

WEST OK WEEKLY



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SWOSU Pair of Students Win Scholarships from Delta Mu Delta

Southwestern Oklahoma State University students Leticia Ortiz of Clinton and Cassidy Moore of Tuttle were recently awarded regionally and nationally competitive scholarships, based upon their scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, and character/ethical behavior.

The students are part of the SWOSU chapter of the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in business on the Weatherford campus.

Ortiz was honored with the Rajan Family Award. Ortiz currently serves as chapter president at SWOSU. She is a senior, pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing.

Moore received a Region 6 award. She is the chapter treasurer at SWOSU and is currently a junior seeking a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance.

Delta Mu Delta was founded in 1913 and membership in the society is the highest national honor for business students, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs. To be considered for membership, a student must be of junior, senior or graduate, standing and rank in the top 20% of their class.

Roxanne Davis and David Kelly serve as advisors for SWOSU's Omicron Sigma chapter.



Provided

Southwestern Oklahoma State University students Leticia Ortiz (left) of Clinton and Cassidy Moore of Tuttle were recently awarded regionally and nationally competitive scholarships from Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society.

34th Annual Cordell Pumpkin Festival kicks off this Saturday

The 34th Annual Cordell Pumpkin Festival is this weekend on Saturday, October 9th. The festival is jam-packed with another year of fun with a car show, contests, food, parades, and a 5K fun run/bike ride. Hosted at Cordell's Downtown Square, the Pumpkin Festival, from 9 AM – 3 PM, is the perfect way to celebrate the coming of Fall with the whole family. The festival grounds will be full of

vendors, live entertainment, and shopping. For the kids, Cordell will have a kids fun zone with games!

Before the festivities begin, a 5K Fun Run and Bike Ride begins at 6:30 AM. Then, to kick off the festival, stop by the Cordell High School's cafeteria between 7 AM – 9 AM for a pumpkin pancake breakfast; plate tickets for kids 5 years – 12 years are \$5, and adult plates are \$7.

Throughout the festival there will be opportunities to compete in a variety of events including a car show - with car audio and burnout contests - a pumpkin baking contest, a cornhole tournament, costume contest, and more pumpkin contests.

Don't forget to grab a spot at 10 AM when the Pumpkin Festival parade begins!



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7AM - 9AM
PUMPKIN PANCAKE BREAKFAST

9AM - 3PM
KID ZONE • CAR SHOW
VENDORS • FOOD TRUCKS
CONTEST • AND MORE

10AM
PARADE

11AM
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

3PM
BURN OUT

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CAR SHOW ENTRY \$25
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William Edward Upton

Graveside Services for William (Billy) Edward Upton, 64 year-old Thomas, Oklahoma, resident, were held Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 9:00 A.M. at Mound Valley Cemetery Thomas, Oklahoma. Burial will follow under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



William was born September 4, 1957 and raised in Oklahoma City. He graduated high school in 1975 and attended trade school for two years and later moved to Thomas, Oklahoma, in 2009 and started with W+W. He was a certified heat/air technician, fork lift operator, computer and electrical technician for company equipment. He was married June 11th, 2011, to Genett Nicholson. William served his church, family, and community in any way that he could. He never met a stranger and never walked away from a challenge. One of his greatest joys was playing Santa Clause and never left a child without a small gift. William was always ready and willing to help anyone in need.

William is survived by his spouse Genett (Nicholson) Upton of Thomas, Oklahoma, his two sons, Cheyenne Upton of Mustang, OK, and Dakota Upton of Tennessee; his daughter Emily Perkins of Mustang, OK; one step son Timothy Crowl of Custer City; and three step daughters: Kimberly and her husband Zach of Weatherford, Kristi and her husband T.C. Perkins of Thomas, OK, and Janet Crowl and her fiance Rhett Merida of Weatherford, OK; and sister Pam and husband Pat Abbananto of Newalla, OK; 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Emmett and sister Lois.

Donald Lee Kincaid

Donald Lee Kincaid departed this life and entered eternity on September 27, 2021. Donald Lee was born on December 15, 1935, at the home in Aledo, OK, as one of three boys born to Earl and Lorene (Gregory) Kincaid. He was raised in the Custer City - Independence area where he was a member of the class of 1953 Independence High School, which was the last class to graduate from that school.



Donald met Margaret Lee Cline during his high school years and broke his arm playing donkey baseball, trying to impress her. They were married May 17, 1953, at the Putnam Christian Church. After getting married, they moved to Colorado where Donald attended telegrapher school for the railroad. When they found out he wasn't 18 yet, Donald didn't get the job with the railroad. They returned to the

Independence area where they began their career in farming by renting a small farm from his Grandad Andrew Kincaid.

Over the course of his lifetime, Donald was involved in many occupations. Along with farming, he spent time building houses for John D. Foster, worked as an assistant mail carrier, graded roads for the county, sold insurance, worked as a roughneck on oil wells, and managed the Putnam and Woodward Coops. However, farming remained his passion.

