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SWOSU Names Josh Kirkland as Head Football Coach

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

SWOSU Athletic Director Todd Helton has announced the hiring of Josh Kirkland as the new head football coach of Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Kirkland becomes the 23rd head coach in school history, dating back 113 years to the birth of the program.

Coach Kirkland brings collegiate head coaching experience to the role, having spent the past two years as the head coach of NCAA Division II New Mexico Highlands University. He also served an assistant head coach at NCAA Division I University of the Incarnate Word from 2018-20 where he oversaw running backs, tight ends and recruiting. Prior to his college experience, Kirkland held a pair of head coaching and athletic director roles in the high school ranks of Texas at 6A Lehman High School and 5A Parkland High School.

"It is an exciting time for the future of SWOSU football," Helton said. "Coach Kirkland brings all the skills and experience we were looking for to elevate the program to a level our campus, community and alumni will be proud of, and we can't wait to welcome Josh, his wife Marina and sons Kash, Krew, and Kolt to Weatherford."

"I cannot thank Coach Helton and Dr. Lovell



(SWOSU president) enough for allowing me this opportunity and welcoming me with open arms," Kirkland said. "My wife and I are extremely excited about moving to Weatherford and getting to be a part of this western Oklahoma community. Weatherford played a major factor in this decision for us and is a place I am excited to bring my family to. After seeing it firsthand, SWOSU truly

does have a lot going for it and I believe it's on the cusp of something great. I am lucky to be a Bulldog and look forward to hitting the ground running and working hard towards the end goal of building back the success of SWOSU football."

Program turnaround is no stranger to Kirkland. In his first season of competition at New Mexico

(See COACH, page 7)

Johnson and Silvernail Named 2021-22 Ken Rose Memorial Scholars at SWOSU



Cadence Johnson of Weatherford, pictured left, and Alexandria Silvernail of Midwest City, pictured right, were named Ken Rose Memorial Scholars for the 2021-2022 SWOSU school year.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) with locations in Weatherford, Sayre and Yukon has announced that students Cadence Johnson of Weatherford and Alexandria Silvernail of Midwest City have been named the 2021-22 Ken Rose Memorial Scholars by the SWOSU Department of Parks & Recreation Management (PRM).

Johnson is a sophomore studying PRM with a minor in CLEET. She is an alumnae of the Oklahoma Cadet Lawman program.

Silvernail is a senior studying PRM with a minor in EMS. She is serving her second consecutive term as president of the SWOSU SCUBA Club.

The Dr. Ken Rose Memorial Fund benefits the

SWOSU PRM Department and provides for annual student assistance to be awarded to the Department's students.

A native of Clinton, the late Dr. Ken Rose completed his undergraduate studies at SWOSU in 1967 and earned his master's degree, also from SWOSU, in 1970. He earned his Doctorate of Education from the University of Oklahoma in 1980. Rose was a committed scholar and an expert on SCUBA diving who conducted extensive research on the effects of hyperbaric pressure on divers and the psychological factors impacting diver performance.

Rose devoted his life to education. From 1968 to

(See SCHOLARS, page 6)

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Rosella Jane Adler

Rosella Jane Sauer was born May 11, 1930, to Adam and Lizzie Sauer in the house she would grow up in 4 miles southwest of Weatherford. Many have asked over the years how she got her somewhat unusual first name. “My mother had two young girls hired to do housework and tend to the newborn,” she wrote in her book of memoirs. “Their names were Rose and Ella.” She died Monday, Dec. 13, at Weatherford Regional Hospital after a weeklong hospitalization, resulting from pneumonia and congestive heart failure.



Rosella grew up with five older brothers, an older sister and a younger sister Irene, the latter with whom she enjoyed a special relationship throughout life, primarily because they were the youngest kids in the family and just two years apart. For amusement, she and Irene would often play church, and on occasion coerce their youngest brother Joe to “preach” to them.

“Joe would stand on the bottom of the stairway, and Irene and I sat on the steps,” she wrote. “We had our dolls dressed up and wrapped in blankets. We would sing a song, and have a verse of scripture. We didn’t hear much of the sermon. We would have to get up and take the babies out and change their diaper. We each had a doll that could drink a tiny bottle of water, and, of course, it drained into the diaper. We would get back in church for the closing song. We had our own entertainment.”

Rosella attended Friesen rural school southwest of Weatherford her first eight years, then Weatherford Public Schools through high-school graduation. She and her family moved into town her sophomore year. She played clarinet in the band and graduated with the WHS class of ’48. One of her classmates was future space hero Thomas P. Stafford.

