



Annual Pumpkin Festival Returns to the City of Cordell October 10th

**39TH ANNUAL
CORDELL
PUMPKIN
FESTIVAL**

**OCT. 10, 2026
9 AM - 3 PM**

**CAR SHOW • PARADE • ENTERTAINMENT • KIDS ZONE
FOOD TRUCKS • VENDORS • CONTESTS • AND MORE!**

THE BIGGEST FALL CELEBRATION IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA

Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

For nearly four decades, the Cordell Pumpkin Festival has been a beloved tradition providing locals with a pure celebration of fall fun. The event returns for 2026 on the second Saturday of October, (October 10th) from 9AM - 3PM.

The day kicks off with the Pumpkin Pancake breakfast at 7AM, providing the perfect way to fuel up for the festivities ahead. The breakfast will be held at 4th and College Church, with plates costing \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids 10 and under.

Starting at 9AM, the festival square will come to life, with over 100 vendors opening around the square and down Main Street towards the stoplight. They'll be supplying attendees with a wide variety of unique goods and mouth-watering treats. Additionally, children can immerse themselves in the Kid Zone, full of pony rides, bounce houses, and other fun activities.

As the morning unfolds, excitement will build for the Cordell Parade, an energetic display of colorful floats, marching bands, and community spirit. The parade is free to enter, with participants asked to line up near North Temple St. at 9AM, and the parade itself kicking off at 10AM. The line will begin on S College St. and travel around the Washita County Courthouse.

For baking enthusiasts, the festival's Pumpkin Baking Contest offers the perfect chance to show off your skills in making Pumpkin pies, cakes, cookies, candies, or breads. Once judges look over your recipies and taste your dish, they'll bestow their favorites with the title of "Pumpkin Festival Champion."

The competition will be held at 114 E Main, with Registration opening at 8AM and judging beginning at 9AM.

Meanwhile, auto enthusiasts won't want to miss the car show, featuring vehicles from vintage classics to modern-day favorites. Pre-registration is available through October 9th for \$25 per vehicle, with day-of registration open from 7:30AM - 10AM for \$30. The show runs from 9AM to 3PM, with awards presented at 2PM.

Aside from the standard car show, an Audio Contest will be held in the old High Plains Parking Lot (on the corner of N College St. and 1st Street) and a Burnout Contest at North Temple St.

Also featuring live music, a Chamber Booth Jail, and a 7PM showing of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" at Washita Theater, the Cordell Pumpkin Festival has been delivering fall magic for 39 years strong, and looks forward to celebrating the season with you. For more information, visit the Chamber website at www.CordellChamber.com or find them on Facebook.

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**LOCAL AND
AREA NEWS**

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News Director

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Kyra Huckabay
News Assistant

WESTOK / HUMAN TRAFFICKING - Five people face felony charges in three separate human trafficking cases after indictments by the Multi-County Grand Jury were recently unsealed. One of those cases involves 32-year-old Caleb Christopher Jordan Richey, an inmate at Great Plains Correctional Center in Hinton. It's alleged Richey used a contraband cellphone to advertise a victim for commercial sex, schedule dates with buyers, and collect the money she earned with help from 29-year-old Phalesha Reneice Bean. The indictment described 49-year-old lee Jerrod Sutter as a regular buyer to whom Richey and Bean sent women. Richey and Bean face four felony counts. Meanwhile, Sutter is charged with conspiracy to commit human trafficking and engaging in a pattern of criminal offenses.

CANTON LAKE / DROWNING - An investigation is underway by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol surrounding a drowning at canton lake Friday. OHP says the victim has been identified as 63-year-old George Highfill of Cherokee. Officials have not released details about what led to the drowning.

WEATHERFORD / AIRGAS FILING - 18 more individuals have filed suit in Custer County District Court against several defendants, including AirGas in connection with the November 2025 anhydrous ammonia tanker truck leak in Weatherford. Court records show the substantial release of anhydrous ammonia was caused by one or more failures allowing the fumes to infiltrate a hotel and spread into nearby homes, apartments, businesses and other structures, exposing plaintiffs and others to highly toxic and corrosive gas. Each plaintiff seeks damages in excess of \$75,000.

ELK CITY / FOOD PANTRY - More people are utilizing a western Oklahoma food pantry in Elk City; however, donations are also dropping. The Executive Director of Help Inc. Food Pantry, Wendy Walker, says the pantry is in great need of donations. The pantry serves about 900 families monthly in Beckham, Roger Mills, Dewey and Washita Counties.