Community service was important to Donald. In the 1980's, he served on the school board for the Taloga School system. In the 1990's he served on the board of the ASCS COC. He helped in the planning and building of the Putnam Senior Citizens Center which was completed in 2001. Donald helped build the current building of the Putnam Christian Church, and served as a leader in various positions for many years.

After the death of Margaret, he met Doris Foust of Fay, OK. He ate a lot of peanut brittle and attended many Senior Citizen lunches at Fay, trying to get Doris' attention. They finally got married February 24, 2017, at the Putnam Christian Church. They lived happily in the Putnam area until his death.

Donald Lee is preceded in death by daughter Mary Jo, wife Margaret Lee, his parents Earl and Lorene Kincaid, brother Leonard Kincaid, and great-grandson John Chavas. He is survived by wife Doris, brother Curtis Kincaid of Woodward, daughters Sharon Hoover of Alpena, AR, Ginger Smith and husband Jerry of Putnam, Mitzie Eaton and husband Steve of Putnam, step-daughter Darla Cheek and husband Jeff of Moore, OK and step-son Phillip Sawatzky of Weatherford, OK. Grandchildren include Emily Hoover, James Smith, Jeremy Smith and wife Krista, Nickie Moore and husband Dustin, Laramie Eaton and wife Chyenne, and great grand-daughter Isi Moore.

Services were held October 2, at 10:00 am at the Putnam Christian Church, officiated by David Beck. The family has requested that donations be made to the Putnam Senior Center c/o Mona Kauk, 20919 E 850 Road, Butler, OK 73625, in lieu of flowers. Burial will conclude at the Mound Valley Cemetery in Thomas, OK under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home

John William McPhearson

John William McPhearson was born May 20, 1941, in Weatherford to John Willard and Mayme (Dumas) McPhearson and passed away Friday, September 24, 2021, at his home in Oklahoma City, at the age of 80 years, 4 months and 4 days.



John was raised and attended school in Hydro, graduating from Hydro High School in 1959. He earned a bachelor degree from OSU Tech in Okmulgee. On July 25, 1980, he married Doris Fletcher in Garland, Texas. John worked as a draftsman for Texas Instruments and then moved to Hydro where he owned and operated the McPhearson Stone Quarry, southeast of Hydro. He drove a truck in later years. John enjoyed fishing, going to the Music Jamboree, car racing, and loved playing the guitar and music. He enjoyed watching his family grow.

John is survived by two sons: Vance McPhearson and Jay McPhearson and wife Tracie all of Oklahoma City; two daughters: Lisa Bridgeforth and husband Chuck of Yukon and Kimm McPhearson and partner Jamie Brown of Gainesville, Florida; one brother Bob McPhearson and wife Jodi of Durant; five grandchildren: Monica, Chris, Hailey, Addison and Sarah; and along with many special friends and family. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Doris; one sister Ann Gillingham; and one son Ric Wells.

Barbara Ann Payne

Barbara Ann Payne was born April 26, 1945, in Colony to Willard and Dorothy (Rhoads) Kutch and passed away Thursday, September 30, 2021, at home with her family by her side, at the age of 76 years, 5 months and 4 days.



Barbara was raised northeast of Colony on the family farm. She attended and graduated from Colony High School. On January 26, 1961, Barbara married Riley Payne in Wichita Falls, Texas, and made their home northeast of Colony. She worked alongside of her husband on the farm where they raised their family. Barbara worked

at Owl Photo from 1968 and later worked for Ft. Cobb Fuel Authority for 7 years before retiring in 1987. Barbara enjoyed taking care of all her grand and great-grandchildren, snow skiing, traveling, church activities and spending time with family and friends. She was a great cook, known for her cinnamon rolls and chocolate sheet cakes, which will be missed. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Weatherford, Cystic Fibrosis or to Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 60 years Riley Payne of their home in Weatherford; one son Duane Payne and wife Rae of Colony; one daughter Vicki Hollandsworth and husband Randy of Yukon; one brother Kenneth Kutch and wife Margie; seven grandchildren, Tyler and Amber Payne, Trey and Tara Payne, Jori and Matthew Haken, Kari and Andrew Day, Zach and Amanda Hollandsworth, Randa and Maxwell Burch, and Jared Hollandsworth and partner, Brittany Dinh; twelve great-grandchildren: Morgan Little, Mason Payne, Ava Payne, Trendyn Payne, Talyne Payne, Trakyr Payne, Troopyr Payne, Aelyn Hollandsworth, JayMichael Burch and Charlotte Burch; one great-great-grandson Beckham Beckham Fesler; and special family friends, Yen and Ian Cesario and son Sam Cesario and Tracy and Joe Massey and their children, Keeva: Liam and Anya Massey.

Angie Flores

Funeral Services for Angie Flores, 53, Canute resident were held 2:00 P.M., Friday, October 1, 2021, in the St. Mary's Catholic Church, officiated by Father Balaswamy Mandagiri. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery and under the direction of Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Betty Angela Flores was born March 2, 1968, to Faustino Jr. and Chofe (Mendez) Rios in Clinton, Ok and passed away Tuesday September 28, 2021, in the Great Plains Medical Center in Elk City, Ok.

