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Charity Gala to benefit Step Up Transitional Living Program scheduled



Chase Wright
Staff Writer

STEP UP, the Transitional Living Program out of Weatherford, is hosting the charity fundraiser "Moonlight in Monte Carlo". The charity will be held on March 11th from 7:30 pm - 11 pm at one of the top venues in the area: Sorelle - The Meadow on Deer Creek. The event will have food, specialty cocktails, dancing and music by DJ Light Bright.

Additional entertainment will feature Alton Carter, an Oklahoma based Author of the award-winning nonfiction book *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*. The book is a true story about surviving an abusive family

and a troubled foster care experience. Carter's newest book, *Aging Out* is a direct sequel following his life from teen hood, through college, and into his time as a police officer. It has also received much acclaim and was named a top 10 finalist in the 2019 Louisiana Teen Reader's Choice. Each book focuses on some of the hardest things Carter had to face as well as the steps and mentality he had to adopt to overcome those challenges. Carter will be available to talk with guests in small groups throughout the night.

Tickets to the fundraiser are available at \$60 per person or \$100 for a pair of 2. Additional event games and prizes will take place including Blackjack, Craps, and Wine Pull. The casino style games will have chips that can be redeemed for prizes. Attendees can also participate in the "Winner's Choice Ultimate Vacation

Raffle". There will be many raffle prizes to give out, and the grand prize is a \$2,000 gift certificate to be used with Jessica Riediger, an independent travel consultant with Vincent Vacations. Vacation raffles are \$50 per entry; raffle entries do not need to be present to win. Registration for the fundraiser can be done through stepuptransition.org/events.

STEP UP was founded in May of 2018 in Weatherford. The program was designed to help people transition from struggling with homelessness to self-sufficiency. STEP UP accomplishes this goal by providing housing and support services for youth between 18-24. These services include employment assistance, counseling and education. From their first service in October 2018, STEP UP has helped 17 other youth since.

Moonlight in Monte Carlo

Friday, March 11, 2022
Sorelle
7:30 pm - 11 pm

Featuring DJ Light Bright & Oklahoma Author, Alton Carter

Tickets are \$60 per person or \$100 per couple and includes dinner, cocktails, and chips for play at gaming tables. Chips have no cash value and can be redeemed for prizes. Casino-style games include Blackjack, Craps, and Wine Pull.

Dress in the glitz of a Monte Carlo theme or "come as you are."

Champion Sponsorship: \$10,000
Only two Available
Contact us for more info:
stepuptransition@gmail.com

Benefiting
STEP UP Transitional Living Program



To purchase tickets or donate to the cause scan this QR code or visit stepuptransition.org/events

Bessie Community & Fire Department

PANCAKE SUPPER

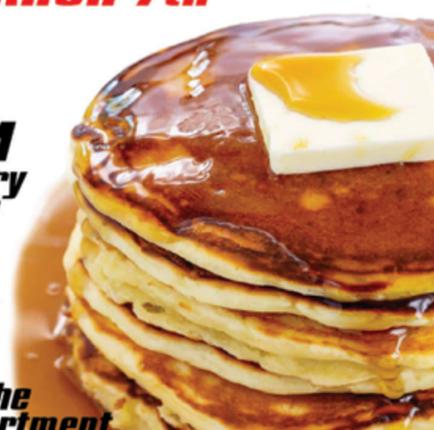
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Peggy Jolean Litsch

Peggy Jolean Litsch was born May 31, 1935, in Burns Flat to John and Edith Cook and passed away Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at Brookdale Assisted Living Center in Weatherford, at the age of 86 years, 8 months and 14 days.



Peggy was raised on the family farm northeast of Burns Flat and attended school in Foss. She later graduated from Burns Flat High School in 1953. Peggy received her Bachelor degree in Education from Southwestern State College in 1956 and was named Homecoming Queen that year. On August 10, 1956, she married Jim Litsch in Watonga and they made their home in Fay for over 60 years. She taught school in Fay and Watonga and later earned her Master's degree. Peggy enjoyed following her daughters and grandsons in their sports activities, church activities, taking daily walks, having coffee with Annie and friends, and spending time with her family. Peggy spent the last two years of her life at Brookdale in Weatherford and enjoyed the new friendships she developed there with both the staff and residents. The Litsch family is grateful for the care Peggy received while at Brookdale. Memorials may be made to the SWOSU Foundation/Jim and Peggy Litsch Scholarship Fund.

Peggy is survived by two daughters: Kelli Litsch of Weatherford and Staci Wechsler and husband Bobby of Weatherford; two grandchildren: Luke Lewallen and fiancée Taylor Lewis and Trent Lewallen; her dear friend Annabelle Scott; and other family members. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Jim.

James Dean Hill

James Dean Hill was born October 20, 1957, in Cordell to Jasper William and Marion Tommie (Miller) Hill and passed away Saturday, February 12, 2022, at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital in Yukon, at the age of 64 years, 3 months and 22 days.



