

Photos from the 39th Annual Cordell Pumpkin Festival (October 10th)



Krystal Blackwell / WM

Cordell's 4th and College Church of Christ welcomes guests to the Pumpkin Festival, selling snacks and novelty pens.



Krystal Blackwell / WM

"The Jelly Lady, LLC" selling their assortment of homemade jellies, jams, and baked goods like cinnamon rolls to festival-goers.



Krystal Blackwell / WM

Sandra's Salsa and Sweets sold homemade salsa, candied pecans, and cashews (among other goodies).



Krystal Blackwell / WM

Val the Gal with Wright Media riding on the back of "Charlie Brown," a pony provided for the event.

Presented by:

C.J.'s SOUTHWEST TIRE

LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director



Kyra Huckabay
News Assistant

BECKHAM CO / DIAZ - The Elk City Police Department Criminal Investigations Division investigated a case that resulted in felony warrants from Beckham County District Court that were issued for John Torres Diaz for sexual child abuse and rape by instrumentation. Following his court proceedings, Diaz removed his electronic ankle monitor and fled. The United States Marshals Service, the Elk City Police Department, and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol worked together to develop information that Diaz was at a residence in Dill City. Officers, with assistance from the Washita County Sheriff's Office, arrived at the residence, where Diaz barricaded himself inside the residence. Ultimately, Diaz surrendered and was taken into custody without further incident.

ODOT / GATZ RETIREMENT - The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Tim Gatz, recently told the Transportation Committee of his plans to retire at the end of October. A successor for Tim Gatz will be named in the future.

WEATHERFORD / ROSE BOWL PARADE The state of Oklahoma and the city of Weatherford will get some national attention on New Year's Day, according to Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown. "The Oklahoma Travel and Tourism Committee for the state of Oklahoma is having a Route 66 float in the Rose Bowl Parade on January 1st," Brown shared. "Front and center is going to be our spaceman, [among other landmarks] on Route 66. We are more than honored to be a part of that." Brown added there are still some additional details to follow surrounding the parade.

SAYRE / GRAIN FIRE - Fire officials in Sayre revealed, due to concerns regarding the structural integrity of a building at Sayre Grain, firefighters were unable to safely enter the structure to fully extinguish a fire that broke out at the facility. As a result, officials say the fire may continue to burn for several days. The department is actively monitoring the situation and will continue to assess conditions to ensure the safety of both firefighters and the surrounding community.

SWOSU / VALUE - Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) has earned a place among the best college values in the state of Oklahoma, ranking #2 among public universities in the best value colleges rankings by Niche for 2027. SWOSU ranks 4th among all colleges on the statewide list and leads the six universities in the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO). The recognition places SWOSU among the state's top choices in a ranking that weighs the cost of college against the financial outcomes of students.

WEATHERFORD / ROTARY - House Speaker Kyle Hilbert was the most recent guest speaker at Rotary in Weatherford. Hilbert spoke on the topic of education, specifically reading, saying that third grade retention is a form of accountability where students need to read at least at a second-grade level. "In the state of Oklahoma, working with Governor Stitt, we have passed the strongest literacy law in the country," Hilbert expressed. "Often time, a criticism of third grade retention is that third grade is too late. That's why the purpose of this bill is to have early interventions in Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. [We need to] detect if a student is behind so that we can have those earlier interventions."

