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Dr. Diana Lovell Named President of SWOSU

Dr. Diana “Diane” Lovell has been named president of Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford and Sayre.

Lovell—who has been serving as Vice-Chancellor of Student Services, Dean of Social Sciences and Professor of History at Blinn (TX) College District since 2012—will start as SWOSU president on July 1.

The announcement came at a special meeting of the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) Regents held March 3.

“Dr. Lovell is well-positioned to provide the leadership to take SWOSU to the next level. Her ability to build innovative programs and create community connections will not only grow the enrollment of SWOSU but also demonstrate the value of higher education,” said Susan Winchester, chair of the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO). “Her deep roots in western Oklahoma and SWOSU will enable her to hit the ground running.”

Lovell was born and raised in Weatherford within the shadow of SWOSU. Both her parents taught at SWOSU with her father serving as chair of the Biology Department and mother teaching in the Home Economics Department. Additional family members have deep connections to SWOSU.

“I am honored the RUSO board has appointed me as the next president of SWOSU, and I look forward to partnering with the entire western Oklahoma community to further strengthen our educational system,” Lovell said. “I am passionate about building innovative programs and alliances with key stakeholders to grow the economy of western Oklahoma and the enrollment of SWOSU while forging connections with the community.”

Lovell has a B.A. in Education from Baylor University in 1989, a M.A. in History from the University of Houston in 1992 and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Houston in 2003. In addition to being at Blinn College District, Lovell has served as Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities at Houston Baptist University.



Provided

The Weatherford Lady Eagles advance to the 4A state basketball tournament beating Harding Charter 62-42 and bring home the area consolation trophy. The Lady Eagles will face Verdigris at the Big House Tuesday March 9th at 2pm. You can catch all the action at wright.media on CoyoteTV or 100.3FM Coyote Classic.

Hover over this QR code with your Android or iPhone to catch all the **2021 WEATHERFORD EAGLE PLAYOFFS!**



Step Up Transitional Living plans fundraiser dance hosted at Sorrelle

STEP UP Transitional Living, along with Sorelle and The Burlap Napkin, is presenting their “Sweetheart’s Spring Fling” on April 2, from 7:30 PM – 11 PM at Sorrelle – The Meadow on Deer Creek. The fling will feature an evening of great music, exceptional food, specialty cocktails, and dancing. The dance is open for all; so, bring your date or a group of friends and kick it at “western Oklahoma’s premier wedding and event venue!”

Tickets start at \$60 (\$100 for 2 tickets) and are available online at STEP UP’s website under “events” until March 25th just visit <https://www.stepuptransition.org/> to purchase tickets. Any potential sponsors can sign up as well with many different levels and opportunities available. Before the doors open, a VIP Invitation-Only Sponsor Reception will take place that includes an open bar and appetizers.

Congratulations to the Hydro-Eakly Boys and Girls on Class A State Championship and Academic State Champions



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Daisy Mae Sisson

Daisy Mae Sisson was born March 14, 1956, in DeQueen, Arkansas to Elzie and Mattie (Vance) Conatser and passed away Saturday, February 27, 2021, at home in Fay, at the age of 64 years, 11 months and 13 days.



Daisy was raised in Alfalfa and graduated from Carnegie High School in 1974. She attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University for 2 years. On September 10, 1976, Daisy married Mitch Sisson in Alfalfa and made their home in Watonga. They moved several times and settled in Fay. In 1991 she started working for Watonga Cornerstone Bank and retired February 2020 after 29 years. Daisy enjoyed gardening, vacationing with the family, Chinese food, her church activities and spending time with family, friends and her grandchildren and watching their sporting events.

Daisy is survived by her husband of 44 years Mitch Sisson of their home in Fay; three daughters: Kristy Cole of Watonga, Lechia Miller of Watonga and Shelly Pendergraft and husband Austin of Omega; two brothers: Gary Conatser and wife Sylvia of Jefferson City, Missouri; and Bobby Conatser of DeQueen, Arkansas; five sisters: Betty Hines and husband Jackie of Garden City, Kansas, Teresa Burton and husband Steve of Eakly, Margaret Recker and husband Donnie of Eakly, Ruby Conatser of Coalville, Iowa and Audrey Hines and husband David of Gotebo; and eleven grandchildren: Tanner Seifried, Hunter and Addilyn Cole, Montana; Shelby, Rylan, Samuel and Mya Miller, and Jonah, Lukah and Judah Pendergraft. She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother Doyle Ray; and one sister Marilyn.

(Fay), Joe Don Stinson (Oakwood), Sandra Hightower (Watonga), Allen Stinson (Fay), Dal Stinson (Oakwood), and Neal Stinson (Oakwood); 20 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, and 35 great-great-grandchildren. What a legacy she leaves!

