

# WEST OK WEEKLY



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## SWOSU Jazz Festival to Feature 3D Jazz Trio & Friends



Provided

3D Jazz Trio and Friends is headlining the 2022 SWOSU Jazz Festival, coming up February 10-11 on the Weatherford campus. Tickets are now available on stubwire.com at <https://share.swosu.edu/JazzFestTickets>

The SWOSU Jazz Festival is coming up on February 10-11 on the Weatherford campus, and the prestigious festival will feature the 3D Jazz Trio and Friends.

Tickets for the various concerts and additional information about the featured group are available on stubwire.com at <https://share.swosu.edu/JazzFestTickets>

Dr. Richard Tirk, director of the festival, said there will be concerts on Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 1 p.m. and Friday at 8 p.m. There will be clinics and high school/middle school bands, playing throughout the day. In addition a "Drinks with the Divas" reception will also be held on Friday evening from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Featured artists this year include the 3D Jazz Trio of Sherrie Maricle, drums; Jackie Warren, piano; and Amy Shook, bass. The friends include Jenn Krupa, trombone; Barbara Laronga, trumpet; and Janelle Reichman, sax. 3D plays original, traditional and contemporary standards from all genres of music. The group met in 2014 at the Cleveland Playhouse while playing in The DIVA Jazz Orchestra and 3D has performed at many of the world's most prestigious venues and festivals.

The 52nd annual SWOSU Jazz Festival is made possible by the SWOSU Music Department in conjunction with the City of Weatherford, Oklahoma Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the SWOSU Foundation.

For additional information about the festival, please visit [www.swosujazz.com](http://www.swosujazz.com) or call the music department at 580.774.3708.



Krystal Blackwell/WW

Cash Willis, 12, catches some air on the soccer field slopes in Weatherford last week during his afternoon snow day!



Krystal Blackwell/WW

Hayes Hargis, 5, has a little snow day fun!



Provided

Scout Miller, 5, ventures out in the snow.

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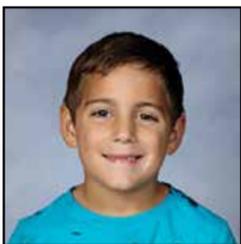
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### Kamp Ryan Schreck

Funeral service for Kamp Ryan Schreck, 7-year-old Weatherford resident were held on Saturday, February 5, 2022, in the First Baptist Church at 10:00 A.M. with Billy Shaw officiating. Burial followed in Greenwood Cemetery, under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



Our baby Kamp Ryan Schreck was born on August 9th, 2014, and left this world for his eternal home with Jesus on January 29th, 2022.

The day he came into this world with his big beautiful brown eyes and perfect skin, we knew he was going to be something special. He had completed our family of five and his brothers adored him. He was the best baby. Once his personality started to show, we knew he was going to do big things in his life.

Everything came so natural to Kamp. He was a great student, a great friend, a great leader, a great brother, a great athlete and a perfect son, mixed with a lot of ornery.

Kamp had many names...Nick and Lindsey never knew what someone was going to call him. His momma called him her little monkey, many called him Kamper or Kampers, his brothers nicknamed him Larry at a young age that just stuck and many around the community called him that, too. Then brother Kye recently named him Jimmy and he answered to that, too. We aren't really sure why this was a thing but it was hilarious and we loved it.

Give this kid a ball and he was happy. It wasn't very often he didn't have some form of ball in his hand, asking dad, "Is it too cold to play catch?"

He loved going to grandma and grandpa's house in Taloga on the weekends. Many of those weekends were spent playing Uno for hours. He'd even try to let grandpa win he was that good. And he'd always say grandma was the best cooker.

EVERYTHING was a competition for Kamp. Literally everything. We loved his fire and his drive to be the best Kamp he could be.

Kamp loved BIG. And everyone who Kamp loved; they knew it. If he loved you, he told you. He'd tell his mom and dad he loved them at least fifty times a day and that's not an exaggeration. He gave the best hugs. His heart was so kind and full of love that he was always ready to share it.

Kamp is preceded in death by his great grandparents, Clifford and Joan Calkins, and Charles Pisacka. And cousin Kelby Mercer.