James was raised and attended school in the Fort Cobb area, graduating from Fort Cobb High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served for four years. James returned to Fort Cobb working as a handyman and was a jack of all trades. He ran an apartment complex, worked at Eakly Co-op during the peanut season, and did farm work in the Mt. View area. James enjoyed fishing and hunting.

James is survived by one brother, Bruce Hill of Moore. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Dianna Zerbe and Dora Ricketts.

Verdella Elizabeth Slagell

Verdella Elizabeth Slagell was born February 2, 1938, in Thurman, CO to John Albert and Elizabeth (Rediger) Fahndrich and passed away Sunday, February 13, 2022, at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital in Yukon, OK, at the age of 84 years and 11 days.



Verdella was raised and attended school in the Albany, OR area and graduated from Western Mennonite School in Salem, OR in 1957.

She did volunteer work. On December 21, 1962, Verdella married Maxton Slagell in Albany, OR and made their home in Hydro, OK. During her working career she worked as a cook, did baby-sitting, worked in a day care and also at Maple Lawn Manor. Verdella enjoyed doing word find puzzles, embroidering and volunteering at the Et Cetera Shop. She and Maxton visited prisons doing their ministry.

Verdella is survived by two sons, Jeffrey Slagell and wife, Lori of Cordell, OK and Philip Slagell and wife, Claudia of Amarillo, TX; two daughters, Verla Shaffer and husband, Martin of Topeka, KS and Joanna Nagelhout and husband, Brad of Lebanon, TN; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two brothers, Dale and Richard; and one sister, Muriel.

Dorothy Nadine Fry

A force of nature named Dorothy Nadine Fry came into this world on a snowy Easter Sunday, April 4th 1926. The youngest of six children born to Frankie L. and George C. Underwood of Waukomis, Oklahoma. Dorothy survived whooping cough, a conk on the head with a baseball bat, the Great Depression, the sometimes not so gentle attentions of her siblings and a lightning strike to a car in which she was a passenger in the opening scenes of a long joyful life.



Her first loves at a young age were basketball and music. Times being what they were, a basketball career was not in the cards, so she chose to attend Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma as a music major. While attending Phillips, she met Ruth Carroll, her lifelong friend, which in turn led her to meet Ruth's boyfriend, Thayne Hedges, which then led her to meet the love of her life, Paul Fry, which then led to a marriage which lasted 50 years.

Paul and Dorothy's first stop as a married couple was Dorothy's hometown of Waukomis where she helped Paul with the music program. They eventually made their way to Okeene, Oklahoma where Dorothy continued that role as well as working at a local bank. They made many dear friends during their time in Okeene with whom they kept in contact for decades. Eventually, the bright lights of Clinton, Oklahoma called to the young couple, and they moved there in the early 1950s. They became such a part of that community that Dorothy remained a member of the same Clinton bridge club for over 50 years.

Dorothy gave birth to her only child, Patrick, in October 1957. She was not only a great mother but began developing a business as a seamstress, upholsterer and drapery maker. When the family moved to Chickasha in 1963, she took a job as the Social Director for the Oklahoma College for Women - which basically involved making arrangements for and then chaperoning dances when soldiers from Fort Sill came to Chickasha to mix with the students of OCW.

Another career change for Paul led to Dorothy, Paul and Patrick moving to Weatherford, Oklahoma where Dorothy lived happily for 55 years. She filled those years with family, church and community. She attended every single activity in which Patrick participated through high school and taught him to play "The Spanish Flea" on piano in one night when Paul was out of town. She may have regretted this when Patrick played "The Spanish Flea" every time he sat down at a piano over the next 8 years.

Dorothy's life was full of variety: supporting SWOSU men's and women's basketball teams including trips to watch the women win their national championships; playing organ and directing choirs in churches in Weatherford and Clinton; playing piano and directing music at the Southwest Playhouse in Clinton; going to OU football games with Paul; drinking Coca Cola and playing bridge; drinking coffee and playing bridge; just

playing bridge; delivering meals on wheels to seniors 15 years her junior; chaperoning SWOSU marching band trips to professional football games; teaching English to non English speakers; sewing wedding dresses for friends and relatives; building a dome home with Paul just outside Weatherford; accompanying mid-school instrumental soloists up into her 90's; driving to Albuquerque to see Zachary and Hannah, her grandchildren and most favorite people in her life; organizing music for state PEO conventions; white water rafting with Paul and later with her grandchildren; owning a Montgomery Ward sales agency; working as a secretary for an occupational and physical therapy clinic for young children; watching Stephen Curry and the Golden State warriors play basketball on tv.

Dorothy's bright light was extinguished on Thursday, February 10th, 2022, we will all miss her. If you wish to honor Dorothy please consider a gift to either Feed the Children or the SWOSU Instrumental Music Scholarship Fund.

Dorothy is survived by her son, Patrick Fry and his wife, Joan Rebecchi, of Albuquerque, NM and her 2 grandchildren, Hannah and Zack, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, her parents; 3 brothers, Harris, James and Harold; and 2 sisters, Shirley and Frances.