Shirley Ann (Belanger) Beckett

Shirley Ann (Belanger) Beckett (nee Ziegler) was born almost 86 years ago to Elvira and Harvey Ziegler in the farmhouse on their dairy farm near Brillion, Wisconsin. Shirley was the youngest of the 3 Ziegler girls; sister Iris married Ed Van and ended up near Scottsdale AZ, and oldest sister Faith married Orlo Koerth, stayed home and ran Fay-lo Farms until just a few years ago. The house where Shirley was born and grew up is now occupied by her nephew Gary and Alice Koerth; and Shirley's love for that place was evident throughout her whole life even in her last days. Shirley married her high school sweetheart Eldred (El) Belanger at the young age of 19 and by age 26 was raising 5 children. One of Shirley's early jobs (mostly to get some time away from mommy chores) was waiting tables in Green Bay, near the GB Packers' HQ. Serving Ray Nitsche coffee made Shirley a lifelong and rabid "cheesehead." In 1962, after seeing the difficulty of selling root beer year-round in Milwaukee at the A&W Drive-In, they ran together, Shirley, El and her clan piled into their Rambler and moved to the warmer plains of Weatherford, Oklahoma. For the next twenty-six years, Shirley ran the household and raised the lively fivesome, while El opened and ran various businesses, including several A&W's, The Spot Restaurant near SWOSU's campus, and a coffee and vending company, serving the 3M plant. Shirley was involved in all aspects of each venture, but spent most of her energy corralling 5 rambunctious kids; she was a gourmet cook (her German potato salad was unmatched), a church leader of the strongest faith, master gardener, soprano, artist, taxi driver, cheerleader and coach. (Bert even remembers a well-deserved left hook.) After the youngest Belanger entered college, Shirley, herself, earned a bachelor's degree in Art and later 2 master's degrees, Art and Special Education, all at SWOSU. The farm girl in Shirley was never idle: watercolors, choir performances, selling Mary Kay, working for a radio station, GOP Women's duties and hosting WHS Dutch exchange student Arthur Storimans kept this lady busy 24/7. In 1988, Shirley and El left Weatherford and moved to the Austin area, which started a chapter that led her back to Oklahoma where she taught Special Ed in the Moore school system for ten years. It was during those years that she bumped into Ronald Beckett in ballroom dancing class. This commenced a 25 year romance and marriage with Ron that involved much fun, travel and, yes, dancing. Upon their retirements, they sold their home and bought into an independent living apartment at Spanish Cove in Yukon. Early on, they enjoyed the activities and stayed involved at Church of the Servant, both singing in the choirs and enjoying the Lyric and other OKC offerings. They especially enjoyed their one and only streetcar ride. As their health declined, they moved through the continuum of care at Spanish Cove. Shirley's "spunk" was a constant, especially when we retired their automobile (license plate: "2DANCERS"). Shirley stayed active with exercise, her sewing and art, until those things were no longer physically possible for her. During the COVID pandemic, Shirley was able to stay in touch with her family through frequent FaceTime and GrandPad calls. Ultimately, her precious body wore out, but Shirley maintained a steady faith in God, an amazing wit and a sassy sense of humor that has buoyed us all. There is no doubt her physical presence and strong voice (and opinions) will be greatly missed by us all,



but Shirley is most certainly chatting and dancing with Jesus as you read this. Our beloved Shirley Beckett is survived by her devoted husband Ronald Beckett, of Spanish Cove, Yukon, OK, daughters Barbara McKown Belanger and Michelle (Chelly) Quinn, sons Bruce, Mark and Bert Belanger, and all of their wonderful families – 5 spouses, Randal McKown, Joe Quinn, Sarah Belanger, Debi Belanger and Paula Belanger, as well as 12 grandchildren - Brooke Storer, Blake Belanger, Clay Quinn, Jill Tuttle, Josh Quinn, Robert Belanger, Matthew Belanger, Jason Belanger, Alma (Allee) McKown, Lauren Merrell, Joe Merrell and Kaitlyn DeAngelis, and 16 great-grandchildren (you know who you are and how special each of you were to "Mama Shirl," including the 3 babies on the way). Shirley is also survived by her sister Iris Van and cherished her relationship with the Vans and the Koerths, especially godson Gary Koerth. Mom modeled strength, fortitude, and an adventurous spirit for her 5 children. She taught each of us how to love, laugh and work hard, to be resilient and to enjoy the moment. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, any memorials be directed to the Church of the Servant. The family also wants to say a special thanks to her angelic caregiver Connie Daniels, to Paula Avery, the owner of Caregiver Connections, and to the caring staffs at Spanish Cove, Mercy Hospital, INTEGRIS Hospice House and Lockstone Funeral Home. It took a whole village to get Shirley safely home. The family plans to celebrate her life often and boisterously in a private family service in OKC on March 6, 2021; those friends of Shirley who wish to join via Zoom can find a link at www.lockstonefuneralhome.com. We also plan a post-COVID memorial and celebration near Shirley's farmhouse in Brillion, Wisconsin, during the coming year.

Delores Willene (McNutt) Stinson

Delores Willene (McNutt) Stinson was the 7th of eight children born to Lee and Alexier McNutt on January 12, 1922, at Stuart, Oklahoma. She passed from this life in Weatherford on February 27, 2021, at the age of 99 years, 1 month, 15 days.