Kamp is survived by his parents Nick and Lindsey Schreck, two precious brothers Tay and Kye Schreck, maternal grandparents Kevin and Lennet Pisacka; paternal grandparents Holly Duke and husband Steve, and Lynn Schreck. His "aunt G" Jennifer Hartman and husband Craig and his uncle Vaughn Schreck; two cousins: Haley Schreck and Tristan Breeze. And a host of other family, extended family, and friends.

Norma married Fred Powers on July 23, 1964, in Marion, Ohio. They made their home in various parts of the country, doing exploration work before settling north of Corn, Oklahoma, in 1978. Norma was active in Powers Drilling, Inc., and absolutely loved her family and cherished her time spent with all of them, was devoted to her church activities, serving others every day, cooking and spending quality time hosting her friends in her home.

Norma is survived by two sons: Mike Powers and his wife Shalee of Corn, Oklahoma; and their children Brandon Powers of Corn, Oklahoma; and Blake and Chelsey Powers and their children Chloe and Grant of Weatherford, Oklahoma; Bryan Powers and his wife Gina and their children Connor, Camryn, and Cate of McAlester, Oklahoma; one daughter Angie Karlin and her husband Mike and their children Barrett and Ashlynn of Weatherford, Oklahoma; nephew Travis Powers and wife Chanda of Cordell, Oklahoma; six brothers and sisters: Rosemary Petersen and husband Ed of Scottsbluff, Nebraska; Michael Lulow of Torrington, Wyoming; Margaret Fallon of Lindsey, Oklahoma; Gloria Lauder of Scottsbluff, Nebraska; Steve Lulow of Alliance, Nebraska; Bonny Best and husband Richard of Alliance, Nebraska; sister-in-law Sharon Lulow of Lincoln, Nebraska; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by her parents William Michael and Eula Leora Lulow, husband Fred Truman Powers, daughter Kimberly Powers, sister Leonor Stearns, brothers John Lulow and Bob Lulow.

### Jewell Crall

Jewell Crall was born to James Alfred and Lillian (Riney) Hunt on January 30, 1933, in Randlett, OK and passed away on January 30, 2022, in Weatherford, OK, at the age of 89 years.



Jewell was raised in Rush Springs and Cheyenne, graduating with the Cheyenne Class of 1951 as Valedictorian. She attended Southwestern Teacher College, graduating in 1958 and later completed her Master's Degree in 1965. She married Lamar Crall, and they made their home North of Weatherford. They moved to Arkansas for two years before returning to the farm. Jewell taught one year at Corn and then Thomas for 28 years until retirement. She enjoyed sewing, embroidering and gardening. Memorials may be made to the Heartland Museum.

Jewell is survived by two sons Edward Crall and his wife Debbie of Thomas and Les Crall and his wife Laurie of Weatherford; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a long-time friend Dolores Davidson of Weatherford. She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers: Jim, Spec and Billy Wayne; and one sister Priscilla Mead.

many other relatives and friends.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents Frank and Liz Oehler, his grandchild, Brandon Sams, and his sister Peggy Oehler.

Services: Hinton Turner Funeral Home Chapel, Monday, 1:00 PM, January 31, 2022, Hinton, OK

Officiating: Rev. Brandon Kittle

Burial: Hinton Cemetery, Hinton, OK

Services entrusted to Turner Funeral Home, Hinton, Oklahoma.

### Donald R. Price

A viewing was held for Donald R. Price, 70, Clinton, resident at 1:00 P.M., until 8:00 P.M., Sunday, February 6, 2022, in the Kiesau -Lee Funeral Home. A private burial will be held later.



Donald R. Price was born September 23, 1951, to Lowell Owen Price and Dorothy Marie (Smith) Price in Childress, TX and passed away Tuesday, February 1, 2022, in his Clinton home.

Donald was raised in Hollis, OK through the fifth grade. He moved to Clinton with his family and attended Clinton Schools and graduated from Clinton High School in 1969. While in high school, he participated in sports, and in 1968 he played on the National Football Team.