Stormy H: 75° L: 62° Wednesday	Stormy H: 69° L: 49° Thursday	Cloudy/Windy H: 58° L: 40° Friday	Partly Cloudy H: 62° L: 45° Saturday	Partly Cloudy H: 68° L: 52° Sunday	Mostly Sunny H: 76° L: 59° Monday	PM Showers H: 74° L: 64° Tuesday
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OCTOBER 31, 2026

October 30-Homecoming Welcome Back Party 6-8pm
October 31- Homecoming Brunch & Tailgate 10am-2pm
October 31- SWOSU vs UAM 2pm

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OCTOBER	Place of Grace
NOVEMBER	Galleria Furniture & Appliances
DECEMBER	McDonald's

(Weatherford, Clinton, and Elk City)



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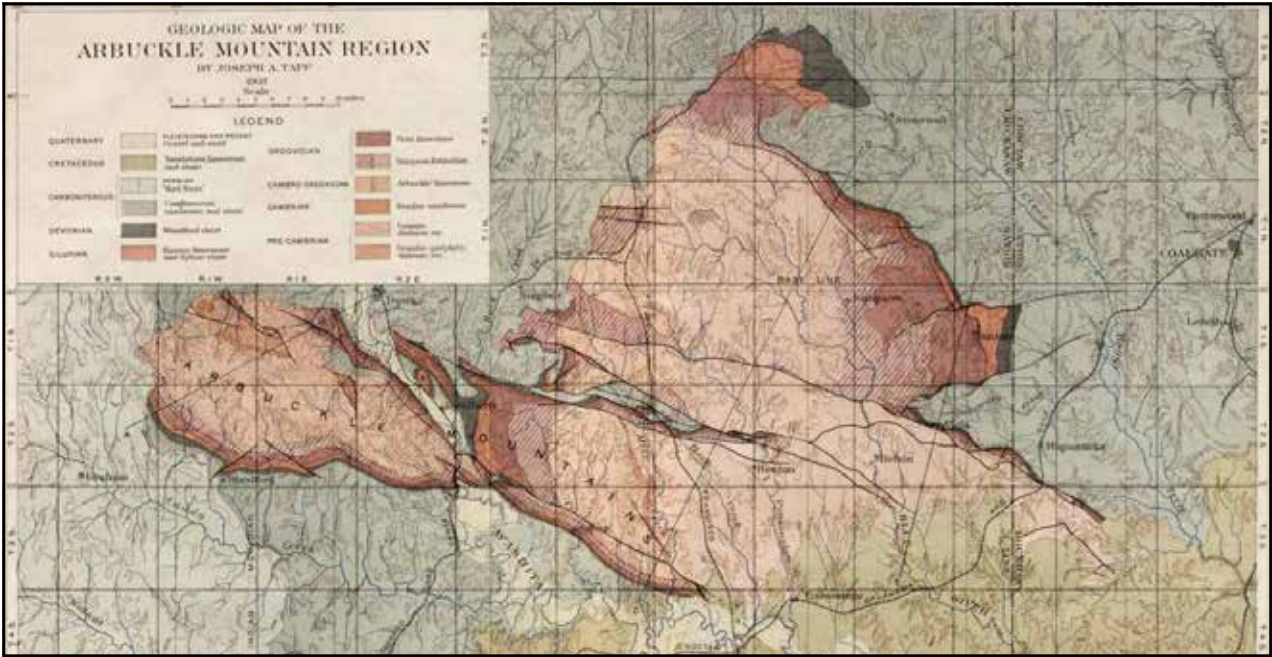


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Oklahoma History - Arbuckle Mountain Range



Provided by US Dept. of the Interior

USGS Arbuckle geologic map in January 1904 in a preliminary report on the geology of the Arbuckle and Wichita mountains in Indian Territory. By J.A. Taff and H.F. Bain.



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A photo of Turner Falls in south-central Oklahoma, circa 2004.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Long before Oklahoma had towns, highways or a state government, the Arbuckle Mountains were already rising across south-central Oklahoma. Today the range stretches through Murray, Carter, Pontotoc and Johnston counties, with exposed rock formations that reveal an unusually long geological history. Some of the oldest rocks in the Arbuckles date back roughly 1.3 billion years.

The mountains received their modern name from Gen. Matthew Arbuckle, a U.S. Army officer who commanded Fort Gibson. Fort Arbuckle was established near the Washita River in 1851 as part of the growing network of military posts across Indian Territory.