Delores lived most of her life in the Fay and Oakwood communities where she was well-known for her peanut butter pies. She was a member of the Oakwood Christian Church.

Delores grew up as her family followed the cotton crops from place to place. While visiting her sister Thelda at Nobscoot in 1936, she met her husband Don Stinson. They married on Halloween and were married for 55 years. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother.

Delores was a busy woman and a hard worker. She not only raised eight children but also picked cotton, worked in the sweet potatoes, cooked in both the Fay and Oakwood School cafeterias, ran the Malt House at the Y, worked in housekeeping at the Thomas Hospital and Nursing Home for over 25 years, and helped Joe Don and Allen to run J & A Skating.

She loved traveling and being involved with her family. She took numerous bus trips with Turner Tours and the Baldwin Community Bus, took a Caribbean Cruise with her grandson Brad, and made every event possible in which her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren participated.

Delores was preceded in death by her parents, her four brothers: Lester, Hollis, Oney, and Cleason; her three sisters: Lois, Thelda, and Leota; her husband Don Stinson, her grandson Roger Dale Baldwin, and son-in-law Jimmy Didier.

She is survived by her eight children: Donna Lee Baldwin (Fay), Velda Chain (Oakwood), Kay Didier

Ashley Grybowski

Funeral Services for Ashley Grybowski, 21, Arapaho resident were held 1:00 P.M., Monday, March 8, 2021 in the Weatherford First Baptist Church, officiated by Doyle Kinney and Allison Kendall. Burial followed in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Ashley Kay Grybowski was born March 12, 1999, to Brett Allen Grybowski and Lisa Michelle (Elston) Grybowski in Clinton, OK and passed away Monday, March 1, 2021, at home in her Dad's loving arms after losing a courageous battle with cancer.

Ashley was raised in Arapaho. She has attended Arapaho Schools and graduated salutatorian of her 2017 Graduating Class. She was active in high school basketball, FCA, FFA and was on the academic team and achieved several honors. She also danced at Cinderella's Dance Studio in Elk City for 11 years. She continued her education at Oklahoma Southwestern State University in Weatherford and graduated this spring with a degree in Elementary Education.

She was employed with Southwestern Oklahoma State University as assistant in Dean Kinder's Office and was substitute teaching at Arapaho-Butler Schools. She was a member of Sigma Sigma Chi Sorority, Kappa Delta Pi, Gamma Delta Kappa and was a student government senator at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She was also actively involved in Weatherford FBC University.

Ashley enjoyed many other things including: traveling, concerts, shopping and most of all being with her family and friends; she especially enjoyed watching her sister cheer and her brother trap shoot.

She is preceded in death by her paternal grandmother Nancy Grybowski; maternal great-grandparents Paul and Frances Arington and Johnny and Vera Elston and paternal great-grandmother Hazel Grybowski and paternal great-grandparents Charlie and Maurita Carder.

She is survived by her parents Brett and Lisa Grybowski, sister Kinley Grybowski; all of the home; brother Corbin Grybowski, Woodward.

She is also survived by maternal grandparents Danny and Linda Elston, Arapaho, OK; Richard and Merle Grybowski, Honolulu, Hawaii; two cousins: Lauren Zirtzman and husband Andy, Yukon, OK and Kiley Grybowski, Elk City, OK; and uncle Bobby Elston, Nashville, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested those wanting to give a memorial contribution may do so to the Ashley Grybowski Scholarship Fund that has been set up at Clinton Interbank, 807 Gary Boulevard, Clinton, OK 73601.

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Bulldog Volleyball Downs SNU for Third Straight Win

Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director



The SWOSU Volleyball team picked up their third consecutive victory with a straight-set victory over Southern Nazarene at the Pioneer Cellular Event Center.

The Bulldogs won the match by set scores of 25-16, 25-19, 25-22 and they had the edge across the stat sheet and held SNU to just 37 kills and an attack percentage of .197 on the night, which included just eight kills in the first set. SWOSU hit .362 for the match with six players combining for 49 kills and just seven attack errors.

Samantha Kuzma and Chezney Nielsen led the way offensively with 13 kills apiece and just one attack error between them. Kuzma had the fourth-highest attack percentage in school history for a single match, hitting .619 with 13 kills on 21 swings without an error while Nielsen finished with a double-double after also garnering team-high honors with 13 digs. Emma Cohalla and Taryn Galt had eight kills apiece and Lacy Mott added six.

"Our players played hungry and played for each other tonight against a really well-coached team," SWOSU Head Coach Josh Collins said following the match. "Offensively, we have been pretty consistent but tonight we played better defense and were very competitive in the serve and pass game. Now we have to prove that we can do it night in and night out."