He worked for the Department of Transportation with the highway department and the Cotton Oil Mill. He moved to the Oklahoma City area and sold cars for Bob Moore Cadillac and later became a Drug and Alcohol Counselor at Langston University.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he enjoyed golfing, traveling and caring for his four-legged friends and most of all spending time with family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son Clarence Audi Price and brothers: Bobby Price and Billy Price.

He is survived by daughter Meredith Jefferson and husband Mike of Clinton; son Lowell D. "L.D." Price and wife Amanda of Edmond, OK. He is also survived by nine grandchildren: Jordan Fisher, Lexee Fisher, Makail Jefferson, Jaden Jefferson, Sara Price, Caleb Jefferson, Emma Price and Jacob Price and Ryland Young; four great-grandchildren: Jaegyn Stevenson, Chandler Stevenson, Baker Jones and Draycen Shegog and numerous friends, including Rick Kobernus, Bobby Herzer, Randall Peck, Jackie Brehm.

### Norma Powers

Norma was born to Eula Leora and William Michael Lulow on August 14, 1947, in Alliance, Nebraska and passed away on Sunday, January 30, 2022, at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the age of 74.



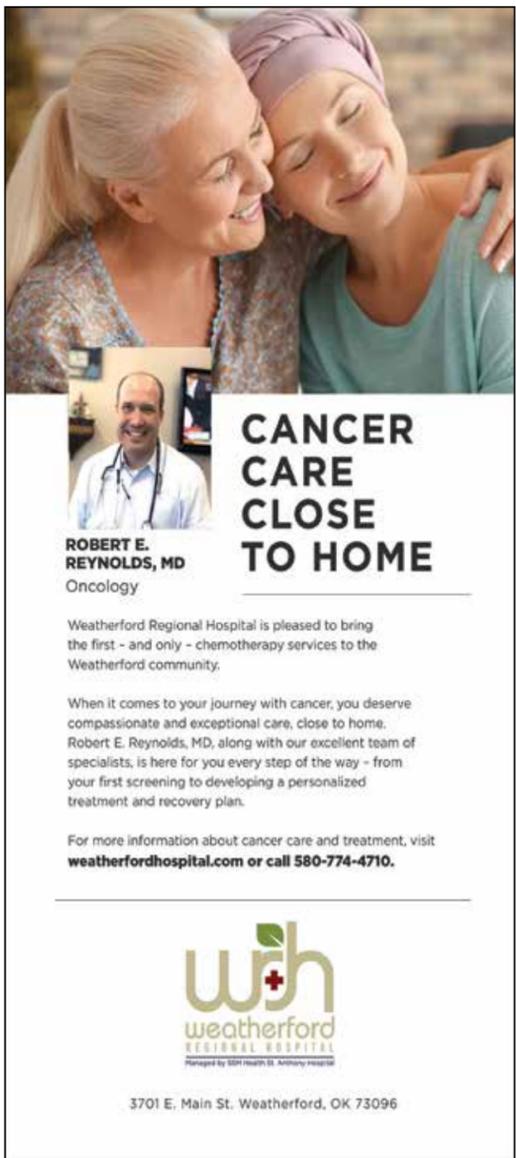
Norma was raised in Alliance, Nebraska.

### Bobby Jack Oehler

Bobby Jack Oehler was born on June 23, 1951, in Ft. Sill, OK to Ruban Frank and Elizabeth (Olds) Oehler. He passed away on January 25, 2022, at his home in Hinton, OK at the age of 70. Bobby lived most of his adult life in Weatherford, OK. He married Judy Blakely Ballard on May 17, 2013, in OKC, OK. The couple moved to Hinton and made their home there. Bobby worked as a diesel mechanic, worked in the Oil & Gas industry as a flow back and pumper. Bobby enjoyed fishing, watching TV (Westerns, and his all-time favorite movie, RV), reading, and playing the drums. He was a member of Nazarene Church in Weatherford, OK.



