear they've felt its heat as it zoomed by.

Legend has it the Spook Light's been appearing since 1836, back when the area was crossed by weary travelers along the infamous Trail of Tears. But the first "official" sighting wasn't reported until 1881, when an old publication called the Ozark Spook Light picked up the tale. And ever since, scientists, paranormal investigators, and even the Army Corps of Engineers have tried to solve it.

They've tossed around answers to the riddle of this ghostly orb--like gas escaping from marshy ground, reflections from car lights, and even something called will-o'-the-wisps, the eerie glow created by decaying organic matter. But none of these theories stick, especially considering the light was seen long before cars, billboards, or even a road existed in the area.

There's one theory that has a bit more weight, an idea that maybe, just maybe, the light is caused by electrical charges built up along fault lines under the ground. This area lies close to the New Madrid Fault, where rocks are shifting and grinding deep beneath the surface, which could be causing an electric charge to spark up to the surface. But even that theory doesn't fully explain the light's strange behavior or its tendency to avoid large groups and loud sounds.

And then there are the stories, the ones that say the Spook Light is more than just a natural phenomenon. Some say it's the spirit of a young Quapaw maiden and her lover. Forbidden from being together, they fled. Pursued by her father's warriors, they were cornered along a bank of the Spring River.

Before they were captured, they joined hands and leaped into the icy water, choosing each other over a world that wouldn't let them be. And it was soon after that locals began seeing the first appearances of the light, a symbol of their love still flickering along Devil's Promenade.

Others whisper that it's a miner searching for his family, lost in an attack long ago. He wanders the road, carrying a lantern, hoping for a glimpse of his wife and children. Or perhaps it's an Osage chief, headless and still hunting for what he's lost, his spirit too restless to leave the land where he met his end.

Even now, people come to Devil's Promenade, hoping for a glimpse. They say it appears most often from around 10 p.m. until midnight, and if you're driving alone, with the windows down and the radio off, maybe you'll see it darting along beside you or even feel the warmth of that fiery glow pass right through your car. So, if you find yourself on a lonely backroad in northeast Oklahoma some dark night, keep an eye on the treetops and the shadows by the road. You just might catch sight of the Hornet Spook Light, dancing its eternal dance, keeping its secrets safe from all who dare to follow.

Stafford Air & Space Museum Plans to Expand STEM Engagement Center



Harold Wright / WW

Rt. 66 Director Kerry Barrick and Lt. Gov. Matt Pinell (both pictured) recently met with officials at the Stafford Air and Space Museum to discuss expanding and rebranding its former education center.

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SPORTS

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Southern Arkansas Proves Too Much for SWOSU on Rainy Saturday



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

In a game delayed two hours to due to rain and lightning, SWOSU Football could not keep pace with Southern Arkansas University (SAU) in a 48-14 loss.

The Dawgs scored on their second offensive possession of the game which came following a blocked punt by Michael Adesola but did not score again until the final drive of the fourth quarter. That first quarter score, at the time, had SWOSU tied at 7-7 after SAU returned the opening kickoff 99 yards for a quick lead.

After the Bulldog score, SAU found success through the air and scored on five straight possessions to lead 38-7 by halftime.

After the break, they added a third quarter field goal and one final rushing score midway through the fourth.

The SWOSU defense kept SAU's running game in check early, so the Muleriders went to the air. Quarterback Judd Barton of SAU finished 26-for-44 for 374 yards and his three first half scores. The visitors were held to under 3.0 yards per rush on 39 attempts in the game.

SWOSU's second score of the game came in the closing minute when Malik Roberson capped off a 16-play, 90-yard drive with his first rushing touchdown of the season.

Roberson carried the ball 12 times for 59 yards and his score. Keyshawn Walls led the team with 16 touches for 49 yards and had his first quarter touchdown come from three yards out.

SWOSU managed just 59 passing yards in the game and finished with 119 on the ground. The Muleriders racked up 525 yards of total offense.

Zack Roberts led the defense with 13 tackles and had one sack. Keshawn Jackson added 10 tackles.

The loss drops the Dawgs to 2-7 on the year heading into a road matchup against Henderson State next weekend. The season will conclude a week later, on November 16, against Northwestern for Senior Day.



Samantha Tovar / CBA

BELLA MORRIS

Corn Bible Academy Senior

CBA Senior Bella Morris (Cordell) has qualified for the State Cross Country meet. Morris will compete alongside all other classes on November 2, 2024 at Santa Fe High School in Edmond.

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WEATHERFORD EAGLES	vs. Woodward	W 21-0
CLINTON RED TORNADOES	@ Elgin	L 7-42
SAYRE EAGLES	@ Fairview	L 24-49
THOMAS TERRIERS	vs. Mangum	W 47-46
WATONGA EAGLES	@ Hooker	L 0-53
SWOSU BULLDOGS	vs. SAU	L 48-14

Tune in to the Chuck Edward's SportsCast on The Coyote 95.5 at 7:50am and 5:30pm and NewsTalk 99.3 at 7:40am and 5:30pm for more information. Tune in to the Zoo SportsCast on the Zoo 101.7 at 8:40am & 5:40pm.

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