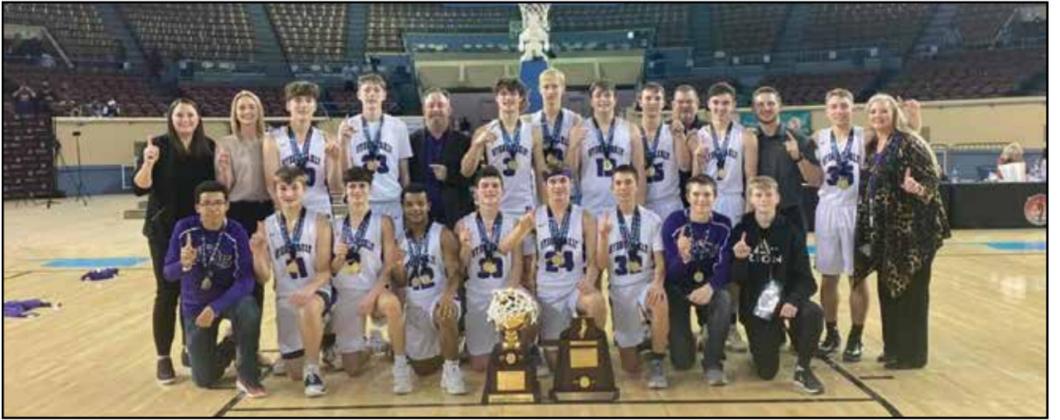
SWOSU Volleyball has six matches remaining in the 2021 spring schedule, the next of which comes on Wednesday, March 10th, at East Central.

Arapaho-Butler Pre-K enrollment

Enrollment for Arapaho-Butler's Pre-K program is now open online. Anyone wanting to enroll their child will need to email De-idre Scott at dscott@arapaho.k12.ok.us with their name, cell phone number and their child's name. In-person enrollment for anyone in need of assistance will be held 4 p.m.-7 p.m. March 9 at Arapaho-Butler Elementary School. Residents can contact Principal Brad Southall at 580-323-7264 for more information. Students must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2021, to be eligible for the program.



Hydro-Eakly Lady Bobcats bring home the gold ball Saturday beating Vanoss 79-48 making them back to back Class A State Champions as well as Academic State Champions.



The Hydro-Eakly Bobcats bring home the gold ball Saturday beating Garber 78-43. The Bobcats also took home Academic State Champions.

SWOSU Sets Dates for Commencement Activities



Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford and Sayre has announced the schedule for Commencement ceremonies for 2020 and 2021 graduates.

All ceremonies will be held at the Pioneer Cellular Event Center and will also be live-streamed.

In order to comply with CDC guidelines and SWOSU regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic, guest seating will be limited to two guests per graduate. Bar-coded tickets for guests will be provided to graduates, and tickets will be scanned for admission. The tickets will be available through stubwire.com at a future date. Guests will be required to wear masks and observe

social distance.

All 2021 undergraduate ceremonies are on Saturday, May 1, either at 10 a.m. or 4 p.m. All 2020 undergraduate ceremonies are on Sunday, May 2 (one ceremony is scheduled now, and another will be added if there is a need).

All pharmacy students, 2020 and 2021, will graduate on Friday evening, April 30, at 7 p.m.

All master's and Ed.S. students, 2020 and 2021, will graduate on Saturday, May 1, at 1 p.m.

Additional commencement information can be found at: <https://bulldog.swosu.edu/commencement/index.php>

The SWOSU graduation application deadline is April 11. After that date, students may submit a graduation application and participate in the appropriate commencement ceremony, but their name will not be printed in the program.

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Elizabeth Moreno Named GAC Defender of the Week

The Great American Conference announced the league's first Women's Soccer Player of the Week awards of the 2021 spring season recently.

GAC DEFENDER OF THE WEEK – Elizabeth Moreno, Allen, Texas, D, So.

Moreno played a major role in anchoring the Bulldog defense that allowed only four shots on goal combined in their two wins of the spring season – a 1-0 home victory against East Central and a 2-0 blanking of Northwestern Oklahoma State. She played 172 of 180 available minutes.



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For Sale- Couch with hide-a-bed. \$100. Blue recliner. \$30. Love seat, cream colored, \$30. Wood rocker, excellent condition, \$75. glider rocker \$75 Call 580-613-0108.

For Sale- Queen box springs and mattress, good shape. \$100. (580) 772-7530 or (580) 302-2496

For Sale- beautiful traditional Bernhard sofa with matching chair (love seat) excellent condition. \$400 (2) occasional chairs, coffe table. (580) 772-6344 or (580) 819-1464.

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LOCAL & AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

CUSTER COUNTY DISTRICT COURT- A Weatherford man, charged with first degree murder, is scheduled for a jury trial on April 26th in Custer County District Court. Twenty-two-year old Cole Isaac Phillips is charged in the April 4th, 2020, shooting death of 20-year old Joshua Price. Court records show that Phillips told police that Price came to his house, angry, and was trying to fight him and that Phillips defended himself. Additionally, Phillips said Price made threats against him when Price shoved him. Phillips drew his weapon and shot Price twice. However, authorities say there did not appear to be any signs of a struggle inside the residence and the two men had been arguing via text leading up to the incident.