She was raised in Clinton, Oklahoma, and she attended Clinton Public Schools. She married Cenovio Flores on February 11, 1982, in Arapaho, OK.

She was a member of the St. Matthews Catholic Church; she enjoyed making special cakes, planning parties, crafts, and spending time with her grand kids.

She is preceded in death by her dad, grandson, Angel Jara and granddaughter Jaylene Jara.

She is survived by her mother Chofe Rios of Clinton, OK; her husband Cenovio, of the home; two daughters Carolina Flores, of the home, and Cecilia Jara and husband Cresencio of Canute, OK. One Son James Flores and wife Lori of Clinton, Ok. Stepdaughter Rachel Castillo of husband Alejandro of Clinton

Two sisters: Kristi Rios, Mississippi, and Elizabeth Rivera of Clinton, OK. Four brothers: Tino Rios and wife Michelle of Clinton, OK; Joe Rios and wife Candy of Tennessee, Victor Rios of Clinton, OK; and Alphonso Proa of Clinton, OK.

She is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Willie C. Waldrop

A Chapel Service for Willie C. Waldrop, 90, Clinton resident were held 10:00 A.M., Thursday, September 30, 2021, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel, officiated by Patrick Peters. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Willie C. Waldrop was born March 7, 1931, to F.M. Waldrop and Iva Allen Waldrop in Vinita, OK and passed away Sunday, September 26, 2021, in the Corn Heritage Village in Corn, OK.

Willie was raised in the Lake Valley and Gotebo area and attended Cordell School, graduating in 1951. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in June of 1951. He was honorably discharged in June of 1955. He returned home and opened and operated a auto repair shop in Dill City, OK. In 1973 he began a career with the Department of Transportation, first as shop foremen and later became the bridge inspector, and he retired in 1991.

He was married to Vera Stermer in 1979 in Bessie, OK. They were longtime faithful members of the Church of Christ. He did woodworking, building bird houses and became an expert in building replicas of bridges.

He was preceded in death by his wife, parents, an infant son Eugene Waldrop, brother Marion Waldrop, sister-in-law Wanda Waldrop and a nephew Randy Waldrop.

He is survived by his four sons: Everett Mike Waldrop and wife Debbi, Colony, Ok, Clarence Pat Waldrop and wife Dianna, Charles Phillip Waldrop and wife Paula, Kansas City, MO, and Shaun Paul Waldrop and wife, Heather, Clinton, OK.



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44th Annual Watonga Cheese Festival scheduled this weekend

The 44th annual Watonga Cheese Festival will be held on October 8th and 9th. This culture festival and parade is one of Oklahoma's richest community celebrations. Featuring many talented vendors, the festival will have booths, caterers, cheese tastings, kid zones, and live entertainment. Times are Friday, October 8th, from 11 AM - 5 PM & Saturday, October 9th, from 9 AM - 6 PM.

This year's cheese festival would have been the 45th year festival, but due to last year's COVID concerns, the 2020 festival was cancelled. However, all the great people who put on the event have dived back in to help celebrate this amazing festival. The city has many great amusements and shows planned. This year's theme is "LUCKY TO BE BACK" in honor of their reopening and of the Grand Opening of the Lucky Star Casino Hotel and Convention Center in Watonga.

At 6 PM on Thursday, October 7th, at Centennial Park, Mayor Bill Seitter will "Cut the Cheese" and introduce the start of the festivities for the grand

opening ceremony. Following the ribbon cutting, there will be a petting zoo for kids, t-shirt decorating contest for the Cheeziest T, Touch the Truck contest, and Cheezy will be there for pictures!

The festival is jam-packed with fun and games. Over 50 vendors, live music, shows, and contests will be held around Centennial Park, Main Street and Noble. Centennial Park will feature live bands and entertainers including Josh Lamle and the Katie Ballew Band. The Main Street Area will see a variety of events like the Bubble Stilt Man, food contest, dancers, booths, street performers, horse & carriage rides, carnival rides, and more. The Fun and Games area will be held on Main Street and Noble where they'll be inflatables, kid games and contests, and a kids' carnival. There will also be some fun family competitions like the Family Dance party on Saturday at 1 PM.

Vendors will be set up along Main Street, in the Armory building on Main Street, and at the First

Baptist Church. These local crafters will have a ton of cool collectibles. Food trucks will also be located throughout Main Street.

It wouldn't be a Cheese Festival without a little cheese tasting. The age-old tradition, the Watonga cheese tasting line, will be in the First Baptist Church. You can sample many varieties of cheeses that celebrate Watonga's heritage. Then, you can make your way to the Armory building and participate in sampling local wines paired with various cheeses from our own Oklahoma Creameries.