Michael Lee Lettkeman

Funeral Services for Michael Lettkeman, 42, Clinton resident were held 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, February 23, 2022, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel, officiated by Richard Vermillion. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Michael Lee Lettkeman was born December 21, 1979, to Robert Gene Lettkeman and Katherine Marie (Szamior) in Clinton, OK, and passed away Monday, February 14, 2022, in Clinton, OK.

Michael was raised and attended school both in Clinton and Weatherford, OK. Soon after his schooling he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He continued his education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. He was employed for several years with Baker Hughes and most recently the USIC Company.

He loved his family above all, he had a passion for sports and was an avid golfer, he enjoyed football and following his children when they were involved in their sporting events. He was a true friend to those that knew him. He was an Oklahoma fan all the way. As an adult Michael embraced the scripture, "consider others more than yourself."

He is preceded in death by his father Robert "Bob" Lettkeman, paternal grandparents, Orville and Wanda Lettkeman and maternal grandfather Vincent W. Szamior and Aunt Cindy Yankura.

He is survived by two daughters: Summer Lettkeman and Autumn Lettkeman, of Weatherford and Xadrian Rodriquez and Bentlee Rodriquez, both of Clinton; his mother and stepfather Katherine and Steve Bennett, of West VA; two sisters: Renilta Denney, Eric, OK and Laura Lettkeman, of CA. He is also survived by two nephews, Tavaris Heap-of-Birds and Tyrone Heap-of-Birds.

Barbara Smith

Funeral Services for Barbara Smith, 80, Clinton resident were held 2:00 P.M., Monday, February 21, 2022, in the Kiesau Memorial Chapel officiated by Doyle Kinney. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

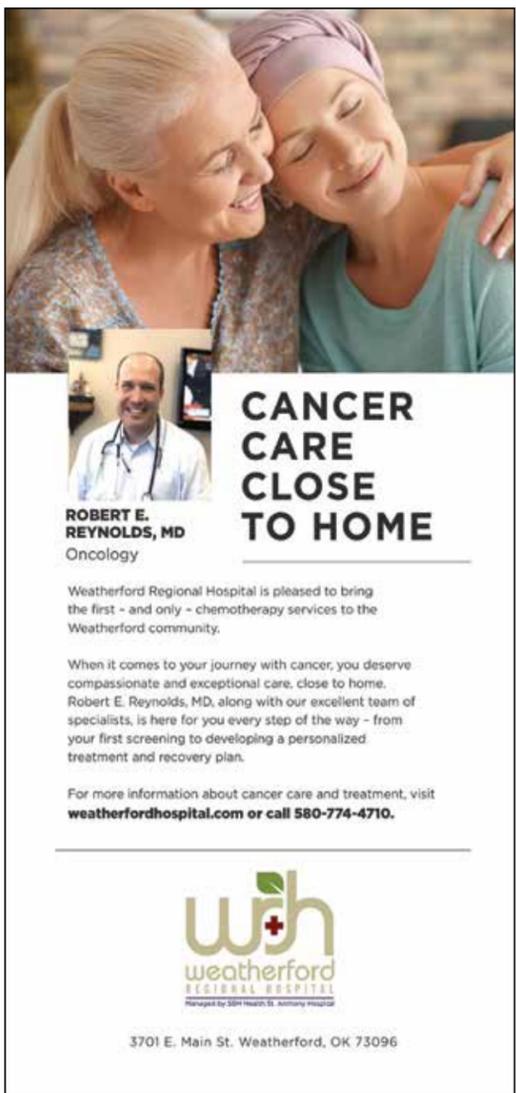


Barbara Jane Smith was born November 16, 1941, to Albert Biggs and (Ruby) Henson in Lebanon, MO and passed away Tuesday, February 15, 2022, in the Clinton Alliance Health.

Barbara was raised and attended school in Lebanon, MO. She married Mr. Harold Allen Smith on May 3, 1963. They made Clinton their home and she was employed at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Oklahoma General Hospital and Four Seasons Nursing Home (Now River Valley). She also did house cleaning for numerous families in Clinton She loved horses.

She is preceded in death by her parents, son, Dale Smith, brother, Jimmy Lee Biggs, and Sister, Sue Walters.

She is survived by husband, Harold. Of the home, daughter Jan Armstrong and husband, Scott, Clinton; sisters, Joyce Bowman and husband, Eddie, Phillipsburg, MO, Dottie Mook and husband, ray, Hazel Green, WI; brothers, Bud Biggs and wife, Elaine, Lebanon, MO. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Cooper Armstrong, and Bailey Armstrong and a special friend Darlene Caldwell.



