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"SWOSUpalooza" Concert Returns March 8 with Exciting Lineup



SWOSUPALOOZA 2024

PERFORMERS:
 SUNDTANCE HEAD
 CHAD COOKE BAND
 THE DAMN QUAILS

DJs:
 DJ SHAHEED ALI
 DJ KURO SAMURAI

VENUE & VENDORS:
 CHICK-FIL-A (11 A.M. - 8 P.M.)
 SURF BAR (6 P.M. - 10 P.M.)

J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Public Relations VP

SWOSU is excited to announce the return of SWOSU Palooza, an annual concert that has become one of SWOSU's most anticipated events since the first concert in 2000. Headlining this year's event are Sundance Head, Chad Cooke Band, and The Damn Quails.

The event will be hosted at the Pioneer Cellular Event Center (PCEC), with doors opening at 6 p.m. and the show starting at 7 p.m. Attendees can enjoy a variety of food options available from two food trucks on the PCEC Patio. Surf Bar will be offering acai bowls and smoothies from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Chick-fil-A will be available from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Additionally, two DJs, DJ Shaheed Ali (@dj_shaheedali) and Kuro Samurai (@kuro_samurai_), will be providing entertainment on the Patio throughout the night.

Tickets for the general public are available for purchase here: <https://bit.ly/3wpBX6F>.

All currently enrolled students have been issued tickets via their SWOSU student email addresses. ALL students MUST present their SWOSU student ID along with their student entry ticket. There will be NO re-entry. Student tickets are provided free of charge to current students and are non-transferable.

The Chad Cooke Band is known for their contemporary country sound with a 90's twist. They have become a force to be reckoned with in the country music scene, with their hit single, "Oil Man," amassing over 10 million streams and 15 million views across social platforms. Their single, "Whatever It Takes," has consistently topped the charts, setting the record for the longest-charting single on the Texas/Red Dirt Radio and making the band a fan favorite in the region.

Sundance Head has made an impact in the music industry with his unique blend of country and soul. From being a semi-finalist on American Idol to winning season 11 of The Voice, Sundance has shown himself to be a talented vocalist and songwriter. In 2018, he signed onto Dean Dillon's Wildcatter Records, further solidifying his place in the country music scene.

The Damn Quails have made a name for themselves in the Americana and Red Dirt music scenes. After the success of their first single, "Fool's Gold," they began touring the country heavily. With three albums under their belt and over a decade of experience, The Damn Quails continue to make their mark on the music industry.

We look forward to welcoming our students and members of the community for a night of great fun and memories!



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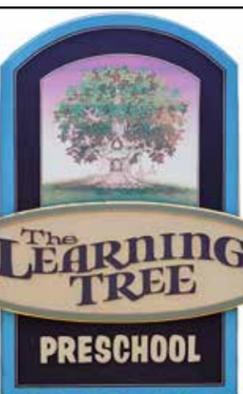
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Cindy Walker

Cynthia Lynette (Carter) Walker was born May 13, 1963, to Otis and Bertha (Patton) Carter in Clinton, OK and passed away Wednesday, February 28, 2024, in the Oklahoma University Medical Center in Oklahoma City, OK.

Cindy was raised in Cordell where she graduated from high school. She has lived and spent her entire life in the Cordell area. She was employed as a Licensed Practical Nurse at the Cordell Memorial Hospital.

She is a member of the Cordell First Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, as well as two brothers: Darrell and Wendell Carter.

She is survived by Lindsey Walker-Baker and husband Kyler Baker, Cordell; son Derrick Walker, OKC; sister Lana Carter of South Carolina; and two brothers: Ronald and Randall Carter, both of Cordell.

She is also survived by two grandchildren, Brinlee Baker and Greyson Walker.



Wade Robison

Wade Leon Robison was taken home to Heaven on February 16, 2024 at the age of 70 years, 8 months and 3 days. He was born June 13, 1953 in Sayre, Oklahoma to Wilma Lodema and Wade Hubert Robison. In 1955, Wade H and Wilma moved from Oklahoma to block 16 in the Columbia Basin area to start farming. The Tri-Cities/Burbank area has been Wade's home ever since.

He grew up in Pasco attending Mark Twain Elementary, Stevens Jr High and Pasco High School graduating in 1971. He discovered his love of throwing Javelin in High School.

He continued throwing during his college years at Southwestern State College while studying Industrial Arts.

Wade was an outdoorsman from an early age. He liked to fish and LOVED to HUNT. He took great pride in his marksmanship and received several Sharpshooter awards from the NRA Junior Rifle Club.

He was looking forward to joining a friend to hunt early morning on February 17th, 2024. He was blessed in life with many bird dogs and TREASURED that connection.




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Wade cared for ANY greenery. Once it started growing, he wanted it to flourish. You name it, both indoor and out, Wade cultivated everything he could.

Later in life, he had created a beautiful outdoor garden that featured grapes, roses, sagebrush, raspberries, fruit Trees, farm crops, even Juniper Bushes. He even constructing a temporary green house for one last crop of cherry tomatoes.

Wade enjoyed most party crowds and usually found a way to bring a smile to the group with his unique sense of humor or a session of jokes. He liked to hear people laugh and see them smile.

Wade liked to create with his hands. He worked hard during his life and maintained pride once he finished. It was about QUALITY, not particularly quantity.