Survived by his wife, Judy Oehler of Hinton, OK, his children: Robert Scott Oehler of Miami, OK; and Crystal Lynn Harrington of Norman, OK, his step-children: Sheila Goerend of Weatherford, OK; Angela Sams of Miami, OK; and Ryan Ballard of Hinton, OK; adopted children: Amber and Chris; his grandchildren: Robert Charles, Terry Scott Oehler, Dakota, Trevor, and Logan Harrington, Kirsten Sams, Hudson and Cannon Ballard, Alec and Camille Goerend; his great grandchildren: Bobby Glass, Jr., Serenity and Bentley Baker, his brother Roger Oehler and wife Jessica of Colorado, as well as



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### Lois Albright

Graveside Services for Lois Albright, 90, Clinton resident were held Tuesday, February 8, 2022, in the Clinton Cemetery, officiated by David Lee Guy and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Lois Colleen Albright was born March 3, 1931, to John Parish Shankel and Agnes Sigrid (Angell) Shankel in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and passed away Tuesday, February 1, 2022, in the Cordell Christian Home in Cordell, OK.

While growing, Lois traveled over the United States with her family and graduated from a Minnesota high school in 1949. She married James "Jim" Martin Albright on February 24, 1978. They made Clinton their home and he preceded her in death in 1996.

She volunteered delivering meals on wheels, she loved to dance and later years square dance, she liked doing hand work, crocheting, watching "Jeopardy" on television. She collected Zebra's of all shapes and sizes, she was an avid Red Tornado Fan, going to dirt track races and when able she loved to play dominoes with Marian and Betty Cocanougher.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jim, two sons, Charles and Everett Guy, daughter Lois Guy and brother Lee Shankel.

She is survived by two daughters: Julia Gayle Kunz and husband Greg of Chesapeake, VA, Leila Abedini of OKC, OK and daughter-in-law Patsi Guy of Custer City, OK; two sons: Ralph Hansen and wife Paula of Durango, CO and Johnny Guy and wife Leigh of Kingsland, Georgia.

She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren.



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## Connections Food & Resource Center Chosen as a Finalist

Connections Food & Resource Center is one of twenty-one Oklahoma organizations that are now finalists for the prestigious Oklahoma Nonprofit Excellence (ONE) Awards, presented annually by the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits (OKCNP). Out of almost 19,000 nonprofits statewide, only twenty-one were named finalists.

"We're not only excited, but we're also very surprised being a finalist as we didn't even know the ONE Awards existed. Our mission operates with excellence because of the whole-hearted investment of my staff as well as our donors, volunteers, and advocates. We hope we've made them proud. Oklahoma is the fifth hungriest state in the nation so there's still work to be done. We'll gratefully accept the ONE monetary award and continue serving our hungry Oklahomans."

On April 9, 2022, finalists will join together at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club to celebrate and hear the announcement of the 2022 ONE Awards winners. Finalists are divided into seven mission categories and receive \$5,000, with category winners receiving \$7,500. On the night of the event, an overall winner will be awarded \$10,000 and the title of Oklahoma's 2022 Nonprofit of Excellence. In total, this year's finalists will receive \$125,000 to recognize the impact of their charitable work throughout the state. As of 2021, the OKCNP ONE Awards has given more than \$2 million to more than 200 Oklahoma nonprofits.

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Arts and Humanities
- Community
- Education



**Connections Food & Resource Center staff: Volunteer Coordinator Kendra Gift, Warehouse Manager Arlee Copeland, Executive Director Lori Flansburg, Assistant Director Eddie Bennett**

- General Impact
- Health Services
- Self-Sufficiency
- Youth Development

The finalists were chosen by the ONE Awards Selection Commission, a group of prestigious community leaders

from across Oklahoma.

"The ONE Award recipients are selected for their excellence in all areas, from impact and service delivery to clients, to reputation, to internal management and efficiencies," Phil Lakin Jr., Chairman of the ONE Awards Selection Commission, said.