CUSTER COUNTY DISTRICT COURT- A week-long trial is set for a murder suspect recently bound over in Custer County District Court. Thirty-seven year old Dennis Ray Rigsby Jr., is charged with the murder of his mother, 66-year old Judy Mullin, who was found deceased on the floor of a camper the pair had been traveling in. The trial is planned for November 15th. Court records show Rigsby and his mother were enroute back to the state of California when Rigsby said he punched her, choked her with some clothes, and hit her with an unknown object after she would not give him her cell phone.

CANUTE SCHOOLS BOND ELECTION- Two bond propositions in the Canute school district passed at the ballot box last week, getting just

over 75% support. Passage of the bond issues will allow for Chromebook devices for junior high and high school students, transportation needs and facility improvements to make the campus accessible to students and guests and allow the district to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

SWOSU DISTINGUISHED HALL OF FAME- Two individuals are being inducted into the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Distinguished alumni Hall of Fame in 2021. They are Evangeline Vann Greer Andrews of Oklahoma City from the class of 1960 and Earl A. Greene Jr., of Las Vegas, Nevada, class of 1973. Andrews was the only female dental specialist in Oklahoma for the first 16 years of her practice. Greene joined the Clark County Nevada Fire Department, following graduation from SWOSU. During a 33-year tenure of service, Greene served in a wide variety of roles within the department. In 1996, Greene was named Fire Chief.

CLINTON AMBULANCE PROPOSAL- Clinton City Council heard a presentation from Johnny Redd of Sinor EMS for the renewal of its ambulance services agreement. Redd presented about seven changes, one of which dealt with the amount of funding the ambulance service receives each month. Redd said he is proposing a flat monthly rate from the city rather than the current per water meter rate. He said the ambulance service receives only a prorated rate if someone fails to pay their water bill or moves out before the end of the next billing cycle. Redd said the ambulance service still provides its

service to the home even if that residence is behind on its water bill.

WEATHERFORD SALES TAX- Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown said preliminary sales tax receipts are up for the month of January by 16%. Brown said he is a bit concerned about February sales after bad weather forced some businesses to close during that time.

WEATHERFORD SMOKE DETECTORS- It has been a deadly year around the state, concerning fatal structure fires. Weatherford Fire Chief Mike Karlin stresses the importance of having a working smoke detector in your home. Karlin said there have been over fifteen residential fire deaths in the state this year. He said none of those homes had working smoke detectors. He said of the several house fires locally last month, two homes failed to have working smoke detectors.

House Passes Bill Prohibiting Forced Closure of Places of Worship



The Oklahoma House of Representatives passed legislation to protect religious freedom and the constitutional right to worship.

Rep. Brian Hill, R-Mustang, presented House Bill 2648, also known as the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act, which dictates that anything closing places of worship would be considered a substantial burden on people's freedom of religion.

"People came to this continent seeking religious freedom and to escape a tyrannical government, and our country's founders had the wisdom to specifically outline the freedom to worship in one of our founding

documents," Hill said. "My faith, like many Oklahomans, is at the core of who I am, and this bill further protects our God-given right to worship."

House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City, is a co-author of the bill.

"This country was founded by individuals seeking freedom to worship in the manner they so choose without persecution," Echols said. "I can think of nothing more patriotic than protecting those rights for future generations."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

HB2648 passed the House 80-18 and is now available to be considered by the Senate, where it is authored by Sen. David Bullard, R-Durant.

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WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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Happy Birthday Wishes for March 10th- Anjali Gandhi, Taylor Grogan, Brian Hamar, Charlene Harrington, Dale Heinrichs, Trent Keasler, Teddy King, Brent Miller, Brad Perkins; **March 11th-** Angie Caler, Perry Cleaver, Megan Davenport, Laurie Garcia, Kelsey Granger, Kelsey Granger, Sesario Sambrano, Keith Sawatsky, Carmelito Switzer, Duncan Taylor, Kevin Townsley, Jason Trout, Kurt Van Huss, Winnifred White Tail, Hailman White Tail Jr., Tara Williams; **March 12th-** Julian Borjas, Randy Devine, Tony Graham, Ronnie Schmitz, Bill Stamper, Kyle Wager; **March 13th-** Richard Baugher, Kim Cisco, Kevin Evans, Debbie Garrison, Betty Klaassen, Terrel Leonard, Eileen Mullins, Brandi Nabors Rizzi, John Shaddon, Eva Zitterkob; **March 14th-** Rudy Ahdokobo, David Altland, Summer Bass, Brandy Carlson, Elise Cornell, Erica Creswell, Brandi Gateley, Mary Katherine Nail, Eddie Perkins, Steve Thomason, Sara Townley; **March 15th-** Brenna Butler, Mike Goosen, Casey Murray, Jennifer Scuggs; **March 16th-** Calvin Browning, Tucker Goodall, Jara Griffin, Morgan Hanson, Richie Hull, Floyd King, Julie Maddox, Craig Nabors, Keely Norslok, Virgal Slagell, Darren Tozcko

SPORTS *Presented by:*



Lady Bulldogs Selected for Sixth NCAA Tournament Appearance

Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director

For the sixth time since 2013, the SWOSU Women's Basketball team has been selected to participate in the NCAA Division II National Tournament. The Lady Bulldogs earned the No. 2 seed in the South Central Regional, which will take place on March 12-15 in Canyon, Texas.