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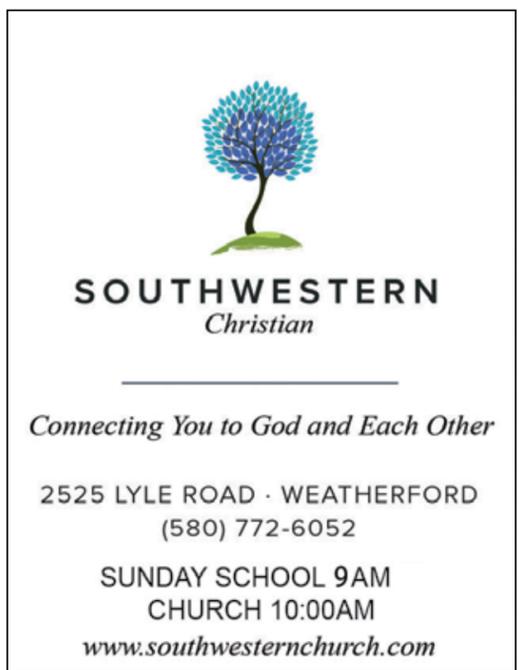
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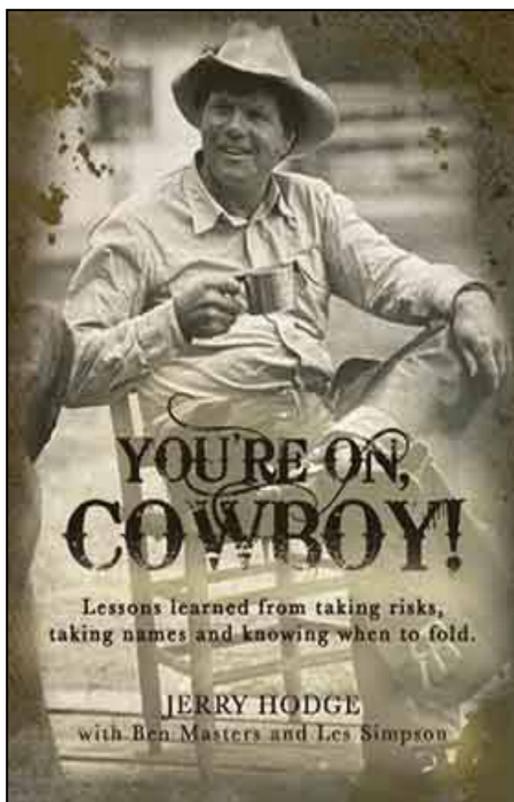
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You're On, Cowboy! Book Signing Planned at SWOSU



Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) alumnus and benefactor Jerry Hodge of Amarillo (TX) will have a launch for his book—You're On, Cowboy!—on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford on Thursday, February 24.

The public is invited to the event in the SWOSU Alma Mater Merc Bookstore. Hodge will have a question-and-answer session at 3 p.m. followed by a book signing at 4 p.m. Those who wish to attend the main event should RSVP to Kari Jones, kari.jones@swosu.edu or call 580-774-3289.

A private session devoted to press inquiries will be available upon request at 2 p.m., one hour before the event starts. Press inquiries should contact LisaBeth Thomas at 512.923.4574 or email Lb@lisabeththomas.com.

You're On, Cowboy focuses on lessons learned by Hodge from taking risks, taking names and knowing when to fold and is a memoir that retraces the path that led Hodge to become wildly successful in business and eventually successful in marriage.

Always a risk-taker and a betting man, Hodge has never been one to back down from a challenge. This tenacity helped him grow a local pharmacy from a single storefront in Amarillo (TX) into a national brand worth millions. He was City Commissioner and Mayor for a town he loved dearly, and he might be the only person to go toe-to-toe with both Oprah Winfrey and Boone Pickens. And after two unsuccessful marriages,

he found Margaret, the one true love of his life.

Like all of us, however, Jerry Hodge is human, which leaves him vulnerable to the one thing that evens the playing field - a health crisis. When he received a damning diagnosis that had him counting his days and saying his goodbyes, Hodge was inspired to get clear on what is truly important in life and what kind of legacy is worth leaving behind.

You're on, Cowboy! is not intended to be a how-to book and was initially a journaling project Hodge began to write down his stories for his family. Hodge's experiences have been anything but ordinary, yet he writes about his life with humor, unpolished honesty, and an endearing balance between self-confidence and humility. Readers will be entertained by Hodge's anecdotes and adventures and will walk away with inspiring lessons that follow them into their own lives and businesses.

Hodge and his wife, Margaret, recently donated a record-breaking \$5 million charitable gift to SWOSU, which is the largest single donation in the history of the university. The gift is being used for a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to healthcare education and pharmacy, named in honor of the Hodges, and a new endowment benefitting students enrolled in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy.

For more information about You're on, Cowboy! and Jerry Hodge, please visit www.youreoncowboy.com.

Toby Clampitt Named 21-22 Dr. John Hays Memorial Scholar at SWOSU

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) with locations in Weatherford, Sayre and Yukon has announced that Toby Clampitt of Rush Springs has been named the 2021-22 Dr. John Hays Memorial Scholar.