On May 15, 1949, Rosella married Eldon Adler at Zion Congregational Church southwest of Weatherford in the church they both attended from birth. They then lived in the house where Eldon grew up, three miles due north of Corn. There they farmed and lived six years until moving to town.

The Adlers welcomed a son Larry Paul in 1955. A year or so later, Rosella began her working career at Owl Photo, a place she worked for 31 years as primarily a printer and checker. She especially enjoyed doing hand-painted oil-color enlargements. She would bring the photos home at night and paint and retouch them.

After retirement in 1987, Rosella worked as a housewife and wonderful grandmother to Justin, Derek and Taylor. She was one of the world’s best cooks (she won several local and area cooking contests), always kept an immaculate house, and made sure the outsides of the house, including windows, met up with her approval.

She loved her grandkids to pieces. In later years, she was the same way with great-grandkids Hudson, Merritt, Jackson and Henry, even though they lived far away.

A committed Christian, Rosella served in many capacities at Zion Church (now CrossPointe). She played piano and organ for many decades as a hymn accompanist. She taught Sunday school, sponsored in youth group, and taught vacation Bible school, in

addition to all the funeral and all-church meals for which she cooked and served. She also helped with the quilting circle for several years at Pioneer Center.

Rosella is survived by her son Larry Adler of Weatherford; two grandsons and their wives Justin and Brooke Adler, and Derek and Brittney Adler, all of Charlotte, N.C.; one granddaughter Taylor Adler of Weatherford; four great-grandsons: Hudson (almost age 9), Merritt (6), Jackson (4) and Henry Adler (almost 2); one sister Irene Adler of Weatherford; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by husband Eldon in 2015; her parents; five brothers: Arnold, Dan, Paul, Walter and Joe Sauer; and a sister Elfreda Murphy.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Stafford Space Museum or Weatherford Regional Hospital. The family thanks Dr. Brian Bluth, Dr. Michael Aaron, and the entire nursing and custodial staff at WRH for their dedicated care.

1 Corinthians 15:51b-52: “We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, (and) the dead will be raised imperishable . . .”

Charley Edward Johnson

Charles Edward Johnson was born April 5, 1941, in Altus, Oklahoma, to Lena Louise (Goodrich) and Walter Leroy Johnson. He passed away on December 5th at Oklahoma Heart Hospital with family by his side. Charley attended Altus Public schools and Southwestern Oklahoma State University, graduating with a degree in accounting. He married Joyce Pascher, and they made their home in Altus, Oklahoma. Charley eventually earned his BS in Education and begin his teaching career in Leoti, Kansas. After teaching several years in Kansas, he returned to Altus and taught business education at Western Oklahoma State College. Charley also owned and operated The Booterie in Vernon, Texas, and Frederick, Oklahoma. He retired after 32 years. Charley was a board member and later Chairman of the Board of Red River Federal Credit Union in Altus. After the loss of his wife Joyce, Charley married Mary Umbach Davis. They lived in Altus for 12 years before moving to Weatherford, Oklahoma, where they were active members of Weatherford’s First United Methodist Church. Charley enjoyed playing golf, traveling, watching movies, spending time with family and friends. He leaves to cherish his memories: sons Tony Johnson and Mike Richmond of Phoenix, Arizona, daughter Tiffani DeWitt and fiance’ Chad Etheredge of Pampa, Texas; bonus son Marty Rivers and wife Toni of Denton, Texas; bonus daughter Jennifer Sissney and husband William of Odessa, Texas; grandchildren Conner, Cade, Cole, Kendall, Taylor and Megan and great grandchildren Kaelynn, Aedyn and Stella; sister-in-law Diane and his beloved Chocolate Lab Stormy. He was preceded in death by his wife Joyce, parents and brother Don Johnson. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Charley’s name may be made to Weatherford First United Methodist Church, Youth and Children’s Fund, P.O. Box 350, Weatherford, OK 73096.



Gary Dwayne Matthes

Funeral Services for Gary Matthes, 74, Weatherford resident, were held 2:00 P.M., Friday, December 17, 2021, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel, officiated by Ezra Randle. Burial will follow in the Vicksburg Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Gary Dwayne Matthes was born August 15, 1947, to Jake and Lavon (McLaughlin) in Clinton, Oklahoma, and passed away Sunday, December 12, 2021, in the Oklahoma University Medical Center in Oklahoma City, OK.

Gary was raised in the Vicksburg Community by his grandparents and attended school in both Custer City and Arapaho. Before he graduated high school in 1966, he enlisted to the U.S. Army and was soon sent to Vietnam. He was injured during his service time and came home with a purple heart and disabled in 1969.