On Saturday, October 9th, the Festival kicks it up a notch with the Great Rat Race 5K, 10K and one mile fun run at 9 AM. The Great Rat Race will be held in front of the Noble House Hotel.

Watonga's annual Cheese Festival Parade begins at noon on Saturday.

Keep an eye on the Watonga Cheese Festival Facebook page for more festival information and we'll see you at the 44th Watonga Cheese Festival!

Wes & Karen Magill Family Make First Gift to SWOSU Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) has announced an exciting new philanthropic opportunity—the Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge—and Weatherford area philanthropists and longtime SWOSU benefactors Wes and Karen Magill have generously made the first contribution to the challenge.

The Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge invites contributions of all sizes and scopes from donors across the spectrum of giving with the goal of creating a new \$500,000 scholarships endowment to benefit SWOSU College of Pharmacy students.

The funds provided by the Magills and future donors will be used to match \$500,000, which was donated this past June by SWOSU alumnus and benefactor Jerry Hodge of Amarillo (TX) and his wife, Margaret, as part of their historic \$5 million philanthropic investment.

"Wes and Karen Magill have kicked off our Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge in a spectacularly generous and thoughtful way," said SWOSU President Dr. Diane Lovell. "We are so grateful for all that the Magill family does for SWOSU and are so proud of their distinctive and storied heritage here on the Hilltop."

Karen (Ashworth) Magill is an owner and real estate broker with Magill Insurance & Real Estate. A 2002 SWOSU alumnae, Karen currently serves as chair of the Board of Trustees of the Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation, Inc. and as chair-elect of the Board of Directors of the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce.

Wes Magill is an owner and vice president of Magill Insurance & Real Estate. He completed his undergraduate studies at both SWOSU and Oklahoma State University and his MBA at Oklahoma State University. He is a past chair of the Young Agents of the Independent Insurance Agents of Oklahoma, past chair of the Board of Trustees of the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce, past treasurer of the Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation, Inc., and past member of the OSU Alumni Association Leadership Council. He presently sits on the Weatherford Industrial Trust and is a Deacon at the Weatherford Church of Christ.

Wes and Karen were married in 2004 and are the proud parents of Charlie and Porter.

"We are delighted to contribute to the Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge. Though we do not directly practice pharmacy, we have been powerfully impacted by the SWOSU College of Pharmacy through our family's ties and history there," said the Magills. "This contribution honors two people (Karen's eldest sister and Wes' paternal grandfather) whose direct impact on our lives is immeasurable. We hope other SWOSU supporters will

step up and join us in investing towards a stronger future for the SWOSU College of Pharmacy."

SWOSU alumnus Kelly Elise Stovall

Karen's sister, Kelly Elise Stovall, is a 1995 alumnae of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. Stovall currently practices pharmacy as owner/manager of Anson Plaza Pharmacy, which celebrated its 20th year serving Anson (TX) and the surrounding areas. Kelly chose to attend SWOSU in the Fall of 1991. Karen, a thirteen-year-old in the seventh grade at the time, decided she wanted to move to Weatherford with her sister. They share a special bond from those days where Kelly would drop Karen off at Weatherford Middle School on her way to classes on the SWOSU Hilltop.

The late Ralph Magill Wes's grandfather, the late (Norval) Ralph Magill, went to work for Albert Eaton at Eaton Drug in Weatherford during his boyhood, and following his marriage to Priscilla Fay Porter in 1946, he completed his studies at the SWOSU College of Pharmacy in 1950. Ralph and one of his sisters were first-generation college students. Ralph managed pharmacies in Crockett (TX), Diboll (TX), Altus, Shawnee and Oklahoma City before returning to Weatherford where he operated Magill Drug and, later, Magill's East Side Pharmacy until retiring in 1993. Ralph and "Pris" were longtime Main Street figures where Magill Drug was a popular community staple frequented by patrons for nearly three decades. Magill Drug was located in the same building where Ralph went to work so many years previously during his boyhood.

"The reality is that if Ralph hadn't decided to attend SWOSU pharmacy school, Wes' family might not be in Weatherford today," the Magills added. "And if Karen's sister hadn't decided to come to pharmacy school at SWOSU, Karen certainly wouldn't be here, and our family would not exist. We owe so much to these two very special SWOSU pharmacy graduates!"

100% of contributions made to the Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge will be endowed solely for the benefit of providing financial assistance to students enrolled in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy.

Contributions may be made by visiting www.HodgePharmacyChallenge.com.

Donors may make contributions via check made payable to "SWOSU FOUNDATION" with "HODGE CHALLENGE" noted in the memorandum line; checks should be mailed to:

SWOSU Foundation, Inc. 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096

Gifts may also be made to the Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge using credit/debit cards or direct



Provided

Weatherford area philanthropists and longtime SWOSU benefactors Wes and Karen Magill (middle) have generously made the first contribution to the Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge. Accepting for the university are (left) Garrett King, assistant vice president for institutional advancement at SWOSU and (right) Patti Harper, director of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy alumni and development office.

bank account debit via calling the SWOSU Office of Institutional Advancement/SWOSU Foundation, Inc. offices at 580-774-3267.