Clampitt is studying public health and biological sciences at SWOSU. Clampitt is a first-generation college student who is employed at SWOSU's Al Harris Library. After completing his undergraduate work at SWOSU Clampitt intends to pursue an MD.

"The late John Hays was a much-loved, widely-respected servant-leader who exemplified all that is good about SWOSU," said SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell. "We are honored to celebrate Dr. Hays's life as stewards of the Dr. John Hays Memorial Endowment and we are delighted to congratulate Toby Clampitt, our 2021-22 Dr. John Hays Memorial Scholar."



The late John Hays

Hays, president of SWOSU from 2001-2010 and a 1969 SWOSU accounting graduate, died on October 9, 2020.

The Weatherford resident worked 30 years at SWOSU, having served as assistant business manager, comptroller, assistant to the president, vice president for administration and executive vice president for administration before being named president.

During his years as president, Hays completed the Wellness Center, started/developed the university's athletic complex and had several major buildings renovated on the Weatherford and Sayre remote locations. He also was instrumental in the development of a comprehensive marketing campaign for the university and started the President's Leadership Class.

Hays was very active in community and economic development activities in western Oklahoma. Hays was on the ground floor of many projects such as the



Toby Clampitt

Business Development Center at SWOSU, Weatherford Business Incubator program and Weatherford's hiring of a full-time economic developer.

His involvement in civic activities was expansive, including Leadership Weatherford, YMCA, Vision 20/20, Weatherford Arts Council, Weatherford's assisted senior citizen living center and many other projects through the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a past president of the chamber of commerce and did much to unite the chamber of commerce, City of Weatherford and SWOSU.

Hays was a member of the inaugural class of the Higher Education Leadership Academy and was a member of Leadership Oklahoma.

The Dr. John Hays Scholarship Endowment 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. John Hays Scholarship Fund, please visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com or call 580-774-3267.





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LOCAL & AREA NEWS




Mike Smith
News Director

SWOSU to Dedicate General Thomas P. Stafford Archives on March 11

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) with locations in Weatherford, Sayre and Yukon has scheduled the dedication of the General Thomas P. Stafford Archives for Friday, March 11, at 2 p.m. at the Al Harris Library at SWOSU Weatherford.

The archives will utilize the latest in preservation technology and techniques to house sensitive historical documents and papers and will highlight Stafford's lifetime of achievements.

"We are deeply honored that our longtime benefactor and partner, General Thomas P. Stafford, has designated the Al Harris Library here at SWOSU as the repository for his papers and historic documents," said SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell.

Lovell said the Stafford Archives are a splendid

addition to SWOSU's rich heritage in aerospace and defense education and accomplishment.

"The General's vision, generosity and involvement have equipped us to build a facility that will serve as a world-class repository for researchers, historians and students to study the incredible work and events to which the General has been central over during his many decades of public and military service and scientific and corporate leadership."

A Weatherford native, Stafford established the Stafford Air & Space Museum in 1993 with two rooms near the Weatherford Airport (which is also now named for Stafford)—today, the museum is a Smithsonian affiliate and preserves over 63,000 square feet of historic information and educational resources.

(See STAFFORD, page 7)

ANTHONY MOORE/EDUCATION- Last week Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt mentioned continuing to fund education in Oklahoma to better prepare Oklahoma students for college or the workforce and State Representative Anthony Moore from Clinton says he's excited to discuss the issue more as the legislative session enters its second week. Moore mentioned the space port in Burns Flat as an example of a need for engineers in Oklahoma.

WEATHERFORD/AIRPORT ROAD PROJECT- Weatherford Economic Development Director Yolanda Creswell says bids will go out this summer on the Airport Road project. Creswell says construction is projected to begin this August. Creswell says the city is taking bid offers for form liners for the Airport Road Bridge with a General Thomas P. Stafford theme.

CUSTER COUNTY/LIVESTOCK SHOW- The Custer County Livestock Show will start a three-day run on Sunday, February 27th. The show will conclude March 1st with the premium auction sale. Events at the show will include four species—beef, sheep, goats, broilers and swine. The donor reception will begin at 7pm on the evening of March 1st. The awards presentation and premium auction sale will follow.

CUSTER CO DISTRICT COURT/PROA- A Weatherford man now faces a first degree murder charge in Custer County District Court in connection with the distribution of fentanyl that allegedly caused the death of a Weatherford High School graduate. Court records show 21 year old Tryston Richard Proa allegedly distributed fentanyl to the victim without legal authority. A preliminary hearing conference was held February 18th.

OSDE/FUNDING- The Oklahoma State Department of Education says 68 schools and community partners have received over \$18 million for high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs. South-

western Oklahoma State University partnered with Weatherford Public Schools to receive an annual award of \$150,000. Clinton Public Schools partnered with Clinton Summer Playground Inc., for Washington Elementary to receive an annual award of \$150,000. Elk City Public Schools partnered with Carnegie Library to Elk City Intermediate to receive an annual award of just over \$59,000. Meanwhile, Fort Cobb-Broxton High School will receive an annual award of just under \$150,000.