SWOSU is in the national tournament field for the fourth consecutive season, although the 2020 tournament was not played due to COVID-19. The Lady Bulldogs made each of their previous five appearances in the Central Region, including a Regional Championship and a run to the National Championship game in 2019.

As the No. 2 seed, SWOSU is one of two teams in the South Central Region and 16 nationally to earn a bye in the regional quarterfinal round. The Lady Bulldogs will meet the winner between an opening round game between Southern Nazarene, the GAC Tournament Champions, and Texas A&M-Commerce, an at-large selection from the Lone Star Conference, on Saturday at a to be determined time in Canyon.

The other opening round game on Friday will feature Arkansas Tech against Cameron, with the winner advancing to face the region's No. 1-seed Lubbock



Christian, who enters the national tournament as the top-ranked team in NCAA Division II with an 18-0 record. Both regional semifinals will take place on Saturday,

March 13, at the First United Bank Center in Canyon, with winners advancing to the regional championship game on Monday, March 15.

Bulldog Baseball Takes Two-of-Three from Oklahoma Baptist

Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The SWOSU Baseball team won the first two games of their three-game Great American Conference series against Oklahoma Baptist to claim the series victory despite a loss in the series finale on Saturday.

The Bulldogs are now 4-3 on the year and 3-3 in GAC play through two weekends of conference action. SWOSU Baseball returns to action next weekend in Bethany, taking on Southern Nazarene for a three-game set.

The Bulldogs scored three runs apiece in the third and sixth innings and forced OBU to leave three runners on base in the final two innings to hold on and take the series opener on Friday afternoon. Alex Bedard was 3-for-4 with two runs scored and one RBI while Miguel Soto also had two hits and scored twice. Each of the first five batters in the lineup had an RBI in the game, with Zach Baxley also recording multiple hits with a pair of doubles.

Vance Ferraro got the start and struck out three in 4.2 innings of work before giving way to Ryan Hildner (1-0), who was the pitcher of record after allowing two runs

on three hits in 2.1 innings of work. Chase Hamilton (2) picked up the save after getting three strikeouts while allowing just one hit in the final two frames.

Bedard and Baxley each had three hits and scored three runs while Brayden Whichchurch had four RBI and Ryan Dos Santos had three as the Dawgs claimed a run-rule decision in Game 1 on Saturday. The Bulldogs were held off the scoreboard in the first inning, but then scored in each of the final five with four runs in the third and six in the fifth as they ran away for the victory.

Nate Postlethwait (2-0) was stellar on the mound, allowing just a solo home run in the top of the third for the Bison's only run. In total, OBU got five hits off Postlethwait, who struck out six in 6.0 innings of action. Hamilton again shut the door, striking out the side in the top of the seventh inning to end the game.

OBU scored in each of the final five innings and took advantage of five SWOSU errors as they grabbed a victory in the final game of the series. SWOSU scored single three runs in the bottom of the fifth and seventh innings, but



it was not enough to overcome a six-run fifth by OBU that build a 10-3 lead for the Bison. The Dawgs again had the advantage in hits, 11-8, and got multi-hit games from Bedard, Drew White and Taylan Mullins-Ohm in the contest

Noah Chapin got the start and allowed two earned runs while striking out three in the first three innings before giving way to the bullpen. Haden Branch (0-1) took the loss after being pegged for seven runs – none earned – on four hits over the next 1.2 innings.

Soccer Falls to Ouachita on Last-Minute Goal

Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The SWOSU Soccer team suffered their first defeat of the season on Sunday, falling to Ouachita 2-1 after the Tigers scored in the final minute of the game to break a 1-1 tie.

Both teams not only battled each other, but battled the wind as well with gusts blowing up to 20 mph. Neither team could put the ball in the net and at halftime, the score was tied at 0.

Each team had three shots in the first half and none were on goal for the Lady Bulldogs. One shot was on

goal for Ouachita, but SWOSU goalie Kirstyn Dill was in prime position and made the save. SWOSU had not scored a goal in the first half so far this season.

Early in the second half, SWOSU nearly scored a goal, but the Lady Tigers were in position and did not allow a goal to be scored.

Moments later, SWOSU gave up a goal on a penalty kick and the foul was against Dill. Less than a minute later, Ouachita was called for a handball in the penalty box and senior Kylee Martin attempted a penalty kick. She stepped up, scored and showed no fear on

her attempt, tying the game at one with 30 minutes left in the game.

Each team defended well, but with a minute left in the game, Ouachita's Hanna Thompson found the back of the net, giving the Lady Tigers a 2-1 advantage.