For more information, please contact Patti Harper at 580-774-3190, patti.harper@swosu.edu or Clarke Hale at 817-707-6795, clarke.hale@swosu.edu.

The SWOSU Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge is coordinated by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., which was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards over \$36 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU.

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LOCAL & AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

SWOSU Raises Over \$87,000 at 2nd Annual Charitable Hunt



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Over \$87,000 was raised at Southwestern Oklahoma State University's recent 2nd annual charitable hunt to benefit the SWOSU Parks and Recreation Management Department on the Weatherford campus. A large group of supporters participated in the hunt.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) hosted its 2nd annual charitable hunt on September 17 in Devol, and the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. is delighted to announce that the event raised over \$87,000 in revenues, contributions and commitments.

"It was a real treat to gather with SWOSU alumni, emeriti and friends in the great outdoors for a very worthy cause—our Parks & Recreation Management program on the SWOSU Hilltop," said SWOSU President Dr. Diana R. Lovell. "We are so very grateful to all whose charitable giving and volunteer hours made SWOSU's second annual charitable hunt such a resounding success!"

The proceeds from the hunt will be allocated to the Dr. Ken Rose Memorial Fund, which exists to help SWOSU produce the next generation of conservationists, sportsmen and sportswomen, wildlife law enforcement officials, park rangers and many others. Members of the late Dr. Rose's family joined participants for the day's activities.

For the second consecutive year, longtime SWOSU benefactors Kandi and Rick Nagel of Norman served as the hunt's presenting sponsor and major underwriters. Kandi is a 1998 SWOSU alumnae and past president of the SWOSU Alumni Association.

This unique fundraising activity was, for the second consecutive year, facilitated by BlackOak Farms, a full-service hunting operation that is integrated with traditional agriculture practices of farming and ranching. BlackOak is owned and operated by John and Monica Collison.

The event kicked off with an exciting sporting clay competition sponsored by High Water Strategies / Colby Hale. The competition was followed by a late afternoon/

early evening dove hunt enjoyed by over 55 participants.

After departing BlackOak Farms and arriving at the Redneck Riviera Resort, participants were treated to a cocktail reception sponsored by Jett Distributing, Butcher's Wine & Spirits, and Clinton Liquor. Following the reception, over 75 guests enjoyed a delicious supper generously furnished by Rouben Tourian (SWOSU Class of 1996)

Supper was followed by a fundraising auction expertly facilitated and sponsored by United Country Heard Auction & Real Estate / Corky & Missy Heard (SWOSU Classes of 1987 and 1987 & 1992, respectively).

As the evening drew to a close, participants enjoyed a spectacular live performance from No Justice lead vocalist Steve Rice and keyboard player Bryce Conway (SWOSU Class of 1995).

Lucky Star Casino generously furnished water for all participants, and SWOSU alumnus Devin Ring was kind enough to donate his time and talent as photographer for the event.

SWOSU is very appreciative to volunteers Lyndon Perry, Staci (Litsch) Wechsler and Elizabeth Perry for their invaluable service in support of this year's hunt.

The 2nd Annual SWOSU Charitable Hunt was organized by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., which was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards nearly \$36 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For more information on the Foundation, please call 580-774-3267 or visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com.

WEATHERFORD/DEMOLITION- Weatherford Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell said demolition of the former Weatherford Regional Hospital building on Kansas began on October 4th. Midwest Wrecking will need about a week to complete the demolition process. The site will be the future home of a new police station/911 center.

CC/FAIRGROUNDS- Custer County Commissioners accepted a bid to expand the county fairgrounds earlier this week. Fairgrounds board member Jeff Hunter said that the project includes handicap accessible bathrooms and a new education room. The funding for the project will be available next week.

SWOSU SATURDAY- SWOSU Saturday, an event for prospective students and their family members, is fast approaching on Saturday, October 9th. The annual event is held each year on the Weatherford campus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University. It gives high school juniors and senior as well as college transfer students an opportunity to preview the SWOSU campus. The day begins at 10:30am. Contact the admissions and recruitment office at SWOSU for additional information.

WEATHERFORD CC/FEASIBILITY STUDY- The Weatherford City Commission and Clinton City Council during separate meetings last Tuesday decided to accept a professional engineering services proposal from Garver for the preparation of a feasibility study and cost estimate for the possible construction of water resiliency infrastructure between the cities of Weatherford and Clinton. Clinton city council passed the proposal pending a few minor revisions to the proposal.

WEATHERFORD/ASBESTOS REMOVAL UPDATE- Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown said asbestos removal is complete at the former Weatherford Regional Hospital site on Kansas. Brown said Midwest Wrecking will need about a week to tear down the building. He said bids for construction of the new police station/911 center could go out in October.