THOMAS FAY CUSTER SCHOOLS/PSO- Thomas Fay Custer Schools have received a \$25,000 grant from the AEP Foundation to help fund a new elementary school playground. Public Service Company of Oklahoma is a subsidiary of American Electric Power. The AEP Foundation is the charitable arm of AEP and is partially funded by PSO. The Thomas Fay Custer School district has a total of 474 students.

RUSS/INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL- State Representative Todd Russ of Cordell has filed legislation that seeks to protect school-aged children from inappropriate material in school and public libraries. House Bill 3702 would require any Oklahoma school district, charter or virtual charter school, state agency, public library or university that offers digital or online library database resources to students in kindergarten through 12th grade to do so only if the vendor, person or entity providing the resources verifies that all the resources comply with the provisions of the new law.

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Happy Birthday Wishes for February 23rd- Carl Baily, Paige Bradley, Marti Brooks, Aubrey Crowder, Mervine Koch, Diego Martinez, Brad Meadrum, Camden Mendez, Michaela Pullum, Kristin Sweeney, Yatina Wreath, Jessica Zibell; **February 24th-** Harrison Cornell, Kristen Kelley, Britton Linstead, Mizie Mol, Monica Smith, Claude Snider; **February 25th-** Annie Ellis, Brianna Farrow, Dorinda Hart, Mike Hill, Heather Livingston, Kimberly Meltz, Ann Seals, Gary Severn, Larry Joe Taylor, Zan Warde; **February 26th-** Van Cheadle, James Davis, Melissa Godwin, Sue Harper, Terry Harris, Lonnie Isch, Maria Jacobs, Danielle Shaw, Candace Slagell, Margaret Starr, Amber Whitt; **February 27th-** Eddie Berrong, Tonja Challis, Glenda Creech, Rylee Suzanne Gossen, Rileigh Gossen, Peyton Johnston, Martha Miller, Shaylee Nailon, Margaret Reed, Wayne Reimer, Dale Rogers, Angie Schmidt, Jerri Schmidt, Gary Schwartz, Brooklyn Stewart, Laramie Taylor, Anita Woods; **February 28th-** JSelby Carpenter, Steve Corbin, Yasmine Garcia, Grady Gaunt, Carter Mackey, Mark Payne, Steven Shankles, Cheri Thomason, Rick Thompson, Lisa Turney; **March 1st-** Jason Bengs, Jance Benson, Jeree Burnett, Lee Gregory, Brett Johnson, John Minnix, Tracy Millins-Courtney, Tia Sauer, Mary Spencer, Callie Waldrop, Tommy Willis.

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SPORTS *Presented by:*

No. 20 Lady Bulldogs Clinch GAC Title in One vs Two Matchup

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

The No. 20-ranked SWOSU Women's Basketball team was crowned Great American Conference Regular Season Champions last week following a 73-60 win over Harding – the second-best team in the conference.

The Bulldogs entered the game three games ahead of the Lady Bisons in the conference standings but had previously lost to Harding at their place back on January 22.

The two went stride for stride in the first quarter, with four lead changes and three ties. It was very entertaining, high-level basketball, but SWOSU trailed 18-17 at the end of the first.

Harding hit some shots in the second quarter and scored five second chance points. SWOSU did carry some momentum into the locker room though, as right before halftime Karly Gore grabbed an offensive rebound and made a jump shot right as the buzzer sounded. That put the Lady Dawgs within four, at 35-31 headed into the locker room.

SWOSU came out with a fire lit underneath them out of halftime and opened the third quarter on a 7-2 run to take a 38-37 lead.

They continued to extend their lead with a scoring run, capped off by a Makyra Tramble 3-pointer, that erupted the crowd and gave SWOSU a 52-44

advantage.

A Karly Gore three pointer put SWOSU head by double-digits early in the fourth. SWOSU continued to play hard and outscored the Lady Bisons 21-14 to end the game with some well-deserved cushion.

Karly Gore recorded a double-double, her first one of the season. She scored 15 points and recorded 11 rebounds to achieve this. Bethany Franks scored 17 points and Tramble added 15 points. SWOSU was efficient from the paint, scoring 26 points. The Lady Bulldogs took care of business from the foul line, as they only missed two free throws and finished 13-of-15 from the foul line.

Dawgs Knock Down 20 Senior Day Treys in Blowout Win

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

SWOSU Men's Basketball eclipsed the 100-point milestone for the first time all season, as they knocked down a season best 20-three-point shots and went on to cruise past Arkansas Tech 113-74 on Senior Day.

Jaylan Williams, the lone senior for the Bulldogs, had himself a day by scoring 15 points on 5-of-8 from beyond the arc.

SWOSU shot lights out in the first half. They finished 16-for-28 (57%) overall and 11-for-18 (61%) from three-point land.

The Dawgs opened the game on an 8-0 run and never once trailed in the first half. Arkansas Tech did tighten the game back up, however SWOSU closed the first half on a 15-3 run.