LUCAS / AM RADIO - U.S. Third District Congressman Frank Lucas of Cheyenne shared his gratitude to the House for passing the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act. Congressman Lucas says he was proud to support the legislation, which serves Oklahoma District 3 well by maintaining emergency alerts, weather updates, and other critical programming to Oklahomans when they need it most. The legislation now moves on to the Senate.

CUSTER CO / SONG - A Weatherford man has pleaded guilty in Custer County District Court to a charge of cultivation of marijuana. In August of last year, Jing Song was stopped by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol while pulling an enclosed trailer that contained some 340 pounds of marijuana. Song will be sentenced on October 19th.

CUSTER CO / JURY TRIALS - Two jury trials that had been scheduled in Custer County District Court are off the docket. 55-year-old Joey Lee Barnett of Walters is charged with aggravated trafficking methamphetamine. The jury trial for Barnett has been moved to a pretrial hearing next February. Additionally, a trafficking illegal drugs case against 57-year-old Roderick Jones who allegedly sold methamphetamine and fentanyl to a confidential informant has been dismissed without prejudice after being unable to locate a necessary and material witness in connection with the case.



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Ruth Ulerý



Emma "Ruth" (Stone) Ulerly was born in Brownfield, Texas on November 16, 1935, to Marion Byron and Odessa "Dessie" Mae (Banks) Stone. She passed away peacefully at her daughter, Leisa's home in Thomas,

Oklahoma, on September 12, 2026. Ruth was 90 years old.

Ruth grew up in Brownfield alongside 4 brothers and 1 sister. The siblings lived close to their grandparents and had a happy childhood growing up in the orchard. Their mother's rule was once they caught their first butterfly, they were allowed to be barefoot outside. Ruth attended school in Brownfield. Ruth met Richard Ulery in 1952, when he was wearing a military suit.

After they were married, Rick was quickly sent to Korea. When he returned, the couple made their home in Brownfield and welcomed three daughters, Teresa, Deborah and Leisa. Rick began working in the oil field and the family moved to Woodward in 1963.

They purchased Rick's Drive-In in Woodward when the girls were teenagers and they all learned the value of working hard for what they had.

When Ruth's daughters were growing up, Ruth was very devoted to them. She was the director of the Day Camp and the ultimate Girl Scout. The family enjoyed going on a camping trip every year. Later, when the girls were grown, the women would have the "Gathering of the Goddesses" which was a weekend trip for just the four of them. Sometimes, the trips were bigger, out of state trips, and other years they stayed in Oklahoma. Big or small, they made the Gathering a priority. And when the granddaughters were adults, they were invited to come along as well. It was a sacred and special weekend they celebrated for 40 years.

Ruth was very talented and creative. When she was still living in Woodward, she spent many years designing and creating drapes, bedspreads, gowns and wedding dresses.

In 1999, she moved to Sulphur to be close to her daughter, Debi. She also enjoyed crocheting, needlework, painting and singing. Ruth had a beautiful voice and worked at Calvary Baptist Church in Sulphur for several years. Ruth joined Artists of the Arbuckles and enjoyed her time in their art shows. She was President for 3 years of the Artisan League.

Spending time with her daughters and grandchildren were very important to Ruth. And they adored her as much as she adored them. Ruth also had 2 very special cats, Hussy and Yoda. Yoda was the love of her life for 17 years and jokingly, the favorite daughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings.

Cherishing her memory, Ruth is survived by her daughters: Teresa Ulery Brown and her husband, Carl, of Fort Smith, Arkansas; Debi Ulery and her husband, Lawson Pair, of Sulphur, Oklahoma; and Leisa Redd and her husband, Larry, of Thomas, Oklahoma.

She is also survived by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Teresa's family: Brandon Morrison and his wife, Jackie, and their children, Tabor and Tegan, Amy Gay and her children, Ava and Annabelle, Ashley and John Lillie and their children, JJ and Eliza; Debi's family: Hartlee Abraham and her husband, Travis, and their son, Eli, and Colin Larkins and his son, Ivar, and step-daughter Marla Gracia and her husband, Marc, and their son, Cole, and step-son David Pair; Leisa's family: Aaron Holt and his daughters, Trinity and Shawwna, Malynda Blevins and her husband, Cameron, and their sons, Declan and Uriah, Kristopher Holt and his partner, Carrie Wirsch, and their children, Kylar and Charlie Holt and Makinley and Gavin, LaTisha Redd and daughter, Harlee and Josh Redd and his wife, Megan and their daughter, Kayia.