After his military time, he worked in Hospital Administration and was a sales manager in a clothing store while living in Louisiana. He was very adventures and lived and traveled the world. He had made his homes in numerous places, including Hawaii, New Orleans, and spending time in Europe. In his travels, he met the love of his life Lisbeth Baunan, and they had many adventures together.

He made his home in Weatherford, OK in 2000.

Besides traveling, he was quite a joker; he was the family historian and spent a lot of time doing his family’s history; he loved to go shopping and being with other people. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He is preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, August and Caroline Mathes and niece Aubrey Woods.

He is survived by three sisters: Sheila Settles and husband Don, Weatherford, OK; Shanda Izaguire and Victor, Clinton, OK; and Lashelle Atha and husband Fred, Foss, OK; brother Martin Mathes, Caremore, OK.

He is also survived by nieces: Korrina Olguin, Clinton, OK; Darci Gonzalez, Clinton, OK; Devon Sambrano, Dawnelle Settles, Kasie Humphrey’s, all from Clinton, OK; Maria Slay, Watonga, OK; nephews: Donnie Settles, Weatherford, OK; Brandon Mathews, Claremore, OK; and Rusty Humphreys, Weatherford, OK.

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SWOSU Names 2020 & 2021 Emeriti Honorees

Seven former Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) employees were honored recently by the SWOSU Alumni Association.

The SWOSU Alumni Association Board of Directors voted in 2015 to begin recognizing former SWOSU employees annually and celebrating their contributions to the university.

The 2020 and 2021 honorees were recognized at a reception held in the Skyview Suite of the Pioneer Cellular Events Center at SWOSU Weatherford. The 2020 SWOSU Alumni Association Emeritus Award honorees include Melody Ashenfelter, Charles Chapman, Kelli Litsch, Les Levy and the late Ken Rose. The 2021 SWOSU Alumni Association Emeritus Award honorees include Randy Beutler and James South.

Melody Ashenfelter – Ashenfelter completed a double major and double minor at SWOSU in 1976 and a M.S. from OSU in 1978 and Ed.D. from OSU in 1986. Before joining the faculty at SWOSU, she taught at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. Ashenfelter joined the faculty at SWOSU in 1987 and obtained CPA status in 1988. Melody taught with the Becker CPA Review Course from 1991 – 2003, and while the CPA Exam was a paper and pencil exam, she volunteered twice a year to help administer the CPA exam in Oklahoma City. She has been active in the Oklahoma Society of CPAs by serving as a local officer and as a state-wide liaison with the Education Institutions Committee (including several years as committee chair). Ashenfelter retired from SWOSU as a tenured professor as the Everett Dobson Endowed Chair of Accounting. She was a member of the Faculty Senate and was treasurer for a term, as well as working on the faculty handbook revision. She was a member of the HLC Steering Committee for the 1990 accreditation visit and the subsequent focus visit and revision of the mission statement. She attended the Educator's

Leadership Academy in 2001-2002. Ashenfelter also chaired the departmental continuance committee, served on numerous tenure/promotion committees (including chair), served on the University Tenure/Promotion Review Committee and the numerous hiring committees for the Everett Dobson School of Business & Technology.

Charles Chapman – Chapman taught for 46 years. His first degrees are from the University of Oklahoma, and in 1972 he completed the PhD in music from the University of Texas. Besides teaching voice and a variety of subjects in vocal music, he directed and accompanied over 25 music productions and operas. During his SWOSU tenure (1962-2004), he was chair of the Department of Music for 11 years. After his retirement, he and wife, Sara, a SWOSU history professor, moved to Lake Fort Gibson. Chapman held leadership positions and extended editorships in several of the state, region and national music organizations. His offices in the 130,000-member National Association for Music Education included: president of the seven-state SW Division, 1987-1989; Oklahoma state president, 1981-83; state editor and web manager, 1992 – 2017; and president of the National Council of NAfME State Editors, 2004-2006. In the 22,000-member American Choral Directors Association, he was state president, 1980-82; SW Division editor of Common Times, 2008-10; and web manager/editor of OkCDA's Tutti magazine, 2012-18. He served the 7,000-member National Association of Teachers of Singing as Oklahoma District governor, 1991-94; and as governor of the three-state Texoma Region until 1999. From 1982-85 he led the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education as chair. Among professional honors are: 1980 Distinguished Professor, SWOSU; 1981 Director of Distinction, OkCDA; 1992 Outstanding Oklahoma Music Educator, Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association; 1995 Hall of Fame, OkMEA; 2001 Governor's Award for Arts in Education, Oklahoma Arts Council; and a Lifetime