People had already been drawn to the area for centuries. The springs around present-day Sulphur provided reliable water and became important to Native peoples, including the Chickasaw. By the late 19th century, the springs had attracted a different kind of visitor as well. People began traveling to Sulphur in hopes that the mineral-rich waters could improve their health.

Sulphur Springs grew around the water, with hotels and bathhouses serving visitors who came to drink and bathe in the springs. The popularity eventually created concerns about development and the protection of the water itself. In 1902, the federal government acquired about 640 acres surrounding the springs and established the Sulphur Springs Reservation. It opened to the public in 1904, and Congress created Platt National Park there in 1906.

Platt was unlike the western national parks that were becoming famous for mountains, forests and enormous landscapes. Its appeal came from springs, creeks, shade and carefully developed recreation areas. The park became remarkably popular, receiving more visitors than Yellowstone and Yosemite in 1914. Automobiles made the trip easier for tourists, while campgrounds, trails, picnic areas and spring pavilions gave visitors places to stay and explore.

The landscape changed again during the Great Depression when the Civilian Conservation Corps arrived. From 1933 through 1940, CCC workers built roads, trails, bridges, campgrounds, dams and other improvements throughout the park.

They also planted hundreds of thousands of trees and shrubs. At its peak, roughly 200 men worked at the Platt project at one time, making it one of the largest and longest-running CCC projects in Oklahoma.

Further south, Honey Creek runs through the hills south of Davis before dropping 77 feet at Turner Falls. The waterfall became associated with Mazeppa Thomas Turner, who settled along Honey Creek with his Chickasaw wife, Laura Johnson, in 1878. Turner Falls then eventually became one of our best-known recreation destinations, surrounded by caves, trails, pools and exposed rock.

The city of Davis acquired the property in the early 20th century and later purchased additional land from the Turner family in 1925. Today, Turner Falls Park covers roughly 1,500 acres.

The Arbuckles contain Precambrian granite and gneiss that formed roughly 1.3 billion years ago, along with younger formations created during the Paleozoic Era. Over immense spans of time, uplift, folding, faulting and erosion shaped the ridges and exposed rock that we see across the range today. The same geological processes helped create the springs and unusual formations. They also contain the most diverse series of mineral resources in Oklahoma.

The modern boundaries of the recreational area came together recently. Congress authorized the Arbuckle Recreation Area in 1962, and in 1976 Platt National Park was combined with the Arbuckle Recreation Area to form Chickasaw National Recreation Area. And now, there are many campsites in the range, including the Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center, or simply Falls Creek. The camp is the oldest camp in Oklahoma, the largest youth encampment in the U.S., and the largest Christian camp in the world.



WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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Christian Free Store – Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK, Community Center** “Bible Study,” Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public. **OK Parkinson’s Alliance**, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford’s Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. Questions? Contact OK Parkinson’s Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@OKpa.org. **Iron Sharpens Iron** is a Christ-centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for October 14th - Glenda Atkins, Tiffany Dyer, Sara Hollan, Alena Miller, Judy Moore, Betty Palesano, Wyatt Peterman, Traci Calhoun Sanders; **October 15th** - Tristan Cardenas, Holly Cavanaugh, Jimmy Harris, Megan Hayes, Charla Hursh, Jaythan Higginbothan, Ernie Koop, JJ Maddox, Stanley Schantz, Shantey Schontz, Joy Smith, Harold Stobbe; **October 16th** - Elda Balzer, Amanda Carrizales, Aaron Hobbs, TJ Hodge, Carmen Newberry, Chesney Wade; **October 17th** - Sherri Berrong, Lake Celsor, Shelby Hamilton, Pearl Lee, Merideth Lowry, Angela Martinez, Allison McClemore, Karen McPhearson, Jennifer Payne; **October 18** - Ashley Bishop, Michaela Campbell, Jo Ann Cornell, Jean Miller, Zach Mogg, Chyrokia Noe, Dianah Robinson; **October 19** - Paynen Holley, Graham Murray, Erika Rivera, Jordan Stotts, Shane Swanee; **October 20** - Tina Bowman, Justin Branson, Kathy Kasper, Brenda Kimble, Eric Martin, Lauren Moshier, Loretta Propps, Janet Smith, Donnie Soddors, Pat Suderman.