SWOSU had nine shots, where only two were on goal. Ouachita had six shots with three on goal. The Lady Bulldogs fall to 2-1 on the season and are 1-1 in GAC play. The Lady Bulldogs hit the pitch, 3 p.m. Wednesday at home against Rogers State University.

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Bulldog of the Week Honors Go To Nate Postlethwait & Samantha Kuzma



Doug Self
SWOSU Sports Information Director

The newest Bulldogs of the Week were announced on Monday morning, with Nate Postlethwait of SWOSU Baseball and Bulldog Volleyball's Samantha Kuzma claiming the honors.

The award is brought to you by Wright Wradio, the home of the Bulldogs over the airwaves on both 95.5 'The Coyote' and 100.3 'Coyote Classic.'

Postlethwait (Wichita, Kan.) had a dominant outing on the mound as the Bulldogs defeated Oklahoma Baptist 15-1 on Saturday and clinched the series victory over the Bison. He tossed 6.0 innings and allowed just five

hits and one earned run while striking out six, including a bases-loaded strikeout to end OBU's threat in the top of the fourth inning. For the year, Postlethwait is now 2-0 with 13 strikeouts and a 1.50 ERA.

Kuzma (Portland, Texas) was equally as dominant in her performance as the SWOSU Volleyball team swept Southern Nazarene on Thursday night. She put down 13 kills on just 21 kills without committing an attack error, which was good for an attack percentage of .619, the fourth-highest single-game attack clip in school history and highest against an NCAA Division II opponent. For the year, Kuzma ranks fourth on the team with 50 kills while leading the Dawgs with an attack percentage of .347.

Black Student Union Being Formed at SWOSU

A newly established Black Student Union has been started by the Student Government Association at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Lisa R. Boye of the SGA said the Black Student Union is recruiting members to join the leadership team and organization.

"This organization is important to create inclusion and diversity on our campus," Boye said. "The goals of BSU are to create unity, provide an interactive space for students, raise racial and diverse awareness and educate

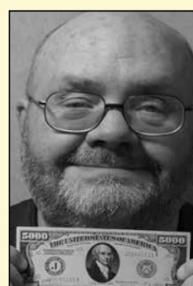
the community."

Some of the ideas that have been circulated include Black History Every Day, open table talks on racial matters and pop culture, hair tutorial, and the creation of a black sorority and fraternity.

Leadership positions, being formed, include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public relations, program planner and spokesperson.

Anyone interested in the organization or have questions can email SWOSU Assistant Professor Natasha Tinsley at natasha.tinsley@swosu.edu.

"The Coin Guy" Special Nickel Sells for \$31,800



Trent Boesen

During the Great Depression of the 1930's about 1-in-4 Americans were out of work. People from all walks of life and careers were unemployed.

Men with an artistic ability would take a Buffalo nickel, using a nail, knife or something sharp, would carve images into the nickel. Those who did the carving would inscribe their moniker and date. They were traded for food or lodging as these "Hobos" travelled in box cars on the railroad.

The carved nickel was known as a "Hobo nickel". These original Hobo nickels are now called "Classic Hobo nickels" by collectors.

One of the craftsmen is a fellow named Bertram "Bert" Wiegand. The above photo shows one made by Bert for his friend Elizabeth. It is dated 39 for 1939.

Another fellow nickel artist was George Washington "Bo" Hughes. Nickels carved by these two men are in high demand among collectors.

The above pictured nickel on January 22, 2021 sold at auction for \$31,800.

Do you have questions about collecting but do not who to ask? Call "The Coin Guy" at 580-890-8076 so we can meet at Jerry's and discuss them over a cold drink. Thanks for reading.

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

Oklahoma History: Battle of Perryville

To follow up on an Oklahoma History piece last week (The Battle of Honey Springs Depot), let's take a look at another impactful moment during the Civil War: The Battle of Perryville. This battle is between Federal forces, commanded by Major General James Blunt, and Confederate troops under Brigadier General William Cabell, Brig. Gen. Douglas Cooper, and Brig. Gen. William Steele. It takes place in the aftermath of Honey Springs Depot. To recap, Union leader Blunt seized Honey Springs Depot from Cooper and the Native American troops (before Cabell could arrive and reinforce Cooper's defenses), securing the northern Arkansas River supply line for the Union.

After wresting control of Honey Springs, Blunt began marching out of Fort Gibson to defeat the remaining Confederates in Indian Territory. Blunt knew Cooper's forces were fleeing towards Boggy Depot and would make their way through Perryville Depot. He also received word that Cabell's forces out of Arkansas were deserting and that Cabell was heading to the nearby Fort Smith to gather strength.

Gen. Steele, who was stationed at Perryville as a rearguard unit, expected Blunt to abandon his pursuit of Cooper and focus on Cabell. Knowing if he did so, Cabell could pressure Blunt against the Arkansas River and Blunt's flank would be open for his troops to exploit.