Achievement Award, OkCDA, in 2005. OkCDA's 2019 convention banquet was entirely devoted to tributes from his colleagues and former students. Chapman is the author of 21 published articles. He conducted 15 honor choruses and presented 15 international, national, region and state juried papers, including The International Congress of Voice Teachers in London, 1997. As editor/publisher of four state and region music magazines and eight years of monthly publications for the 90 docents of Philbrook Museum of Art, Chapman wrote over 100 editorials and short articles. With the collaboration of a gifted vocal music faculty, the 65-voice Southwestern Singers became one of the region's principal choral ensembles and was frequently selected to perform at conventions. The 2001 Singers were invited as the chorus for the International Symposium for Piano Pedagogy's performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, in Orlando (FL). Chapman composed more than 60 works for chorus, organ, solo voice and instrumental ensembles; an opera, 1979; and a musical, produced at SWOSU and Oklahoma Theatre Center, in partnership with Claude Kezer, in 1983. Singers premiered a work of his at their 1993 concert in The National Cathedral, Washington, DC. He was volunteer organist/choirmaster at St. Mark's Episcopal Church from its establishment in 1979 until the couple's move to eastern Oklahoma in 2004. He was chair of the Commission on Music for the Diocese of Oklahoma, 1980-1985.

Kelli Litsch – Litsch graduated from Thomas Public Schools where she set the record for most points scored by any player—male or female—in Oklahoma high school basketball history. Litsch followed in the footsteps of her father, Jim, and mother, Peggy, and attended SWOSU where she studied education. In her freshman year at SWOSU, Litsch led the Lady Bulldogs to an undefeated 34-0 season and national championship. She then led the Lady Bulldogs to national championships in 1983 and 1985. Litsch was the first NAIA student-athlete to be named to the All-American First Team four times. Litsch ended her time as a SWOSU student-athlete with an historic 129-5 record as the NAIA all-time record holder in points scored at 2,700. Following completion of her undergraduate and graduate work at SWOSU, Litsch served as assistant women's basketball coach and helped lead the team to national championships in 1987 and 1990. In 1995, Litsch was named SWOSU assistant athletic director, a post from which she directed the institution's compliance with NCAA and other applicable regulatory regimes. Litsch retired in 2014. She is an inductee of the SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame (1990), NAIA Hall of Fame (1991), Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame (2004), Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (2005) and the Dewey County Hall of Fame (2013). Litsch serves on the Board of Directors of the SWOSU Athletic Association. In 2019, Litsch was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

Les Levy – Levy completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Houston in 1967 and earned his M.S. and PhD from the University of Oklahoma. Levy served in the SWOSU Department of Psychology from 1971-2001 (as chair beginning 1980) and currently serves as CEO of ILFMP, LLC Corporation. He has been a member of the Southwest Psychological Association, American Psychological Association, Southwest Gerontological Association, and Oklahoma State Membership Board of the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association (OREA). Levy has served as president of the Weatherford Pioneer Center and president of the Corn Heritage Village Resident Advocacy Board. He is past president of the local OREA chapter and was a founder of the



Provided
SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell addresses the audience at the 2020 and 2021 SWOSU Emeriti Honors

SWOSU Emeriti group. He has served on the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee for over a decade.

Ken Rose (posthumous) – The late Ken Rose completed his B.S. in natural science and health and physical education and recreation and in 1967 earned his M.Ed. in health and physical education and recreation, adventure recreation, and administration in 1970 from SWOSU. He went on to earn his Ed.D. in education administration, adult education, and health and physical education and recreation and adventure recreation in 1980 from the University of Oklahoma. Rose began his tenure at SWOSU in 1974 as an instructor in the Department of Health and Physical Education and Recreation, and

(See EMERITI, page 9)

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LOCAL & AREA NEWS



Ethan Downs to Sign Autographs for Connections Food & Resource Center



Come on out to Nabors Shoe Center/Next Door Nabors Wednesday, December 22 from 1:00-2:00 for an exclusive Ethan Downs Autograph Session. For a \$10.00 donation, Ethan will be available for pictures and autographs. Nabors Shoe Center/Next Door Nabors will match all funds raised and the proceeds will be given to the Connections Food & Resource Center to help increase the distribution of food and improve access to healthy food choices for Oklahomans who struggle with hunger.