Tanner Meraz hit two 3-pointers off the bench, shooting a perfect 100 percent from beyond the arc. SWOSU was ahead 49-33 at halftime. The bench also helped SWOSU build its lead, as they scored 18 points in the first half. The free throw shooting was great also, as SWOSU shot 75 percent and made six of eight.

The Bulldogs scored a whopping 64 points in the second half and wasted no time doing so. They began

the second half on a 17-9 run, building a 24-point lead just four minutes into the second half.

SWOSU eventually would build a 30-point lead and would never look back. A pair of Chris Braggs, Jr. free throws gave SWOSU a 101-70 advantage – the first time all season SWOSU has scored in triple digits.

With 26 seconds left, coach Terry Evans pulled Williams out of the game and the crowd gave him a standing ovation. The Bulldogs snapped their two-game losing streak and won the game 113-74.

Six players scored in double figures for SWOSU and SWOSU shot better than 50 percent from the field and beyond the arc. Free throw shooting was huge for SWOSU as well, as they shot 86.4 percent from the foul line and went 19-of-22. Damion Thornton scored 20 points, Ben Smith scored 16 points, Williams scored 15 points, Mark Berry scored 13 points, Meraz scored 12 points and DeAngelo Adkins scored 10 points. SWOSU's bench also generated offense the entire game, scoring 43 points.

SWOSU improves to 10-14 and 9-10 in Great American Conference play. SWOSU will play their next game, 5:30 p.m. Monday at Arkansas-Monticello in a makeup of a previously postponed contest.



Provided
The SWOSU Men's Basketball Team poses for a photo after winning their senior day game.



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Six state qualifiers from the OSSAA 4A West regionals headed to State next weekend! Congrats to Weatherford's six state qualifiers, 132-Jaxon Klaassen, 145- Cooper Moses, 170-Kale Visnieski, 195-Sam Hoffman, 220-Izeaha Freeborn, 285-Eli Soto.

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STAFFORD

Continued from Page 4

“Stafford is a renowned Oklahoma Hall of Fame laureate who is the first NASA astronaut to ever become a General and was the first General to fly in space. His work was essential to the development of stealth technology and his longtime friendship with Soviet Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov stands out as a beacon of cooperation amidst the tensions of the Cold War. Our SWOSU students for generations to come will learn so much from General Stafford’s life, work and example,” said SWOSU Libraries Director Jason Dupree.

Stafford also established the Stafford Endowment at SWOSU in 1992 which was, at the time, the largest single gift ever made to the university. The endowment continues to provide a unique experiential learning program for SWOSU’s prestigious Stafford Scholars, over 165 of which have been designated to date. The Stafford Scholars program represents a positive, valuable ongoing collaboration between SWOSU and the Stafford Air & Space Museum.

General Stafford, who received SWOSU’s first-ever honorary doctorate in 2015, will make remarks at the dedication of the archives.

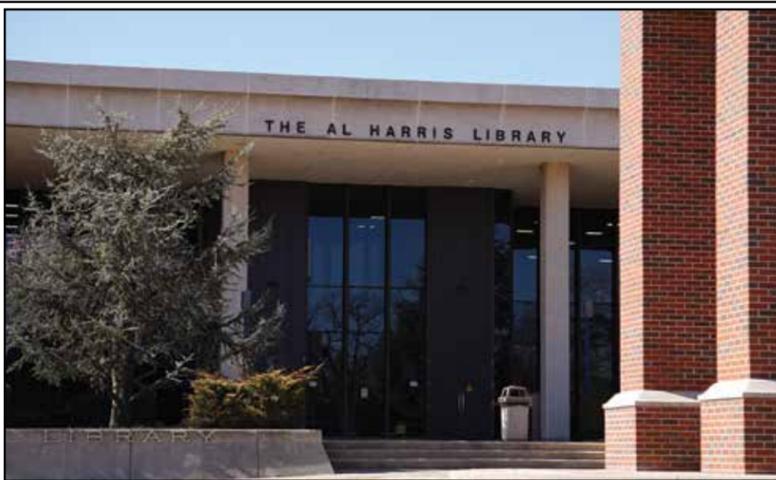
He will be joined by Oklahoma State Representatives Rhonda Baker, Mike Dobrinski and Anthony Moore, and Oklahoma State Senators Brent Howard, Darcy

Jech, and Jake Merrick, all of whom represent the SWOSU service area which stretches from the Texas border in western Oklahoma to the western suburbs of Oklahoma City in Canadian County.

Regent Connie Reilly, chair of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents, will address the participants as will Allison D. Garrett, chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

United States Senator Jim Inhofe (Oklahoma), who serves as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, and United States Congressman Frank D. Lucas of Cheyenne (OK-3), who serves as Ranking Member of the House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology, are also scheduled to speak.