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Craftsman Riding Mowers
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MISC.

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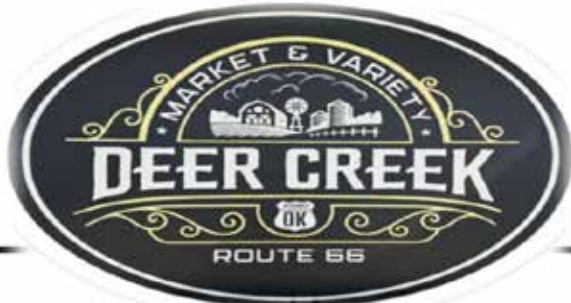
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Del Monte Ketchup, 20oz.	\$1.49	Hass Large Avocados	\$0.99 each
Crav'n Saltines, 16oz.	2 for \$3.00	Red-Yellow-Orange Bell Peppers	2 for \$3.00
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Betty Crocker Brownie Mix, 16.3oz.	2 for \$4.00	Boneless Ribeye Steak	\$19.99 lb.
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Food Club Marshmallow Cream, 7oz.	\$1.09	Pork Spare Ribs	\$2.99 lb.
Crav'n Snack Crackers (All Varieties)	2 for \$5.00	Porky's Bratwurst or Italian Sausage, 16oz. Pkg.	\$4.99
Crav'n Fudge Cookies (All Varieties)	2 for \$5.00	Frick's Ham Steaks	\$5.99 lb.
Dairy		Wrights Sliced Bacon	\$5.99 lb.
Pillsbury Biscuits, Crescents, Cinnamon Rolls	2 for \$6.00	Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops	\$2.99 lb.
Food Club Sour Cream, 16oz.	\$1.89	Dry Grocery	
Food Club Dip, 12oz. (All Varieties)	\$1.89	Sprayway Glass Cleaner	\$2.99
Food Club Chunk or Shredded Cheese, 8oz. (All Varieties)	2 for \$3.00	Holiday Napkins (Asst. Varieties)	\$1.99
Red Diamond Tea, 128oz. (All Varieties)	\$2.99	Tide Simply, 31-33oz. (Asst. Varieties)	2 for \$7.00
Food Club Cottage Cheese, 24oz.	\$2.99		
Minute Maid Orange Juice, 59oz.	\$4.69		

Braelee Epp and Kelton Moore Earn “Bulldogs of the Week” Honors

BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK



BRAELEE EPP
Soccer



KELTON MOORE
Football



Jared Steward
SWOSU Grad Asst.

Braelee Epp (Soccer) and Kelton Moore (Football) have been announced as the newest Bulldogs of the Week, presented by Wright Media, the official partner for SWOSU athletic livestreams and radio broadcasts.

Epp (Weatherford, Okla.) helped lead the offensive attack that saw the Dawgs outscore their opponents 7-1 during a perfect 2-0 week. She scored two goals, both game-winners, while adding two assists in Saturday's 4-0 victory over Northwestern. Epp now ranks second in the Great American Conference with six goals and 14 points on the season, trailing only fellow Bulldog Kinsey Geasland. She also leads the GAC with four game-winning goals.

Moore (Grand Prairie, Texas) scored the first defensive touchdown of the season for the Dawgs when he returned a 42-yard interception for a touchdown. The pick-six came just 25 seconds after the Bulldogs took their first lead of the game, helping shift the momentum in SWOSU's favor midway through the fourth quarter. It was SWOSU's first pick-six since last season, when Felipe Tristan returned an interception for a touchdown against Arkansas-Monticello.