SCHOLARS

Continued from Page 1

1974, Rose taught, coached and served as principal at Washita Heights Public Schools in Corn. In 1974, he joined SWOSU as an instructor in physical education, later advancing to professor. He chaired the Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation, later was named dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and, eventually, dean of the College of Professional & Graduate Studies.

Among many significant achievements Rose facilitated during his four-plus decades of service to SWOSU is the evolution of the SWOSU PRM Department into one of the most unique and dynamic academic programs of its type in the country.

Rose passed away on September 2, 2020. He was

a devoted husband to Susan and a loving father to David, D'Ann, Wesly and Tiler.

The Dr. Ken Rose Memorial Fund is stewarded by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. An institutionally-related charitable entity, the Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy, award scholarships 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.

For more information on the Foundation or to donate to the Dr. Ken Rose Memorial Fund benefitting the SWOSU Parks & Recreation Management Department, please visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com or call 580-774-3267.



Krystal Blackwell/WWW

Aimee Kong, 5 years old, and Heather Spain of Western Oklahoma Christian Schools in Weatherford, wrap Christmas gifts for their annual giftwrapping fundraiser. Proceeds were donated to the WOCs building fund.

MEDAL OF HONOR/PLUMLEE- A native of Clinton, Oklahoma, received the Medal of Honor during a ceremony at the White House. Master Sergeant Earl D. Plumlee was honored by President Joe Biden for defending forward operating base Ghazni when the complex was attacked by a massive explosion that caused a 60-foot breach in the perimeter wall of the base, where ten insurgents wearing Afghan national army uniforms and suicide vests poured through the breach. Officials said throughout the entire engagement, Plumlee repeatedly placed himself in extreme danger to protect his team and the base, and to defeat the enemy.

WEATHERFORD SB/COVID TESTING- The Weatherford school board of education approved COVID-19 testing on school premises subject to prior parental approval. District Superintendent Jill Henderson said it will be a great peace of mind to offer the service to both students and staff.

LYLE ROAD UPDATE- Custer County district 1 Commissioner Wade Anders gave an update on the Lyle Road project. Anders said they are getting quotes to tear down a structure and bids for the project should let in either April or May of 2022. Anders also mentioned that Custer County will see a lot of road and bridge projects in the next few years.

STAFFORD AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM/STEALTH PLANE- The Stafford Air and Space

Museum is anticipating the arrival of a stealth F-117 aircraft. Executive Director of the Museum Max Ary said that the aircraft is in the process of being demilitarized which involves removing special coatings on the aircraft. Ary said the aircraft should be at the museum this time next year.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES/ARPA- The Custer County Commissioners approved a resolution to provide a one-time pay to county employees, using American Rescue Plan act funds. Commission Chairman Lyle Miller said that all full-time employees that worked from March 1st 2020 through Feb 28th of 2021 and are still employed will receive the special pay. Elected officials are not eligible to receive the special pay.

BRENT HOWARD/ARPA- State Senator Brent Howard talked about opportunities for people to submit ideas and project that can use American Plan Rescue Act monies. There is a portal online to submit ideas or projects at oklahoma.gov/arpa. So far, two projects have been approved. One for OU Medicine to expand their pediatrics emergency intake and another to map for needs of broad-band internet in the state.

TODD RUSS/LUCILLE'S- State representative Todd Russ of Cordell is running for the State Treasurer in 2022. At an event in Clinton Russ said that he would be a good representative for Western Oklahoma if elected.

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Happy Birthday Wishes for December 22nd- Kelsie Cardenas, Nicholas Davis, Michelle Davis, Ivan Escobedo, Murlin Henderson, Alisha Henderson, Donald Melton, Dennis Messmer, Bob Pratt, Deryl Roark, Nova Schafer, Rossalyn Simpson, Phyllis Stevenson, Michelle Stinson, Blake Whitson; **December 23rd-** C.J. Barnhill, Jared Deaton, Lynn Graham, Jason Hines, Lisa Lee, Jacqueline Parker, Dusty Rhoads, Andy Sister, KeKe Sutton, Anthony E. Thomas, Larry Waldrup, Bentli Whitson; **December 24th-** Marquez Borjas, Patrick Bostwick, Dorothy Burns, Zachery House, Kaitlin Kimble, Lucille Ralston, David Richmond, Hannah Sperle; **December 25th-** Teresa Andrews, Pat Barnett, Steve Bellew, Brady Coffelt, Ronda Harmon, Jake Ivy, David Martin, Michael Mendez, Hank Peter, Linda Pye, Mary Stelting; **December 26th-** Kenny Brag, Nick Davis, Curtis Duff, Ruben Garlin, McKayla Goodwin, Michelle Williams, Carl Wilson; **December 27th-** Erno Cook, Abby Ewing, Gabe Ferrell, Lee Hamilton, Mark McClure, Chad Meinhardt, Fay Schwartz, Matt Wisdom, Val The Gal, Elijah Yoder; **December 28th-** Luke Ferrell, Tanya Hamlin, Larry Heger, Gena Manhart, Mildred Schwartz, Colby Setzer, Carlene Smith, Peyton Watson, Jessica Wedel...