Thomas High School recently celebrated their senior basketball players

Courtesy of Tim Billy

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## HIGHER GROUND

### Freedom Behind Bars



Jim Morrison

Late Monday evening I received a call from the wife of an inmate in the county jail. We had provided gifts for her daughter through the Angel Tree program and she had my number. She needed a ride to OKC the next day so she could be admitted into a drug rehab program. I would be going to the jail that afternoon so I didn't relish driving another 150 miles. I told her I would call back. As I thought through the situation I realized that rather than it being an interruption it could be an opportunity. It was an occasion where the flesh said no but the Spirit wouldn't let me go. The problem was compounded by the fact that she was 9 months pregnant and I pictured the possibility of having to deliver a baby by the side of the road. So my wife agreed to go with me, although being a midwife is not on her resume'. As it turned out, it was a positive time as I was able to share with her, learn a little of her very hard background of no dad, foster home care, shuttled about between relatives, etc.

We got back in time to make my jail visit with no problems. The jail is made up of 5 pods for men, with each pod housing 15-18 men in various cells. The afternoon proved to be one of the most meaningful and productive times that I have had. The first hour, 10 of the 15 men in the pod came for the services and the second hour brought 13 of 16 Native Americans, mostly from Montana. So I was able to meet with 23 men who were in need of a Savior (some had already received Christ) I happened to be showing, by DVD, a service at Saddleback Community Church. Lou Strobel shared the story of his pilgrimage of faith from a pleasure driven, atheistic lifestyle to surrendering his life to Christ. He spent two years investigating the claims of Christianity; Christ's death and resurrection, his claims of being one with the Father, and the credibility of the Scriptures. It was a beautiful story of redemption, forgiveness of sin, and the challenge to make his story, their story.

I have been doing this for 19 years and I have never felt the presence of the Holy Spirit so profoundly. At least 10 of the men professed faith in Christ. I know all about "jailhouse conversions," the tendency to want God on their side, etc. I can't judge their heart. I only know that the gospel was presented as clearly as possible with no pressure or sad stories. Their circumstances do not allow me to do one-on-one follow up. I can only send materials and challenge them to seek growth through the Scriptures, prayer and fellowship within the group. I do ask that you pray for their hearts to be softened to seek understanding, their wills to be surrendered, and the eyes of their heart to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit. To comment: [jhm82@outlook.com](mailto:jhm82@outlook.com) or 580-302-1142

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# LOCAL & AREA NEWS



**Mike Smith**  
News Director

## Ewy & Fortier of SWOSU Baseball Named Bulldogs of the Week



**GRANT EWY**      **SAMUEL FORTIER**



### BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK

Week 22 - Jan. 31 - Feb. 6



**Jon Chidester**  
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

SWOSU Baseball got their season underway last week and had a pair of standout performances that have allowed Grant Ewy and Samuel Fortier to earn Bulldogs of the Week. The award is brought to you by Wright Wradio, the home of SWOSU Athletics on both 95.5 'The Coyote' and 100.3 'Coyote Classic.'

Ewy (Moore, Okla.) picked up the win on the mound in SWOSU's 13-6 victory over Missouri Southern in the season opener. Coming on in relief, he threw 3.1 innings of scoreless baseball – finishing with four strikeouts and allowing just two hits. On Sunday

against Pittsburg State, Ewy again did not allow a run in relief, this time throwing 2.2 innings for the Bulldog pitching staff.

Fortier (Quebec, Ontario) started the season strong at the plate for SWOSU. Through the first two games, he is 3-for-7 with a triple and a double. Against Missouri Southern, he went 2-for-4 with a bases clearing three RBI triple and scored two runs himself. On Sunday, he added another extra-base hit and finished 1-for-3 against Pitt State. SWOSU fell to the Gorillas in extra innings 6-4 to start the season 1-1.

**WEATHERFORD/DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GRANT-** The City of Weatherford is one of 28 communities selected across the state to receive funding to support the development of new industrial sites to market. Weatherford Economic Development director Yolanda Creswell said the amount of the grant is \$24,000.

**BECKHAM CO DIST COURT/ERNST-** A Clinton man has been bound over on multiple charges, including conjoint robbery and robbery with a weapon after waving a preliminary hearing in Beckham County district court. Twenty-one-year-old William Carl Ernst allegedly held three employees at gunpoint while getting away with approximately \$1,200 from the McDonald's restaurant in Sayre in January 2020. Formal arraignment is planned.