Ruth also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and other extended family members and friends.



Kathryn Ann “Kathy” Smith was born November 5, 1955, in Escondido, California, to J.C. “Jake” and Patsy Stotts. She entered her heavenly home on Sunday, September 20, 2026, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, surrounded

by her loving family.

Kathy graduated in Escondido, California, in 1973. Many of her childhood memories were made growing up in California with her parents and her brother, John. Kathy was a people person from an early age. Her home was the place where everyone felt welcome, and she always enjoyed having friends around. Her family later moved to Bridgeport, Oklahoma, where they built a home on the same land where her mother, Patsy, had grown up. Moving from California to Bridgeport was quite a culture shock for Kathy, but Bridgeport became home. She went on to graduate from Caddo Kiowa Vo-Tech as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1978. Kathy worked at Walmart in Weatherford beginning in 1988. Her friendly and outgoing personality came naturally, and she never had trouble making people feel comfortable and welcome. In 1980, Kathy welcomed her daughter, Patty Gayle, and became a devoted mother who cherished the time she spent with her.

Kathy later met the love of her life, Hal Smith. After Hal asked her for a date, the two quickly realized they had found something special and were married just four months later on July 31, 1989. They made their home in Bridgeport near Kathy's parents. In 1990, they welcomed their daughter, Krista Jean. Kathy later worked in home health care, where her caring nature made her especially well suited for her work. She was a loving and compassionate caregiver, and her patients often requested her personally as their home health aide. That same caring spirit extended to her family. Whenever someone was sick or needed help, Kathy seemed to know exactly what needed to be done to make things better. Her family was the center of her life. Kathy was a wonderful mother and the glue that helped hold her family together. She was always willing to go above and beyond to help those she loved.

Sandy Shepherd



Pastor Clarence “Sandy” Shepherd was born on April 11, 1933, in Butler, Oklahoma, to Grover Cleveland Shepherd and Mattie Spencer Shepherd. He departed this life on September 13, 2026, surrounded by the love

of his family and the faith that guided him throughout his years.

Sandy graduated from Arapaho High School in 1951. On July 12, 1953, he married the love of his life, Pauline Joyce Hubbard, in Butler, Oklahoma. Together they shared a devoted marriage that was a testament to faith, commitment, and love.

Answering God's call upon his life, Sandy began his pastoral ministry in April 1955 at Pleasant Valley Free Will Baptist Church, where he faithfully served for two and a half years. He then pastored Clinton Free Will Baptist Church for 22 years before continuing his ministry at Antioch Free Will Baptist Church, where he served for 31 years. Throughout his years of ministry, Pastor Shepherd faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, preaching approximately 6,000 sermons and touching countless lives through his dedication to the Lord and His people.

His commitment to the work of God's Kingdom extended beyond the local church. He was an active member of the Free Will Baptist Association, served on the State Executive Board for 31 years, chaired the Executive Board for 20 years, and faithfully served as Director of the Union Association Youth Camp for 20 years. Through these ministries, he helped mentor generations of pastors, young people, and church leaders.

Sandy enjoyed traveling, fishing, playing dominoes, and attending Arapaho-Butler Public School sporting events.



Stormy



H: 83° L: 67°
Wednesday

PM Showers



H: 79° L: 61°
Thursday

Mostly Cloudy



H: 69° L: 59°
Friday

Partly Cloudy



H: 76° L: 60°
Saturday

Partly Cloudy



H: 78° L: 56°
Sunday

Mostly Sunny



H: 78° L: 55°
Monday

Sunny



H: 81° L: 59°
Tuesday

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The Watonga Cheese Festival is celebrating it’s 50th anniversary this year and is once again partnering with the Plains Collective Art Festival to build a large line-up of fun-filled events from Friday, October 9th through Sunday, October 11th.

A Western Oklahoma mainstay, The Watonga Cheese Festival will kick off the festivities on Friday, October 5th with an opening ceremony scheduled at noon at Centennial Park.