SPORTS *Presented by:*

SWOSU Closes Out 2021 Home Schedule with Physical Win

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

The No. 21-ranked Lady Bulldogs won their ninth straight game with a 72-60 physical battle against Southern Nazarene on Tuesday night, wrapping up the 2021 home schedule.

The Lady Bulldogs were able to set the tone on the defensive side of the court to build their lead in the first half. In the first quarter, both teams adjusted to the physicality and shot just 33% apiece, and in the second quarter the Lady Dawgs imposed their will.

After a close first 10 minutes, SWOSU outscored SNU 26-14 in the second quarter to steal all the game's momentum. That second quarter ended up being the difference maker. Both teams were deadlocked in overall tallied-up scoring in the other three periods.

As time ticked down to zero headed into the halftime locker room, Lauren Ramey knocked down a buzzer-beating three point shot that put SWOSU ahead 38-24.

In the second half, both teams had their moments – but the margin established proved to be enough to fend off any Crimson Storm comeback attempt.

SWOSU ended the night shooting 43% from the field, compared to SNU's 39%. The Dawgs connected on 6-of-16 from deep, while the Crimson Storm finished just 1-of-10. The Lady Bulldogs lost the rebounding category 41-36 but won the turnover battle 18-13.

Makya Tramble played all 40 minutes of the contest and finished with a game high 18 points,



Provided

SWOSU Sophomore Morgan Smith rolls past a Southern Nazarene defender as fellow Sophomore Makya Tramble sets a pick at the high post. The Lady Bulldogs continued their winning streak adding their ninth straight win against the Crimson Storm.

while also adding five rebounds and four steals. Macy Gore pitched in 15 points and a team best seven rebounds. Off the bench, Morgan Smith gave a boost with 13 points. Bethany Franks gave

seven points and five steals. SWOSU (10-2, 4-0 GAC) will take a holiday break before returning to action December 30th on the road against Arkansas Monticello.

COACH

Continued from Page 1

Highlands, Kirkland led his team to a 5-6 record during the fall of 2021 culminated by a berth in the La Bataalla Bowl. This came one year after the team finished 2-9 and three seasons removed from an 0-11 record.

In 2021, New Mexico Highlands saw huge jumps offensively in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) statistical rankings, rocketing from the very bottom of the conference to the top in nearly all categories. The Cowboys finished first in total offense, passing, first downs, and red zone efficiency, second in third down conversions, and third in total rushing. Kirkland's team also finished ranked No. 19 in the entire nation in total offense.

With NCAA Division I University of the Incarnate Word in 2018, Kirkland helped guide UIW to the best season in program history as Kirkland and the staff led the Cardinals to a 6-4 regular season record, a conference championship, and UIW's first FCS Playoff appearance – one season removed from a 1-10 record.

In Kirkland's second year with the Cardinals, he helped guide UIW to five wins, including two over ranked opponents. UIW also broke several program records, including pass completions, pass completion percentage, all-purpose yards, and total points.

I have been impressed with Coach Kirkland's enthusiasm, the drive he projects, and the discipline he displays, and it is evident we are getting the right man to lead the program," said SWOSU President Dr. Lovell. "I am excited he is going to be the new leader of the SWOSU Football program and a prominent member of our great community."

Under Kirkland's direction, Lehman broke the record for passing yards and completion percentage in a single season, while Parkland led the state in rushing yards and was third in total offense.

With Kirkland as athletic coordinator, academic retention at EP Parkland increased by 27 percent in all athletic programs, while seven players signed on to college scholarships.

Kirkland began his coaching career (2010-15) as

an offensive coordinator and associate head coach at Daingerfield High School.

"I would like to thank a few other people," Helton added. "Dr. Lovell and the entire search committee played a large part in this process, and this couldn't have happened without them. Thank you to Dr. Lovell for her leadership and the search committee for their time and effort in the review of an outstanding pool of candidates."

A native of Levelland (TX), Kirkland earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from West Texas A&M University in 2010 and a Master of Arts in Education, with a specialty in Teacher Leadership and Coaching, from Grand Canyon University in 2014. He and his wife Marina have three sons Kash, Krew, and Kolt.