SWOSU/WRIGHT SCHOLAR- Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Sarah Stoffels of Anadarko has been named the 2021-22 academic year Glenn Wright memorial scholar. Stoffels is studying music education on the Weatherford campus. This marks her second consecutive year to be awarded the Glenn Wright Memorial scholarship. The scholarship is granted to a SWOSU student who intends to pursue a career in band direction and is named for the late Glenn Wright who had a distinguished career leading band programs in Erick and Anadarko.

WRH/COVID TEST KITS- Weatherford Regional Hospital Chief Executive officer Brian Denton said the hospital has had a difficult time of getting rapid test kits for COVID-19 tests. Denton said the hospital will be getting a special type freezer that will allow for continued PCR same day COVID testing. Denton said test kit delays, the hospital is doing what it can to adjust in an effort to continue to test locally.

COVID UPDATE- The Custer County health department said District 1, which represents ten counties, including Custer, Dewey and Roger Mills had 246 new reported total cases of COVID-19 last week. As of Wednesday, Custer County had 75 active cases, 4 in Dewey and 18 in Roger Mills County.

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Happy Birthday Wishes for October 6th- Miranda Cardenas, Sierra Duncan, Cheryl Justice, Casey King, Ginger Manning, Doyle Warren, Kori White; **October 7th-** Kim Baldwin, Bradley Brittain, Virginia Caler, Dstry Duke Christensen, Marlee Farrow, Roger Isaak, Ricky Leatherbury, Ruth Lee, Sandra Maddox, Evelyn Malheim, Sabrina Miller, Evelyn Mulherin, Colby Sutton, Koby Sutton, Brenda Webber, Quintin Westrick; **October 8th-** Peggy Constein, Sarah Ferrero, Tamarcus Hardy; **October 9th-** Jeff Berrong, Pat Cornell, Brenda Fast, Kayleigh Kauk, Brooke King; **October 10th-** Jeannie Adams, Linda Allen, Jeanette Bellew, Dacia Brittenham, Aaron Golden, Courtney Graybill, Austin Kerr, Courtney Skinner, N. Washa; **October 11th-** Ashlee Bishop, Roy Cisco, Chism Holt, Doris Jaimes, Delana Holt Kirk, Cameron Lohman, Neta Norman, Amanda Ricks, Debbie Ridgeway, Randy Voyels; **October 12th-** Kayla Dunn, Mckinley Fuentez, Erin Funk, Leta Giblett, Les Guesby, Terri Hulsey, Madison McClemore, Lloyd Mitchell, Reason Moore, Alan Palesano, Bryce Reeves, Clayton Taylor, Shelby Thomas---

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SWOSU Dominant Late to Beat Southern Nazarene

William Soule
SWOSU Sports Information Graduate Assistant

Riding incredible performances from Markenzie Benoit and Allie Hoang, Bulldog Volleyball ran away with a 3-1 win on Thursday night against Southern Nazarene.

Like a finely tuned sports car hitting the open road, SWOSU got into another gear and found their groove as the match went on and the Crimson Storm just couldn't keep up.

The two teams split the first two sets, and it looked like the Bulldogs were headed for another five-set nail biter. But hot starts to both the third and fourth frames for the Bulldogs took the wind out of their opponent's sails and made it a fairly comfortable win for SWOSU.

The offense ran through the usual suspects in the first set, as Markenzie Benoit and Lacy Mott both contributed five kills a piece and Taryn Galt racked up four kills for herself. Everytime it looked like the Crimson Storm would make a run, the Dawgs had an answer and back to back kills from Mott gave the set to SWOSU.

Southern Nazarene responded well in the second, making it hard for the Bulldogs to get into their rhythm offensively

and forcing an uptick in mistakes from SWOSU. 13 total errors from the Bulldogs in the set made things easy for the Crimson Storm and tied it up at one set a piece.

"I think there's a lot for us to learn still and that's why these matches are important," said Head Coach Josh Collins. "We allowed one error on our side to turn to multiple errors. We've got to take care of our side of the ball. That's going to come and all of these opportunities are learning opportunities. It's good that we are winning within those opportunities."

Whatever Collins said to his team after the second set must have struck a chord. SWOSU cruised to huge and ultimately insurmountable leads in both of the final intervals, starting out on a six-point run in the third and an eight-point run in the fourth, to eventually put the game away.

In all three sets the Bulldogs won, they led wire to wire. No tied scores or lead changes. SWOSU has Senior setter Allie Hoang to thank for that because her service game was on point tonight. Her opening service resulted in an at least four-point scoring runs for the

Bulldogs in all four sets, with two aces worked in as well.

To put a cherry on top of all of that, Hoang pulled off one of the more incredible plays that we will see all season with a backwards, bicycle kick dig that led to a point for the Bulldogs and made the Pioneer Cellular Event Center erupt.

This service work put in by all of the Dawgs was phenomenal on the night, as the team racked up nine aces. That's the second most they have put up in a single game this season.

You could not tell the story of the night without once again mentioning Markenzie Benoit, who finished with 15 kills on an incredible .500 attacking percentage while also accounting for five block assists.