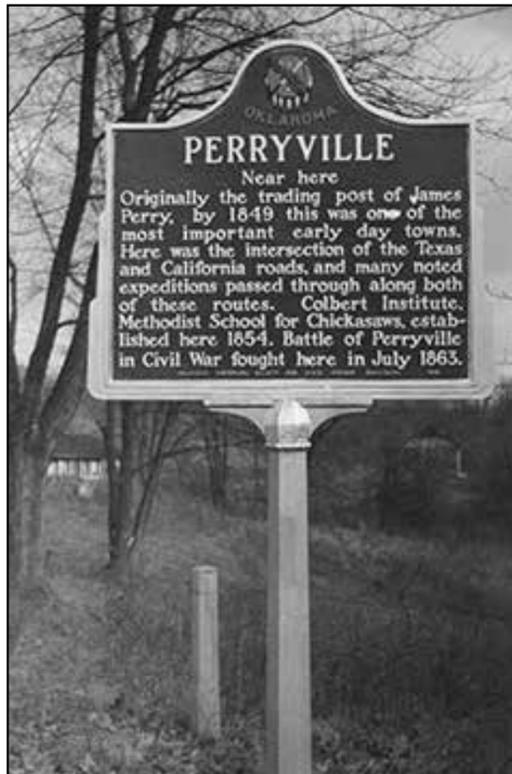
However, Blunt decided to pursue Cooper with haste

and came across Steele at Perryville. Steele had set up a hastily crafted picket line with two howitzers, blocking the northern road into town. On August 26, 1863, Blunt's forces quickly widened their board and began firing artillery into the defense line. The battle, a rare night fight, was over quickly as the exchange speedily fell into Blunt's favor.

The Confederate forces, reeling from news of their comrades' recent defeat at Honey Springs, retreated without their stockpiles and wares. Blunt seized the supplies and ordered the town burned. Perryville, due to its close proximity to the Texas Road (a major trade route across Indian Territory between Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri), was a major strategic depot for the Confederacy, and they suffered a big blow by forfeiting it to the Union. Oklahoma Historical Society logs compare the loss of the depot to be as detrimental to the South as if Cooper's entire army had been destroyed. Blunt's victory landed a mighty blow against the South.

After his victory at Perryville, Blunt moved on towards Cabell at Fort Smith and captured it on September 1st, 1863.

Perryville, postbellum, was partially rebuilt but had lost its importance and members due to a new rail-line and station named McAlester which bypassed Perryville. Businesses and residents moved to the new railway town to retain their livelihood. Now, the community Chambers occupies the original townsite.



HIGHER GROUND

The Problem of Suffering



Jim Morrison

As I think about the past year it might fall into the category of a period of pain and suffering. Many lost loved ones and friends. Others lost jobs or businesses. The political climate was one to make one cry.

We all have experienced loss at some point. I lost good friends, but no family members. Since I am retired, my job wasn't in jeopardy. I even received money that I didn't earn or deserve. I wish I could give it back but there is hardly any way to do that.

The problem of evil and suffering has been with us since time began. It is one of the chief obstacles for many who struggle with the existence of a God of love. I will not answer the question or explain it in this brief essay. But I will offer some thoughts from people smarter than I am, and who have experienced deep pain.

Gerald Sittser, a college professor lost his mother, wife, and daughter when a drunken driver slammed into his van in 1991. He was left with three daughters to raise.

He shares these thoughts. "Because suffering happens to you, do not feel that you reinvented the category of suffering. People are suffering all over the world. Because it happens to you does not change things." He is teaching his children that they will never recover from the loss of their sister, mother, and

grandmother. He believes that "recovery" gives a false promise. He likes the word "transformation" better. He says, "You can grow through this. You are changed by it in ways that are profound and meaningful. The blinding starkness of loss will dull with time, but it will always be felt. It becomes a part of the landscape of your life. But it can be redemptive. God's redemptive purpose is being worked out even though we might not understand it."

Nancy Guthrie points out that "History's most evil act (the crucifixion) brought the greatest good of all time. Even the holocaust, as evil as it was, and I am not suggesting God caused it to happen, brought about the establishment of the nation of Israel.

Again, quoting Guthrie, "God has allowed every difficulty to come into your life for the supreme purpose of transforming your character into the likeness of his Son. God uses painful, difficult experiences of life for our ultimate good. God, teach me everything you want to teach me through this. Don't let this incredible pain be wasted in my life!"

All this sounds good in the abstract. It is much harder to accept when you get that report of serious, perhaps terminal illness. It requires patience and a strong faith in the sovereign love and grace of God. It does not mean there will not be sadness and grief. It does mean that God knows and sees your pain. He saw the suffering of his Son, yet he didn't stop the act. Psalm 34:18 gives us the promise, "The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." To comment: jhm82@outlook.com or 580-772-2311



Jena Skarda/WOCS

Graham Murray tastes green eggs and ham to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday at Western Oklahoma Christian School.



Jena Skarda/WOCS

Danyal Walters, WOCS second grade teacher, shows Zayden Beatty how to crack an egg to make green eggs (and ham) as a fun way to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday.

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