Friday’s schedule of events includes art exhibitions, cooking demonstrations, vendors, discussion panels, cheese tasting lines, live musical performances as well as an Indigenous Fashion Show, hosted by the Plains Collective. The Plains Collective is a non-profit organization “formed to empower Oklahoma communities by uplifting Native American voices through literature, art, food and cultural expression,

fostering unity, pride, and understanding across generations and cultures,” according to their Facebook page.

The fun continues on Saturday, October 10th at 8am with registrations for Cheese Food Contest, Fry Bread Contest and the Great Rat Race. At 9am the Great Rat Race will begin on Noble Ave and will feature a 1 mile, 5K, and 10K run with swag and awards for the participants. From 9am to 5pm several activities and events will be open to the public, including: art vendors and art exhibitions; children’s activities such as a petting zoo, inflatables and a jr firefighters obstacle course; and a blood drive. At 10am judging for the Cheese Food Contest and Fry Bread Contest will begin as well as a dance performance by members of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe. Then at noon the Watonga Cheese Festival Parade will begin it’s route

down Noble Avenue. Following the parade, there will also be educational shorts as well as discussion panels hosted by the Plains Collective.

On Sunday, October 11th, the Plains Collective will wrap up the weekend’s slate of events with a Pow Wow at Legion Park in Watonga in conjunction with the Oklahoma City Pow-wow Club. All are invited, including non-natives and the Pow Wow will begin at noon with Gourd Dancing. At 2pm the Pow Wow will host the Grand Entry and then dinner will be served at 5pm. Attendees are advised to bring folding chairs and blankets to the Pow Wow.

For more information about the Watonga Cheese Festival, call 580-623-4669 or find them on Facebook. For more information about the Plains Collective Arts Festival and Pow-Wow, find them on Facebook or contact Ramona Tall Bear at 405-795-2802.

1926-2026

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When:
October 3, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Donation:
\$15 per person, \$5 child under 10

Silent auction, bake sale, and handmade items will be available. Proceeds will be divided between The Mission House - Clinton, Cordell Storehouse - Thrift Store & Food Bank, and the Peace Lutheran Laundry Ministry.

Adult Plate comes with Potato Salad or Chips, one Bratwurst or Hamburger (Gluten free), Sauerkraut, Drink, and a Dessert.

Extra entrees available for \$3. Child plate comes with a burger or brat, chips, and drink. To-Go Boxes Available.

For tickets, call 580-819-2674 or 580-515-4773

Southwest Playhouse Performs “Oklahoma!”



Provided by Misty Brooks Photography

The full cast of Southwest Playhouse’s production of “Oklahoma!” as seen during the closing song “Finale Ultimo.”

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Provided by Misty Brooks Photography

Angela Nichols gave a powerful performance throughout the show as leading lady Laurey. Pictured, left: Curly (Wesley Javorsky) and Laurey performing “People Will Say We’re in Love.” Pictured, right: Aunt Eller (Julie Williams) consoling Laurey.

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Curly (Wesley Javorsky) and Jud Fry (Christopher Curtis) having a tense conversation about Laurey towards the end of Act I.

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Happy Birthday Wishes for September 30 - Karen Bragg, Carlos Diaz, Kim Hicks, Danny Lenaburg, John Nutry, Charlotte Perry, Sharon Snider, Charlene Tanner, Randy Wynn; **October 1st** - Emma Brown, Bill Bursosky, Lexi Hamilton, Myron Lustfield, Jerald Stelling, Tracy Watkins, Josephine Whiteskunk; **October 2nd** - Cody Barrera, Mandi Bozarth, Lyla Bridgeman, Doris Brittain, Gage Butcher, Jolena Elisondo, Megan Hanna, Jeanna Hines, Grant Lee, Karen Melton, Harold Miller, Rose Millsbaugh, Kenneth Teek, Barbara Walker; **October 3rd** - Lynn Broadbent, Leon Evans, Rodney LaGrange, Steve Millsbaugh, Jimmy idgeway, Dustin Rose, Jordan Stark, Kim Suter, Jeffery Thomas, Nell Walker, Linda Young; **October 4th** - Kennedy Aispuro, Sharon Beach, Kenli Brooks, Christy Freeman, Trevin Gilliam, Kortney Hawthorn, Vicki Isaak, Oliver Lackey, Ranae Martinez, Gavin Nailon, Ryan Sandlin; **October 5th** - Eric Hoffman, Candice Weems, Valerie Whiteneck, Carol Wichert; **October 6th** - Sierra Duncan, Miranda Cardenas, Cheryl Justice, Casey King, Ginger Manning, Lyle Miller, Dana Ratcliffe, Rick Reel, Doyle Warren, Kori White.