Annual “Fight Hunger. Spark Change.” Campaign Raises Over \$189,000 for RFBO



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Audrey Johnson
Marketing Specialist

Shoppers in central and western Oklahoma helped raise more than \$189,000 for local families living with hunger during the Walmart and Sam's Club “Fight Hunger. Spark Change” campaign. The campaign, in its 13th year, is a collaboration between the Regional Food Bank, Walmart, and Sam's Club, along with its associates, suppliers and shoppers. Customers participated by donating at the register, rounding up their purchase as well as buying specially marked in-store products.

“Oklahoma is one of the hungriest states in the nation. The Regional Food Bank is incredibly grateful for Walmart, Sam's Club and the customers who helped support this campaign,” said Stacy Dykstra, Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Food Bank. “This donation will help us provide more than 567,000 meals to our neighbors facing food insecurity.”

“Not only do Walmart and Sam's Club consistently provide enough donations for thousands of meals each year through this campaign, but they also donate each month through our Retail Recovery Program,” Dykstra said. “Through the Retail Recovery Program, the Regional Food Bank and our community-based partners pick up surplus food donations that helps keep the shelves and freezers stocked at our partners across our 53-county service area.”

The Fight Hunger. Spark Change. campaign is part of a nationwide initiative that started in 2014, where each Walmart and Sam's Club across the country was matched with at least one of 200 local Feeding America® partner food banks.

The Regional Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's network of food banks. To learn more about how you can join the fight to end hunger, visit rfbo.org.

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WOCS: “Hamburger Fry” Event Coming to Weatherford, Returns to Clinton and Elk City

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WEATHERFORD & HINTON

OCT 23

Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

Not in the mood to cook dinner or just looking to grab a burger before heading off to your local football game? Make plans to eat at one of Western Oklahoma Christian School (WOCS)’s three Hamburger Fry events.

The first event will be held in Weatherford on Friday, October 23, at the Emmanuel Baptist Church (719 N Kansas Street). The second will be held in Clinton on Friday, October 30, at the Frisco Center (101 S 4th Street). The final event will be held in Elk City on Friday, November 6, at the city’s Convention Center (1016 Airport Industrial).

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. The meal includes a hamburger or hot dog, chips, baked beans, dessert, and drink, with dine-in and carry-out options available. Lunch will be served from 11 am - 1:30 pm at all three locations, but only Clinton and Elk City will be serving Dinner from 5 - 7 pm.

Entz Auction and Realty returns to host the online auction for all three events. Participants can view auction items at www.entzauction.com and click “View All Listings” to see if the event has been published to their website.

The main items up for grabs feature vacation and travel destinations to Branson, MO; Hochatown, OK; and Broken Bow, OK. A \$1K gift certificate for a local travel agent is also being advertised. Aside from these, the auction is also selling a Family Sports Pass for the sports season, a SOLO brand stove, and a guided fishing trip.

Additional items are being added regularly. Bidding will open on a later date.

The Weatherford and Elk City Event will feature a raffle, offering attendees a choice between a 6.5 PRC rifle, a \$500 Visa gift card, or a quarter of beef. Meanwhile, the Clinton event will feature two unique events: a “Basket Silent Auction” and a Bake Sale. This year’s basket themes include: Pioneer Woman, LEGO, Arts and Crafts, Sports Parents, Spa Day, Date Nights, Sweets, and Chocolate. The bake sale has previously offered delectables like cinnamon rolls, cakes, cookies, pies, and bread.

“We look forward to this event each year. It gives us an opportunity to serve our communities while sharing the love of Christ through our students,” said Dora Miller, WOCS Head of School.

This event supports the Clinton, Elk City, Hinton, and Weatherford campuses of WOCS. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact WOCS at 580-323-9150.

About Western Oklahoma Christian School:
WOCS is a non-denominational Christian school founded in 1987. Initially holding classes in Bessie, it moved two years later to the current location in Clinton. The Weatherford campus was added in 2007, with the Elk City Campus in 2011 and a new Hinton Campus in 2025.