**SMARTASSET/MORTGAGE STUDY-** A study by Smartasset ranks Custer County among the best places in Oklahoma to get a mortgage. Smartasset ranks Custer County as number seven in the state with a loan funding rate of just over 66%. The study analyzed data on mortgage approval rates, interest rates, average five-year borrowing costs and property taxes.

**CUSTER COUNTY BURN BAN-** Custer county commissioners took no action on the current burn ban in Custer County. District one commissioner Wade Anders says that the dry conditions, including low humidity, can quickly lead to a fire. The commissioners will discuss the ban again next week.

**DEWEY CO DIST COURT/SECHRIST-** An Apache man has been bound over in Dewey County district court on first degree murder charges in connection with the death of a Leedey EMT and her sister-in-law. Thirty-four-year-old Tye Sechrist is accused in the shooting deaths of 44-year-old Angel Boyd and 31-year-old Stacy Boyd. Sechrist is due back in court for formal arraignment on February 7th.

**CLINTON SCHOOLS FINALIZES PLAN-** Clinton schools superintendent Tyler Bridges said after months of community meetings and input, Clinton Public Schools has finalized a capital investment plan to provide students with safer schools, updated facilities and more academic opportunities. Members of the board of education have voted to call an April 5th bond election for Clinton residents to consider the proposal. Bridges said as part of the plan, the district plans to realign grades.

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**Happy Birthday Wishes for February 9th-** Sarah Barton, Julie Carr, Savannah Chervenka, Judy Hatter, Addison Sage, Matt Hollan, Andrea Maddox, Jerry McCoy, Hannah Nance, Michele Permenter, Rylie Rodriguez, Clay Roper, Rod Thompson, Larry West; **February 10th-** Robbie Cagle, Mark Crow, Annabell Elliott, Ray Flaming, Midge Gerber, Judy Hayes, Bob Hill, Annie King, Regina Landers, Jaden Lasley, Peggy McMurry, Kristian Menefee, Darlene Miller, Turner Moss, Hugo Ortiz, Beverly Watson; **February 11th-** Brad Anderson, Cody Casey, Tony Davenport, Yvonne Davis, Lynlea Hunter, Matthew Klassen, Revlynn Moore, Joseph Ray, Joyselyn Stucky, Neva Taff, Travis Watson; **February 12th-** Lucille Boeckman, Julia Brinkley, Allen Brock, Chris Crabtree, Tammy Deela, Grace Hassen, Chris Kirk, Vicky Meachum, Roegen Nstell, Julia Schantz; **February 13th-** Bobbielou Allen, John Collier, Stan Eaton, Carol Eaton, Rylee Hart, Carol Henderson, McKayla Hook, Patti Johnston, Bill Leatherbury, Joe Merrell, Rod Millard, Ayden Rodriguez, Jeannie Toppah; **February 14th-** Bobbielou Allen, ; **February 15th-** Edna Digby, Queta Douglas, Shawn Graves, Paisley Henley, Chester Moss, Richie Oaks, Jack Phelps, Carol Rumsey, Kimmy Johnson, Debbie Shepherd, Alveta Taylor, Doug Terry, Paul Thiessen, Steve Tinsley, Bobby Kay Tompkins.

# SPORTS *Presented by:*



## Bulldog Bats Start Hot on Opening Day

**Jon Chidester**  
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

It was a great day at the plate for SWOSU Baseball, especially in the bottom of the fifth inning, as SWOSU scored eight runs in that inning and went on to defeat Missouri Southern 13-6.

The Bulldogs also recorded 16 hits in the game – six of those for extra bases including two triples and a home run.

The bottom of the first featured a 2-run home hit by Jean Ortiz and four hits. Miguel Soto got the party started for SWOSU in the bottom of the first, as he hit a triple, which gave the Bulldogs the momentum they needed to score four runs.

Missouri Southern fired right back at the Bulldogs and scored three runs in the top of the second inning.

SWOSU added a run to their lead in the bottom of the third inning, when Marc Gonzales hit a double to left field and Taylan Mullins-Ohm scored.

An inning later, Missouri Southern took the lead in the top of the fifth inning when they scored three runs. This was the first time SWOSU trailed all game and it would not last long.