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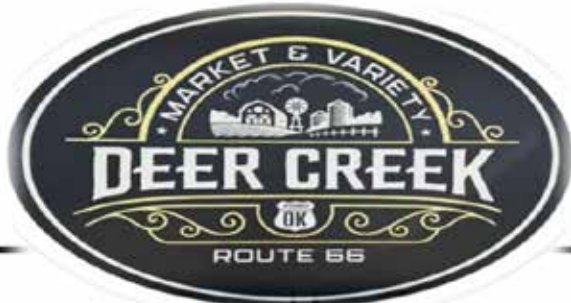
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My Own Little Piece of Oklahoma History

Column by Maxine McCullough



In late May of 1952, my classmates and I were returning from an absolutely wonderful High School Senior Trip (but that’s another story). As the bus pulled into town, I saw my mother and one of my best friends standing on the sidewalk to meet the bus. They were smiling, and while I wasn't bothered by it, it did make me curious as to why.

“Guess what,” my friend said, “I’m here to help you get ready to enroll in summer school at Oklahoma’s College for Women in Chickasaw!”

At the time, my immediate thought to this news was something along the lines of: What!? Summer School!? I just got out of school! What about hanging out with my friends this summer? What about going to the lake? What about my tan? I have a boyfriend! How will I make time for going to the lake with my boyfriend while I tan!? But my mother was already on board with the idea, and I was not interested in lodging my complaints with her.

So, I went to summer school...and I loved it! I made new friends, I liked my roommate, I enjoyed living in the dormitory, and when the time came to enroll for the fall term, I was elated. I joined a Social Club, I participated in plays and musicals, I served as Vice President of my freshman class, and I made it into the OCW Glee Club. I even found time to sing with an all-girl dance band! I was a very happy girl at Chickasaw’s College for Women in 1953.

Meanwhile, a young George Patterson Nigh was serving in the State’s House of Representative. He had heard the song “Oklahoma!” from the titular Broadway show numerous times. Nigh thought its rousing lyrics and upbeat music perfectly represented the state. He was ready to fight for this song to become our new state song.

Not all of the House members were in agreement on making the change from what was the anthem, “Oklahoma: A Toast,” but Nigh had a plan. There was a young man from Oklahoma that had played Curly, the musical’s leading man, and Nigh wanted him to join forces with a certain Glee Club hailing from Chickasaw’s College for Women. We were thrilled to hear the news, that we would stand before the House and sing our hearts out.

The song was adopted as the state song on May 13, 1953. Singing for the Rep, George Nigh as well as the entire House of Representatives may have just been one day in my life, but it’s cool to be a little part of Oklahoma History.

A lot of time has passed since then. The OCW became co-ed in 1974 and renamed to the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. George Nigh would go on to serve as the state’s Governor from 1979 – 1987, among other elected positions. He passed away on July 30, 2025, at the age of 98.

Football Sweeps Bulldog of the Week Honors

BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK

BRAXTON ETHERIDGE
Football

JAYLEN NIEDO
Football

Jared Steward
SWOSU Grad Asst.

SWOSU Football swept the Bulldog of the Week honors following its dominant 28-7 win over Oklahoma Baptist, with Braxton Etheridge and Jaylen Niedo taking home the weekly awards. The honor is presented by Wright Media, the official partner for SWOSU Athletics' livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Etheridge (Claremore, Okla.) led the Bulldog offense in his first career start, completing 15-of-20 passes for 166 yards and three touchdowns. SWOSU's 28 points were its most of the season through four weeks,

while the Bulldogs finished with 381 total yards of offense, including 215 yards on the ground.

Niedo (Cache, Okla.) helped anchor the Bulldog defense, which did not allow a point to the Bison offense on Saturday night. He recorded three tackles, including 1.5 sacks, and added an interception. The Dawgs scored just two plays later to take a 14-7 lead, a lead they would hold for the remainder of the game. SWOSU recorded six sacks on the night and held OBU to just 4-of-15 on third down, while forcing the Bison to go 0-for-2 on fourth down and never allowing them to reach the red zone.

Oklahoma History: The First Girl Scout Cookies



Provided by WayMarking.com

"A Promise to Keep" sculpture in Muskogee, Oklahoma by Artist Phyllis Mantik. The statue was dedicated on May 31, 2008 as three Girl Scout councils consolidated to form the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. It commemorates the first US Girl Scout baking and selling cookie fundraiser in 1917. The statue stands outside the Three Rivers Museum in Muskogee with the Cookie exhibition inside.