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Miller-Beisel & Kimzey Named Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

In a special alumni edition following the completion of the 2021 Wrangler NFR this month, SWOSU Rodeo alums Emily Miller-Beisel and Sage Kimzey have been named the latest 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.'

Miller-Beisel ended the 2021 rodeo season third in the world in barrel racing and had herself another great 2021 NFR performance after finishing tied for fourth in the average. She also set a round record in round five when her and her horse Chongo posted a 13.43 second ride. Miller-Beisel competed for the Bulldogs from 2012-14.

Kimzey took home his seventh PRCA bull riding

world title this month following the completion of the 2021 Wrangler NFR in Las Vegas. Kimzey, also a former SWOSU Rodeo member from 2012-14, is now tied with Jim Shoulders for the second-most PRCA bull riding world titles and is one away from tying Don Gay's eight. He finished the 10-day Las Vegas event third in the average, but fended off competitor Josh Frost by riding the last three bulls of the event to claim his title.

SWOSU Men's Basketball Suffers Loss at Dallas Baptist

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

SWOSU Men's Basketball could not get anything going against Dallas Baptist on Saturday in their 84-54 loss to the Patriots.

The Bulldogs shot just 34% from the field as a team and turned the ball over 22 times in the game. Meanwhile, DBU shot 48% and turned the ball over just 12.

SWOSU dug themselves a hole in the first half, trailing 43-24 at the break, and was unable to chip away at the deficit at all after again being outscored in the half.

Kamden Gipson was a bright spot for the offense. He finished with 17 points on 7-for-14 (50%) shooting and also had four assists. He was the lone double-digit scorer on the afternoon for SWOSU.

SWOSU, 2-2 in Great American Conference play, finds themselves right in the thick of the conference standings heading into Christmas Break. They will take a two-game GAC winning streak into their next matchup with Arkansas Monticello on December 30th.



Provided

SWOSU Men's Basketball Coach Terry Evans speaks with his team during a timeout in their 84-54 loss against Dallas Baptist. Despite the loss the Bulldogs still maintain a 2 game conference win streak.

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Trent Boesen

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This Treasury note is known as an "Ornate Back" since it displays an intricate deep green design on the back of the note.

The man on the front is John Marshall who was the chief justice of the Supreme court from 1801 to 1835.

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EMERITI

Continued from Page 3

over the course of 42 years served the roles of professor, Crowder Lake University Park supervisor, Health and Physical Education and Recreation Department chair, SWOSU reserve ranger, Adventure Programs project director, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Dean of the College of Professional Studies. Accepting the award on his behalf is his wife Susan, of 33 years, and his children, David, D'Ann, Wesly, and Tiler, who are all proud SWOSU Bulldogs.

James South - James South served at SWOSU from 1995 to 2021, a 26-year career that included the positions of professor, director of bands, department chair (music), dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and for his final eight years, provost and vice president for academic affairs. His degrees include the Bachelor of Music Education from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas (Denton, TX). In his early career, he was an educational representative for a large music store in the Dallas area, a private trumpet teacher in Irving and Duncanville, and a middle school band director for three years in Irving (TX). After completing his master's degree and the coursework for the DMA, he was hired as visiting lecturer in trumpet at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a position he held for two years. After completing the DMA in 1990, he moved to Emporia State University in Kansas for five years, first teaching trumpet and jazz band, and later teaching trumpet and conducting the band and orchestra. As a professional trumpeter, he has performed extensively with the Dallas Symphony

Orchestra (including a performance in Carnegie Hall), the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Wind Symphony, the Dallas Ballet and Opera Orchestras, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, and the Sinfonia da Camera of Illinois (including a performance in Lincoln Center). As a conductor, in addition to being a college band director for 19 years, he has worked with all-region and honor bands in Texas, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma and is a respected clinician and adjudicator for high school and middle school bands. He spent nine years on the board of the Oklahoma Music Educators Association, led that organization as president for two years, and was inducted into the OMEA Hall of Fame. He was also elected as Southwestern Division president of the National Association for Music Education, and served for six years on the NAFME National Executive Board, representing TX, NM, CO, KS, OK, MO and AR. At SWOSU, he considers his most important work to have been focusing attention on recruitment and retention. With the hard work of faculty, administration and staff, those gains were substantial during his tenure.