WOCS provides Bible-based academic instruction for students, beginning with pre-kindergarten and continuing through sixth grade. The school offers computer, art, music, physical education, and Bible classes in addition to the standard curriculum. WOCS is accredited through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the State of Oklahoma.



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For questions, call Jennifer Hohmann at 405-929-0314 or Jimie-Wray Mead at 405-614-9042.



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SWOSU Rides 4th Quarter Swing to Victory



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU Football scored 21 unanswered points in just over five minutes during the fourth quarter to pull away from Southern Arkansas for a 28-18 victory Saturday at Flex-Chem Field.

The Bulldogs trailed 10-7 entering the final period before touchdowns from Red Martel and Duce Hart, along with a 43-yard interception return by Kelton Moore, turned the game in SWOSU's favor. The win improved the Bulldogs to 2-4 and gave Head Coach Andrew Rice his first victory over his former program, where he previously served as offensive coordinator.

SWOSU rushed for 243 yards, its third consecutive game with at least 215, while limiting Southern Arkansas to 278 total yards - the second-fewest allowed by the Bulldogs this season. The GAC's leading pass rush added three sacks and helped hold the Muleriders to three first-half passing yards. Southern Arkansas had only 24 through the air before gaining 66 on its final two possessions with SWOSU protecting an 18-point lead.

Southern Arkansas scored on its opening possession, but SWOSU answered with a methodical 17-play, 84-yard drive that consumed nearly eight minutes. Braxton Etheridge capped the march with an 18-yard touchdown pass to DeAndre Beasley, tying the game early in the second quarter.

The score remained 7-7 at halftime before a Southern Arkansas field goal put SWOSU behind late in the third. The Bulldogs appeared ready to answer when Charles Mutter broke free for a 59-yard run to the SAU 6. He carried on the next four plays as well, but the Muleriders stopped him at the 1 on fourth-and-goal.

SWOSU's defense answered by holding Southern Arkansas to 10 yards before a punt gave the ball back to the Bulldogs.

The game turned on the ensuing possession. Etheridge appeared to lose a fumble on a third-down

run and exited following the play, but targeting was confirmed against Southern Arkansas upon review. The penalty allowed SWOSU to retain possession at the SAU 14, and Martel scored two carries later to put the Bulldogs ahead 14-10 with 7:08 remaining.

Moore stretched the lead just 25 seconds later when he stepped in front of a pass and returned the interception 43 yards for a touchdown. Keshawn Jackson then forced a fumble on a sack during Southern Arkansas' next possession, and Jaylen Niedo recovered it at the SAU 39.

The Bulldogs kept the ball on the ground following the takeaway, running six consecutive times while draining more than three minutes from the clock. Hart finished the drive with a 6-yard touchdown run, extending the lead to 28-10 with 2:01 remaining and completing SWOSU's run of 21 points in 5:07.

Southern Arkansas added a touchdown and two-point conversion in the closing moments for the final margin.

SWOSU finished with a 355-278 advantage in total offense, converted 9-of-17 third downs and held possession for nearly 36 minutes. The Bulldogs totaled 10 tackles for loss and two takeaways.

Etheridge completed 19-of-26 passes for 112 yards and a touchdown. Mutter led the rushing attack with 99 yards on 13 carries, while Hart added 51 yards and a score and Martel finished with 47 yards and a touchdown. Beasley led the receiving corps with four catches for 25 yards and a score.

Jackson paced the defense with eight tackles, including four behind the line of scrimmage, and added a sack and forced fumble. Madox Sekyere recorded seven tackles, while Moore had six stops in addition to his pick-six.

The Bulldogs (2-4) remain home on a short week to host Southern Nazarene on Thursday, October 15. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. at Flex-Chem Field.

THE WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

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W 30-13

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@ Hinton

W 46-22

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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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