"She's pretty good huh?" Coach Collins said after the game. "She might be a decent volleyball player."

It was another raucous crowd at the Pioneer Cellular Event Center and the support is felt and appreciated by the team. They will need that same energy on Saturday at 11:00 am when Randall University comes into town.

"Another huge shout out to Bulldog nation," said Coach Collins. "Our fans are incredible. Can't say enough about that."

SWOSU Falls Short at Monticello

William Soule
SWOSU Sports Information Graduate Assistant

Two safeties in favor of the Bulldogs was not enough, as SWOSU falls on the road against Arkansas-Monticello 18-16.

In a game that was almost delayed due to lightning, it was sloppy, wet conditions for the Bulldogs and the Boll Weevils in this one and it seemed to benefit SWOSU from the get go. Early in the 1st quarter, Arkansas-Monticello lined up for a punt deep in their own territory. A bad snap took the ball beyond the punter and SWOSU had its first points of the game by way of safety.

The very next drive the Bulldogs marched right down the field to score their first touchdown of the game and give themselves and firm grip on the game

early. It was a ten-play drive in which Kenny Graham ran the ball six times for 49 yards, including his 31-yard scamper that ended in six. He would also get the carry on the Bulldogs' two-point conversion attempt but would fail to get into the end zone that time.

The Boll Weevils would score twice in the second quarter, but fail on both of their two-point conversion attempts to give the game an awkward score going into the half with SWOSU trailing 12-8.

Monticello would be the first to strike in the second half, giving themselves an 18-8 lead in the middle of the third on a two-yard touchdown run from Quarterback Demilon Brown. The Bulldogs would block the extra point however, and keep it a ten-point game.

Two drives later, SWOSU would force another Monticello punt deep in their own territory and it was like Deja-vu all over again for the Boll Weevil special teams unit. The snap flew over the punter's head for the second time on the day and once again resulted in a safety for SWOSU.

Tanner Griffin and the offense would get the ball back early in the 4th quarter down by eight with a chance to tie the game. Griffin who missed last week due to injury and was clearly not back to his best self quite yet, led the Bulldogs right down the field in just over two minute's time and a Nate Davis "Wild Bulldog" run put SWOSU within two points.

The Bulldogs failed to convert on its third second two-point conversion attempt of the game however, and remained two points down. Monticello would eventually put together a 13 play, 55 yard, and 6:50 minute drive to seal the game.

Defensive Coordinator Colin McQuillan's squad continues to improve week by week. They only allowed 18 points and 315 total yards this week, the lowest totals in both categories on the season.

They also forced two turnovers, both coming backed up in their own red zone. They were unlucky not to come away with more, as the Boll Weevils fumbled six different times on the night, but only lost one of them.

Orlando Brown once again led the Bulldogs in tackles with 11 total, including an assist on a sack and 1.5 tackles for loss. The team as a whole had seven tackles for loss, the most they've had in a game this season.

In his return from injury, Quarterback Tanner Griffin appeared limited and so Head Coach Chet Pobolish and Offensive Coordinator Tyler Hennes turned to their stable of running backs to help the offense. Kenny Graham picked up his first touchdown of the year and Nate Davis acquired his first rushing touchdown of the year.

SWOSU will hope Griffin and the offense can get back to full strength next week when they host Ouachita Baptist at Flex-Chem Field for SWOSU Saturday. Kickoff will be at 2:00 pm.

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Hoang and Benitez Named Bulldogs of the Week

ALLIE HOANG **BRIANNA BENITEZ**

BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK

Week 5 - September 27 - October 4

William Soule
SWOSU Sports Information Graduate Assistant

Allie Hoang of SWOSU Volleyball and Brianna Benitez of SWOSU Soccer have been named this week's Bulldogs of the Week.

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.'

Hoang, a Senior setter from Plano, Texas, is the captain of a SWOSU Volleyball team that has been playing really well of late and won all three of their games last week. Hoang had a huge hand in helping secure those wins, contributing 120 assists and five service aces in those games. Her

service was wicked all week and gave opposing players nightmares, the Bulldogs outscored opponents on her service 37-22 last week. She also had one of the craziest plays you'll ever see.

Benitez, a Sophomore forward from Irving, Texas, scored an absolute banger of a free kick in 87th minute to give Bulldog Soccer a come from behind victory of East Central on Saturday. The clutch kick resulted in her second goal of the season and gave SWOSU it's first conference win of the year. Benitez also has three assists on the season, she leads her team in that category.

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Oklahoma History: OKC Memorial Marathon

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The Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon began as an idea and a vision in 2000 when some Oklahoma City businessmen were on a training run. At the time, Oklahoma City's National Memorial was nearing the end of its construction. While discussing the idea that OKC could use a marathon of its own, they realized that "If we are going to do a Marathon, let's do it for the Memorial." The idea was born. With help from the Memorial's board, community leaders, and citizens of the city, the plans for the first Marathon were laid out; it would be held in April of the next year.