The Bulldogs answered in the bottom of the fifth inning, by scoring eight runs and recording seven hits to reclaim the lead. They would not trail again, and never looked back.

In this inning, SWOSU really got the sticks going as the lineup batted around. It featured two bunts to move runners into scoring position and to load the bases. SWOSU also recorded a double and triple in this inning, along with some singles to give the Bulldogs a 13-6



advantage. In the game, Soto and Gonzales recorded three hits and Mullins-Ohm scored three runs. Each team recorded eight strikeouts, but SWOSU recorded zero errors.

SWOSU used five pitchers in today's matchup. Ernesto Hidrogo got the start and went 3.0 innings, recording three strikeouts and giving up five hits. Noah Chapman (1.1), Grant Ewy (3.1), Chase Hamilton (.1), and Nate

Postlethwait (1.0) all saw innings in relief. SWOSU starts the season 1-0 and will play their next game, 3 p.m. Saturday against Pitt State in the Edmond First Pitch Classic at the University of Central Oklahoma. This game day and time has already been altered once due to impending weather, and is subject to be changed again. Please follow SWOSU Athletic social media pages to stay up to date on any schedule changes.

## Kirkland Adds Karson Green as Offensive Line Coach

**Jon Chidester**  
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations



Head Coach Josh Kirkland has announced the addition of Karson Green to his staff for the 2022 football season. He will be responsible for coaching the offensive line for the Bulldogs.

"Green is an intelligent coach with time spent playing

at the highest junior college and NCAA levels that will provide tremendous experience for us," said Kirkland. "His ties within the Oklahoma landscape are a huge asset to us for recruiting and I'm excited to have him join the staff."

Green comes from the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) where he spent the past two seasons as the Offensive Line Coach for the Bronchos. It was his second stint in Edmond, having also served as a graduate assistant for UCO from 2018-19.

In between coaching jobs at UCO, Green spent a year at NCAA Division I University of Massachusetts where he coached offensive line and was the offensive quality control coach. While at UMass, Green coached Larnell Coleman, who was selected in the seventh round of the 2021 NFL Draft.

During his playing days, Green spent two seasons at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M (NEO) College before transferring to Iowa State in 2016.

"I'm thankful for Coach Kirkland giving me this opportunity to join the staff at SWOSU," Green said. "The SWOSU community is unbelievable and has given my family and I such a warm welcome. I am looking forward to creating great men through our football program. Go Dawgs!"

A native of Madill, Okla., Green holds a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences from Iowa State and a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies of History from UCO. He and his wife Bre'Anna have two dogs, Frank and Lucy.

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# Oklahoma History: A Wild Western Amazon

Many of the infamous Wild West outlaws are intimately familiar with Oklahoma. From Jesse James's gold, to Bonnie and Clyde's shootout, to the Wild Bunch's high profile bank & train robberies, Oklahoma was an attractive location for laying low and dastardly deeds. Another \*Starr\* of the South, who met their end in Oklahoma "Indian Territory" was one of the most notorious women of the period – the "Bandit Queen" Belle Starr.

Belle, born Myra Belle Shirley, grew up in Missouri in the early 1850's. According to sources who knew her family at the time, she was well educated and had already become adept as a pianist. Her family life was typical; her father was an innkeeper, and they were respected as a middle-class family. Life for Starr was organized, calm, and a little boring. However, tragedy struck when the Civil War outbreak took the life of her brother Edwin and forced her father to close his business. Her family gathered their things and headed to Texas, where they would hopefully be able to leave all those painful memories in Missouri.

While in Texas, she met Cole Younger, a member of the James-Younger gang. The gang centralized around Jesse James and his brother Frank. The History channel described Belle's attitude towards her new running mates as "untroubled" and even listed her as a "partner in crime by 1869." Some of her crimes involved stealing horses, cattle, and money around the Dallas area. Always atop her mare named "Venus," Belle was romanticized in the public's eye for her high-fashion outfits like velvet skirts and plumed hats. She gained the nickname "Bandit Queen."