Randy Beutler - Randy Beutler was born in Elk City and graduated from Canute High School. He is a graduate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he received both his bachelors' and masters' degrees in education with honors. He received his juris doctor (JD) degree from Taft Law School in Santa Ana (CA), in 2011. Beutler taught history and government for eight years at the high school level and was twice named "Teacher of the Year" twice by his peers at Weatherford Public Schools. In 1988, Randy was selected as one of 15 history teachers across the country to receive a William Robertson Coe Fellowship to Stanford University. The next year he was

selected to attend the Woodrow Wilson Institute's history seminars at Princeton University. In 1992, Beutler was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives where he served four terms eventually being selected as Majority Whip. From 2003 to 2006, Randy served in Gov. Brad Henry's administration as a senior staff member. In his spare time, Beutler is an avid historian and co-owner of a ranching partnership, Beutler-Redd Ranches of Elk City. In 2006, Randy rejoined his alma mater, SWOSU, as vice president for public policy where he helped establish the President's Leadership Class. In February 2010, Beutler was named the 17th president of Southwestern Oklahoma State University; he retired from SWOSU in July 2021.

Previous SWOSU Alumni Association Emeritus Award honorees include:

2019: Radwan Al-Jarrah, Vicki Gilliland, Charles "Skip" Klingman, and Terry Segress

2018: Stuart Burchett, Les Crall, John Hays and Blake Sonobe

2017: Jill Jones, Henry Kirkland, Jr. (posthumous), John Loftin and Randall Russell.

2016: Dan Dill, Joe Anna Hibler, Mark Mouse (posthumous) and Bill Seibert.

2015: Lamar Crall, Roger Egerton and Mona Jean Suter.

The SWOSU Alumni Association, a subsidiary of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., is a dynamic group of volunteers from all walks of life who are passionate about giving back to SWOSU. The association offers members a variety of benefits and event opportunities. For more information, contact SWOSU's Office of Institutional Advancement at 580-774-3289 or visit www.SWOSUAlumni.com.

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HIGHER GROUND

Our Christmas Story

I know that many of you are familiar with this story, but I hope you will tolerate my retelling it during this Christmas season. It has been, for my wife and me, a sustaining picture of the grace of God. Perhaps for some of you, it will bring hope and encouragement.

We arrived in Weatherford in 1965 where I was to serve as Director of the Baptist Student Union on the campus of SWOSU. The next year, my wife, Mary taught at what was then Washita Heights Public Schools in Corn. We wanted to have children and sometime that winter, I received a call from her declaring that she was pregnant. We rejoiced and through the summer we excitedly awaited the coming of our firstborn in early August. There was no indication of any problems. As the due date approached we drove to Burns Flat to visit my parents. On the way home Mary said that she had not felt any movement in her womb for a time.

We assumed that the baby was asleep and waited till morning for Mary to go to the doctor. Foolishly, I had let Mary go alone, but I was summoned to the doctor's office to learn the awful truth that our baby had died.

Of course, it was a summer of great sadness, full of questions. We tentatively explored adoption because of the fear of reoccurrence, but we found little success. As Christmas approached, and with hearts still heavy, we drove to Shreveport to celebrate the holidays with her parents. We enjoyed the family time and set down for the evening meal on Christmas day, preparing to return to Weatherford the following day.

The phone rang with news that would change our lives. Mary's mother, Ruth, was a nurse. She had confided with a doctor about the loss of our baby. This sensitive doctor was on the phone with the news that a Louisiana Tech co-ed had given birth three days before. She was not married and didn't feel prepared to take care of the baby. That day she had made the decision to give the baby up for adoption. The doctor wondered if we were interested. Of course we were! We frantically searched for a lawyer, available in the holiday season to work out the necessary legal details. We didn't sleep much that night; did some shopping

the next day, and drove to the hospital to take into our hearts and lives the miraculous gift that would heal our broken hearts. We waited with great anticipation for the nurse to bring the baby. We learned later that she was changing the name on the wrist band to read "Morrison." Finally, the nurse came and placed in my arms a beautiful little, blue-eyed baby girl. We named her Mary Michelle. Many of you know her. She was later joined by two biological siblings, Melanie and Randy who are equally blessings from God.

It was an unbelievable Christmas gift from the Father who makes all things well. This was 1967, before the decision of Roe Vs. Wade. Had that been in effect it is probable that the baby would have been killed in the womb, never to grow up to have two of our grandchildren and to be the blessing she has been to us and to many others.

Another Mary gave birth 2000+ years ago, in a much more miraculous way, to a baby boy who by his life, death and resurrection would set our hearts to singing, bring hope out of despair, and rid us of our captivity to sin. I hope you have received Him into your heart and learned to trust and obey Him. To comment: jhm82@outlook.com



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