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Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Today, Girl Scout cookies show up in familiar boxes with names such as Thin Mints, Trefoils and Samoas. More than a century ago, there were no boxes, commercial bakeries or national cookie flavors. The first Girl Scout cookie sale was a much smaller affair, held by a newly organized troop in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

In the fall of 1917, Muskogee educator Miss Marion D. Brown brought Girl Scouting to Eastern Oklahoma. Brown, a former college gymnast, was a popular physical education teacher at Muskogee High School.

She organized the first local troop—the Mistletoe Troop—which held its inaugural meeting on October 17, 1917. The new troop was large from the beginning. The girls were divided into 10 platoons, each with eight members and an elected captain. Captains were Dorothy Livingston, Goldie Merriman, Julia Milne, Mildred Coffeen, Laura Reynolds, Ruth Swanson, and Kathleen Berry. Their early meetings included lessons in the Scout salute, Scout laws, knot tying and the meaning of the American flag.

Then came December. The troop was quickly put to work. By December, the young Girl Scouts had turned to baking cookies to raise funds. Working in home kitchens and meeting at the high school, the girls made cookies (as well as popcorn balls and printed calendars) and sold them to their neighbors and classmates. World War I was raging abroad, and local Girl Scout archives report that the proceeds were earmarked to send “Christmas bags to Oklahoma soldiers” overseas.

On December 17, 1917, the troop turned over their packages to the Red Cross for shipment, in care of Oklahoma’s own 142nd Infantry when the First Oklahoma Infantry and Seventh Texas Infantry consolidated at Camp Bowie, Texas. It’s fun that the very first Girl Scout cookie sale featured treats so the girls could ship gifts to the Doughboys.

The Muskogee Daily Phoenix reported on the girls' efforts at the time, stating the girls were “glad to be able to take part in this good work”.

That December fundraiser is now recognized by Girl Scouts as the organization's first recorded cookie sale. Five years later, the Girl Scouts took another step toward turning cookie sales into an organized national activity.

In July 1922, the idea of selling cookies had spread beyond Muskogee. The American Girl, the official Girl Scout publication of the period, printed a cookie recipe by Girl Scout director Florence E. Neil, living in Chicago, Illinois.

The recipe was intended for the council's approximately 2,000 Girl Scouts and gave troops a common recipe they could use when baking cookies to sell. The ingredients were basic: butter or a substitute, sugar, milk, eggs, vanilla, flour and baking powder. The recipe produced six or seven dozen cookies. Scouts could sell them for roughly 25 to 30 cents a dozen. These were usually sold in wax paper bags, sealed with a sticker.

By the 1930s, troops and councils across the country took note of Muskogee’s success and began their own fundraisers. The most famous early example came in Philadelphia: in 1933–1934, the Girl Scouts of Greater Philadelphia Council became the first council to sell commercially baked cookies throughout its entire district. The Girls sold them through the city’s gas and electric company windows.

In 1935, the Girl Scout Federation of New York used a box with the words “Girl Scout Cookies”. The scouts sold what they called the “Trefoil” cookie – a homemade shortbread modeled on the Girl Scout emblem. By 1936, the national Girl Scout organization had formally adopted a cookie-sale program nationwide, and by the next year, more than 125 Girl Scout councils were holding cookie sales.

The gradual shift from homemade troop baking to mass-produced cookies took a few more years. During World War II, bakers’ shortages made troops raise money with calendars and war bonds instead of cookies. But after the war cookie sales boomed, by 1948, 29 bakeries were licensed to produce official Girl Scout Cookies, and the classic four flavors shortbread, peanut butter, chocolate mint (now known as Thin Mints® - my favorite!), and frosted vanilla were standardized in the 1950s. And by 1978, for the first time, all cookie boxes featured the same designs and depicted scenes of Girl Scouts in action. The following year, the new Girl Scout logo appeared on the boxes.

The Girl Scout cookies were official and over the next several decades were a part of multiple awareness and fundraising missions. Like one in 1992, where the cookies made their way to outer space with NASA astronaut and Girl Scout alum Dr. Jan Davis who logged over 670 hours in space over three flights. In a Girl Scout article “Out of This World”, Dr. Davis mentions, “my favorite food was Girl Scout Cookies that I took with me. It was a real treat to have a Girl Scout Cookie in space!”