In 1874, Belle found herself alone and betrayed when her recent partner Jim Reed was killed, presumably by his own gang. On the run from the law, Belle found shelter in Oklahoma Indian Territory. While in Oklahoma, Belle began leading her own band of thieves. Shortly thereafter, she met her future criminal partner and namesake Sam Starr. They became "married" under common-law and

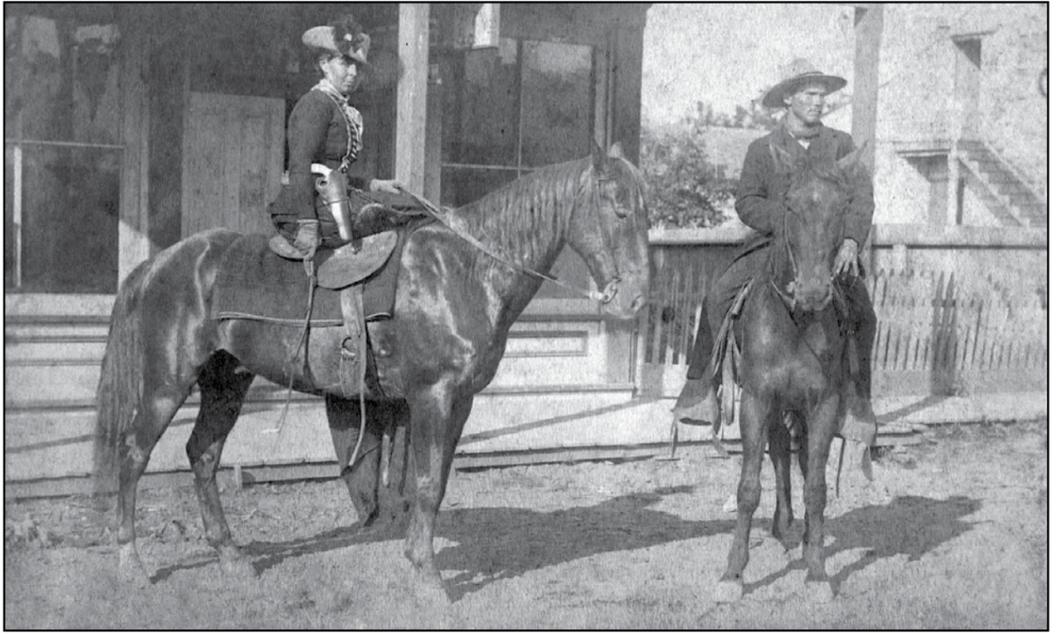


Photo: Belle with Deputy U.S. Marshal Benjamin Tyner Hughes, Fort Smith Arkansas, 1886. *Provided*

went on a successful crime run for almost a decade. In 1883, the couple was arrested and spent five months in a federal prison in Detroit.

Upon release, they dove straight back into their criminal activities, but Belle once again experienced loss when Sam was killed in a gunfight 3 years later. By this time, Belle's notoriety was at its peak and she found another companion named Jim July. But a violent life leads to violent ends, and in 1889, July was arrested and set to appear in Fort Smith, Arkansas, for sentencing. Belle went with him until they reached Fort Smith where she turned back home. While on the way back, she was ambushed

and fatally wounded near Eufaula, Oklahoma, with two shotgun shots in her back. July believed the murder was done by a neighbor that they had been fighting with. However, charges were never brought up on anyone for her death.

Following her death, Belle's story was published by Richard K. Fox in a novel titled *Belle Starr, the Bandit Queen, or the Female Jesse James*. Belle became one of the most prominent figures of the Great Southwest and her death became one of the most high-profile "unsolved murders" stories. A statue of Belle Starr can be visited at Woolaroc museum in Oklahoma.

## "The Coin Guy" Rare Gold Penny



Trent Boesen

On September 26, 2021, a rare gold penny was found in a field in the United Kingdom by a metal detectorist.

It is from the reign of Henry III (1216 to 1272). It had a face value of 20 Pence and it was minted in 1257.

A total of eight gold pennies are known with



only four that are in private collections. All gold pennies of this time were an emergency issue by King Henry III. It sold at auction for \$878,234.

Do you have a coin collection for sale but did not know who to ask? Call The Coin Guy at 580-890-8076 to make an appointment. Thanks for reading.



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