April 2001 came and the Inaugural OKC Memorial Marathon began. The shirts, medals, and programs handed out during the race featured the historic Survivor Tree logo and the themes "Honor Their Memory," "Celebrate Life," and "Reach for the Future." Not only the runners but also the event participants, staff, and supporters, came together in remembrance and honor of those whose lives were changed forever from the Oklahoma City Bombing. The Memorial's motto and goal is to raise awareness and longevity for those who visit. "May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope and serenity."

Following the success and turnout of the inaugural race, the marathon began plans to host another race the following year as an annual event. Little did the city know how important the marathon would come to be. In just months after the first race, the nation would experience one of the

worst days it has ever seen. A day full of suffering - the kind that Oklahoma knew all too well. September 11th, 2001.

No words can describe the pain, fear, and loss that took place on that fateful day. Many have tried, but no matter how many descriptions you read or hear, nothing prepares visitors for the deep emotional wave that emanates around the sites of these terrorist attacks. At both memorials, you can feel the presence of the many men, women, and children – the brave souls who lost their lives or the lives of loved ones.

Founded in memorial, the OKC Marathon took on a bigger role in its second year. Its symbolic meaning grew to encompass the idea that America Stands Against Evil. The marathon's title became "Unite the World in Hope." The communities of Oklahoma understood what it meant to show support and to stand up to evil actions, and the Survivor Tree logo took its place again on the shirts and medals and would become the Memorial Marathon's iconic symbol.

Over the next several years, the marathon grew in both terms of participants and meaning. The Run to Remember meant different things to different people and its growth continued through the decades. Marathon records were set, tens of thousands of runners came to participate, media coverage came to showcase the determination and heart the runners and supporters showcased, and there were even US Army soldiers in the Sinai Desert who ran their own OKC Memorial Marathon before one of the annual events.

As the marathon grew, it was important to make sure the reason to run was not lost. For the 2011 race, teams



2001 Memorial Marathon start.

reached out to runners from the different races to see why they run and the Survivor Tree logo was depicted bigger and fuller on the updated medals and shirts.

In 2020, the race was run virtually with the theme "Looking Back Running Forward." The special two-tone silver and gold medals featured a unique design: the original Survivor Tree logo surrounded by the fuller Survivor Tree. The race also allowed runners to donate shoes for the 20th year milestone that would benefit the organization Cleats for Kids, "a nonprofit that equips and empowers kids through sports." With the addition of a virtual race, two events were added – a 26.2-mile and 13.1-mile bike ride. These events gave people a new way to participate.

This year's marathon featured over 12,000 runners who represented 45 states, eight countries, and all counties in Oklahoma! The marathon is always open to all, and if you would like to participate but would like to opt out of the race, there are a lot of ways to be involved. Volunteers to aid with water stations and fill out cheer zones are always appreciated.



HIGHER GROUND

Is your faith blind?

Truth is perhaps the most valuable commodity in our value system. Often it is most difficult to find. We spare no effort to rationalize or justify our position which may be based on tradition, personal preference, pragmatism, half-truths, or pure selfishness. Of course, modern thought would suggest that there is no such thing as truth. A popular statement of the day is "What's true for you may not be true for me." This gives a lot of flexibility which allows anyone to engage in questionable activities with no fear of the consequences.

In the study of various religions, people often base the reality of the faith on the culture in which it originated or if it works for their system of thought. Of course, no one really lives that out completely. If

you cross the street in front of a speeding car and you are hit, the truth of the matter is that you are in trouble, whether you are in India or England.

One well-known atheist admitted that he desperately didn't want to believe that a personal God existed. With that premise in mind it would greatly affect his objectivity in his search for truth. Even the great C.S. Lewis, after his conversion as an adult, said he "came into the Kingdom kicking and screaming." The volume of evidence for the existence of God as revealed in Jesus Christ was so overwhelming that he had to bow in humility before that great truth.

In reality there is no absolute proof for any belief system. Faith is involved to some degree in any move to belief. But it is foolish to say that Christianity is a "blind leap of faith." One must examine the evidence—and there is much to examine. Unfortunately, for most Christians, the desire to be spoon-fed is greater than their desire to feed themselves by study and evaluation. This is even more true for the unbeliever who is quite satisfied to

respond to his own senses rather than be restrained by a truth system that interferes with his search for pleasure. The reality is that as Jesus said, "The truth shall set you free." We are from birth held captive by preference for selfish living. The Apostle Paul spoke of this in II Cor. 5:15 when he stated, "And he (Jesus) died for all that those who live, should no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and rose again."

The movie "God is Not Dead" seeks to portray the fact that the evidence for the existence of God cannot be discounted because, in their eyes "evolution proves that God is not needed," or "look at all the evil and suffering in the world." Life truly is based on a search for meaning and purpose. The fact that Rick Warren's book, The Purpose Driven Life, sold about thirty million copies, indicates the hunger that resides in the heart of man. As Augustine said, "There is a "God shaped void in the heart of every man."

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