You can go see the Cookie exhibit inside of The Three Rivers Museum in Muskogee which now preserves the history of the Mistletoe Troop and the city's connection to the cookie program. Outside the museum stands a bronze sculpture called A Promise to Keep, created by sculptor Phyllis Mantik and dedicated May 31, 2008.



Marley Gregston and Cooper Bryant were named Weatherford Rotary Students of the Month. Pictured with them are Rotarian Andrew Carruth and HS Principal Garrett Smith.

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Bulldogs Win Thanks to Dominant Defense



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Football did not allow an offensive score and held Oklahoma Baptist to just 126 total yards in a commanding 28-7 road victory Saturday night.

The 126 yards were the fewest SWOSU has allowed since joining the Great American Conference in 2011 and the fewest allowed by the program in a game since 2006. The Bulldogs limited OBU to 39 rushing yards and 87 passing yards while keeping the Bison from reaching the red zone.

SWOSU finished with six sacks, two interceptions and 10 tackles for loss while holding Oklahoma Baptist to 4-of-15 on third down and 0-for-2 on fourth down.

The historic defensive showing was complemented by an efficient first collegiate start from Braxton Etheridge, who completed 15-of-20 passes for 166 yards and three touchdowns. SWOSU finished with 381 yards of offense, including 215 on the ground, to secure its first win of the season.

The Bulldogs wasted no time setting the tone. Etheridge connected with DeAndre Beasley for 58 yards on the first play from scrimmage, and Duce Hart scored on a 17-yard run one play later to give SWOSU a 7-0 lead just 19 seconds into the game.

Oklahoma Baptist's only points came from its defense late in the first quarter. Etheridge was sacked near his own goal line and lost the football, which the Bison recovered and returned 15 yards for a touchdown.

SWOSU quickly regained control behind its defense. Jaylen Niedo intercepted Brady Bricker early in the second quarter and returned the ball to the OBU 22-yard line. Two plays later, Etheridge found Beasley for a 19-yard touchdown to put the Bulldogs back in front 14-7.

The Dawgs added to their lead before halftime with a methodical 13-play, 70-yard drive that took more than six minutes off the clock. Etheridge capped the possession with an 8-yard touchdown pass to Baylor Nash, sending SWOSU into the break ahead 21-7.

Oklahoma Baptist opened the second half in SWOSU territory but was stopped on fourth down. The Bulldogs then produced their second takeaway on the Bison's following possession when Delmontre Pryor intercepted Bricker and returned it 22 yards to the OBU 16.

Although SWOSU was turned away near the goal line after the interception, the defense quickly forced another punt. The offense responded with a nine-play, 60-yard drive that ended with Etheridge finding Nash for a 7-yard touchdown late in the third quarter.

The two touchdown receptions were Nash's first scores of the season and extended the Bulldog lead to 28-7.

SWOSU erased nearly any remaining hope of an OBU comeback with a methodical fourth-quarter possession. Starting at its own 16-yard line with 11:04 remaining, the offense marched 64 yards in 15 plays and drained 7:58 from the clock.

The drive ended on downs at the OBU 20, but the Bison regained possession with only 3:06 remaining. Oklahoma Baptist managed seven yards before punting, allowing SWOSU to run out the clock.

Beasley led the receiving corps with 92 yards and a touchdown on four catches, while Nash finished with five receptions for 47 yards and two scores.

Keith Rockwell paced the rushing attack with 80 yards on 12 carries. Red Martel added 67 yards, while Hart finished with 57 yards and a touchdown. The trio combined for 204 of SWOSU's 215 rushing yards.

Niedo added 1.5 sacks to his interception. Keith Hargraves and Madox Sekyere also recorded 1.5 sacks apiece, while Sekyere, Keshawn Jackson and Bryson Jordan shared the team lead with five tackles.

SWOSU (1-3) remains on the road next Saturday for a 1 p.m. matchup against Henderson State in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

THE WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

WEATHERFORD EAGLES	@ Douglass	W 54-0
CLINTON RED TORNAOES	- BYE -	- ---
SAYRE EAGLES	@ Fairview	L 26-56
THOMAS TERRIERS	@ Apache	W 42-0
WATONGA EAGLES	@ Crescent	L 6-46
HINTON COMETS	vs. Hooker	L 13-55

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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