Former SWOSU Presidents Dr. Joe Anna Hibler



Chad Gray/WW

The Al Harris Library, pictured above, will house General Stafford’s Archives.

and Dr. Randy Beutler, along with Linda Hays, wife of the late former SWOSU President Dr. John Hays, will also be present along with longtime Weatherford Mayor and SWOSU alumnus Mike Brown.

Seating space at the event is extremely limited and due to ongoing public health concerns, the event is invitation-only.

HIGHER GROUND

Meet Generation Z



Jim Morrison

As noted in a previous article, the younger generation too often sees the church as irrelevant or detached from the real world. Consequently, they are leaving the church to live their lives in a search for personal fulfillment with a belief that while God may exist he is not necessary.

Their concept of God is often relegated to a parachute mindset; only to be used in case of an emergency.

When asked what their religious affiliation is, one in four now say, “none.” That is 25% as opposed to the 1930’s and 40’s when that number was about 4%. In a study done by the Pew research group, there are now four former Christians for every convert to Christianity. This is particularly true among the Z generation; those born since 1996.

While we in the older generation may lament the changes in music and worship style, and cringe at the new fashions in dress and hair color and style, we must admit that the Apostle Paul used different methods and styles in Athens than Peter did on the day of Pentecost. The core of the gospel was the same but the background of the audience was different so it called for a different approach. In our attempt to reach Z generation, we must not water down the core of the gospel truths but realize it must be communicated in different ways to reach the ears and hearts of our young people.

The Z generation may never having licked a postage stamp or read a book that was not required as a class assignment. Their attention span is about 8 seconds. Their world is convinced that pluralism, (the belief that one set of values or religion is as good as another) and that truth is determined by the individual apart from any absolute. As a group they are more biblically illiterate than previous generations so we cannot assume that Biblical truth is understood.

They are more tolerant than any previous generation. But tolerance has taken on a new definition. Formerly, it meant to agree with the right of another’s opinion without accepting the opinion as truthful in value.

Now you have to affirm or celebrate another’s value or belief. Any question of the truthfulness of that value is viewed as being intolerant. In other words all values or beliefs are of equal value, depending on the individual involved. “Truth for you but not for me.”

In his book, “Meet Generation Z” James Emery White shares an illustration that clarifies that point. A friend may share that he believes that you should pour sand into your gas tank to make it run better. I may tolerate his right to say that, but to accept that as absolute truth and affirm it will lead to major problems.

Too often, having seen church attendance, putting some money in the plate when passed, and being a good moral person who pays their bills, all laudable traits, as being what it means to follow Jesus. Being on mission for Jesus, serving when it is hard, sacrificing financially and physically has not been a part of the landscape. So they understand Jesus as someone to help them through tough times or pass algebra, rather than grasping the call to surrender their lives no matter what the cost. Gandhi has been quoted as saying of Christianity, “I like your Christ but I don’t like your Christians.” He had not seen the attributes of Christ embodied in the Christians he had observed. To comment: call 580:302-1142 or jhm82@outlook.com

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Armstrong & Smith Named Bulldogs of the Week

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Assistant AD/Media Relations

Bryson Armstrong of SWOSU Baseball and Shamica Smith of Women's Basketball have been announced as the latest 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.'

Armstrong (Norman, Okla.) pitched 7.1 innings of scoreless baseball in SWOSU's conference opener, helping lift the Dawgs to an 11-0 win over Arkansas Monticello. The transfer from Texas Southern struck out seven Boll Weevils and scattered two hits, while walking three. SWOSU went on to take 2-of-3 from UAM in the opening week of GAC action.

Smith (Norman, Okla.) gave the No. 20-ranked Lady Bulldogs strong minutes off the bench in three wins last week, averaging 14 minutes of court time and 7.0 points at the center position. Thursday against Harding, who sits right behind SWOSU in both the conference and region rankings, Smith matched her season high with nine points while grabbing five rebounds. The Lady Bisons are big inside and play physical, but Smith proved to be up for the task. She also shot an efficient 64% for SWOSU.



BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK

Week 24 - Feb. 14 - 20



(Left) SWOSU's 1982 Womens Basketball National Championship team celebrated their 40th anniversary at halftime of the last SWOSU basketball home game of the season. (Right) Chuck Edwards, who called play-by-play for the championship broadcast introduced them.

Provided

"The Coin Guy"

Goodbye, Mr. Lincoln



Trent Boesen

The U.S. Mint has announced it will stop producing pennies at the end of 2022. It is being called the biggest news in coins since 1857. That year Congress ended the minting of half-cents which caused many people considerable consternation.

The pandemic caused a coin shortage across the nation. The debate about the usefulness of the penny revived the question, "Why doesn't the government stop making pennies"?

Its purchasing power has declined over the years because of inflation while production costs have risen. In 2019, seven billion pennies were minted at a loss of \$70 million. It cost 2 cents to make one cent.

In time the U.S. Government will have a buy back program for copper cents which will be reclaimed for other uses.

Are you interested in selling a coin collection and need help? Call The Coin Guy at 580-890-8076 to make an appointment. Thanks for reading.

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