

Kiwanis Club and SWOSU Sponsor Bleed Off Challenge on June 28

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Weatherford Kiwanis Club President Barbara Jones (left) and SWOSU Support Personnel Organization President Melanie Fast wrestle for the Bulldog Bleed-Off Trophy as part of a blood drive challenge coming up Monday, June 28, on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford. Wondering who will win is Oklahoma Blood Institute Western Oklahoma Director Rick Story.

In a tug-of-war for bragging rights, the Weatherford Kiwanis Club and SWOSU employees have challenged each other to a "bleed off" during an Oklahoma Blood Institute blood drive that is open to the public on Monday, June 28, on the Weatherford campus.

The blood drive will be held from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Wellness Center.

The competition will be to see which group gets the greatest number of pints drawn for the size of their group. When someone donates blood, they will be asked if they are giving on behalf of Kiwanis or the SWOSU Support Personnel Organization.

"Southwestern Oklahoma State University does such good work with our blood drives that the Oklahoma Blood Institute created the 'Bulldog Bleed-Off' Trophy," said Rick Story, OBI director for western Oklahoma.

Cindy Dougherty, dean of students at SWOSU and drive coordinator, said the OBI reports they currently have only three days blood supply on hand and with the holidays coming up, that simply is not enough. The Weatherford Kiwanis Club and SWOSU are hoping for a big turnout to help the OBI.

"This drive matches the goals of Kiwanis because we are here to help kids and others in the community. This is a way we can reach out and help the greater community," said President Barbara Jones. "We also have a current Kiwanis member who is a transplant survivor so we think of and honor him with this drive."

SWOSU Support Personnel Organization President Melanie Fast said the university does not have as many students on campus like the fall and spring semesters, so area residents are encouraged to attend this blood drive to help out.

If the Kiwanis Club wins the challenge on June 28, their name will be inscribed and the trophy will be housed at Weatherford's BancFirst. If the SWOSU Support Personnel Organization wins, the trophy will be in the SWOSU Registrar's Office.

Dougherty said the real winner is the Oklahoma Blood Institute and the people who will benefit from the donated blood.