He had a strong work ethic and always strived to do his best at whatever he was doing. From farm hand, carpenter, roofer to concrete finisher. He looked to do something extra that would allow his work to stand out, no matter if he was the low man on the pole, the foreman or business owner.

In retirement, he found great pleasure in making stash boxes and most recently uniquely finished canes. He loved bringing wood to life in various ways.

Wade was preceded in death by his fathers (Wade H Robison and Stan Burgess) and mother (Wilma Robison Burgess).

Wade is survived by his sister (Marjzon), Nephew (Derrick), Nieces (Ashley and Alyssa with Josiah and Isabelle), uncles (Don, Freddie and Gary Ellison), cousins and friends. His laidback genuine manner and fun-loving ways will be missed so very much.

JoAnne Woodall

JoAnne McNeill Woodall was born July 6, 1946, to R. L. McNeill and Geraldine (Potter) McNeill in Thomas, OK and passed away Saturday, February 24, 2024, in the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City, OK.

JoAnne was raised in Thomas, OK and Clinton, OK and graduated from Clinton High School in 1964. She married Lanny Woodall February 26, 1963, in Oklahoma City, OK. They have made Clinton their home.

She was very creative and loved working with flowers. She had worked in numerous flower shops including Chandlers Flowers Shop and Wohl's Flower Shop. She also assisted her daughter in the Lil Tots Day Care.

She is a member of the First Baptist Church, she enjoyed quilting, going to Sonic for her Diet Coke, and spending time with grandchildren and her two puppy dogs, Mini and Cooper.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son Robbie Woodall and Sister, Peggy Hoffman

She is survived by her husband, Lanny, of the home, daughter, Kim Hunter and husband, Jeff, son, Dusky Woodall and wife, Ginger, all of Clinton, sister, Kathy Heinrichs, Thomas, OK.

She is also survived by seven grandchildren, Nikole Holt and husband Kyle, D.J. Woodall and wife, Hannah, Katie Sellers and husband, Todd, Allison Woodall, Lynlea Silas and husband Kody, Jacob Woodall and wife, Raven, Mitchell Hunter and wife, Ashlyn and seven great-grandchildren.



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Darcy Jech: February Senate Review (2/26/24)

Sen. Darcy Jech

R-Kingfisher, District 26

The first month of the legislative session has been eventful with committee work, passing a grocery tax cut, and working on the state budget. Conversations have been ongoing regarding the best way to cut taxes without risking our state's financial future. With bipartisan support in the Senate, and the governor's commitment to signing any tax cut that comes across his desk, Oklahomans will begin to see savings at the grocery store this August. Estimates show that average families across the state will save hundreds with the elimination of the state portion of the grocery tax. I have supported this tax cut from the beginning, and hope that it offers relief for Oklahomans who've felt the effects of inflation.

February 29th marked the deadline for bills to be heard in committee and advanced to the Senate floor. Our work in the chamber will ramp up in the coming weeks as our next deadline is quickly approaching in mid-March. At that point, measures that the full Senate has approved will be sent across the rotunda to be considered by House Committees.

In addition to working on legislation, the Senate will also be finalizing our budget proposal in March. We'll then begin negotiations with our House counterparts as we work to complete the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Regulatory Services, the committee members and I have been meeting with the 14 agencies our subcommittee oversees over the past few months to understand their budget needs for FY 2025. The governor has called for flat agency budgets this year, and our goal is to stay as close to last year's numbers as possible.

With promising revenues certified by the Board of

Equalization, the Legislature has many options when it comes to appropriating available funds. Our state is also in a good position with our savings, which gives us room to take on projects that have been put on the back burner in years when we've faced shortfalls. Our savings give us the ability to make improvements to our state assets through one-time infrastructure investments. Many of our universities, correctional facilities, and tourism infrastructure would benefit from repairs as much of their maintenance has been deferred over the years.

Session is an incredibly busy time, so it's always a pleasure to take a step back and visit with my constituents. Last week we celebrated FFA Day at the Capitol and I had the opportunity to meet students from Arapaho, Okeene, Hydro-Eakly, Thomas-Fay-Custer, Cyril and Carnegie. These young adults are true community leaders and their FFA projects and activities have given them a skillset that will make them an asset in whatever career field they may choose. They're incredibly poised, presentable, and are able to think quickly on their feet because of the life skills they've learned through their FFA programs. Their advisors also deserve a pat on the back for their guidance and expertise, and all they do to prepare their students for various careers or higher education. I hope they enjoyed their time at the Capitol, and I wish them the best of luck as they head into their spring competition season.

My door is always open for constituents who have concerns or comments regarding legislative matters. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me by email at Darcy.Jech@oksenate.gov or by phone at 405-521-5545. You are also welcome to visit my Capitol office on the second floor.

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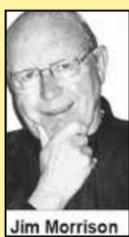
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Jim Morrison

"No, I don't know about Billy Graham." I have heard that statement from a few people as I visit in some homes. That is seldom; most do know of his amazing world-wide ministry, his friendship with presidents, royalty, and even common people around the world. But if I asked young people about Corrie Ten Boon or even present-day celebrity-servants like Joni Eareckson Tada, the majority of young people know little of their amazing lives. There is a danger in focusing so much on the present that we neglect what we can learn from those who have been obedient and faithful through great suffering.

Don Wilton, served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina. During the years of Graham's declining health, Wilton served as Graham's pastor. It came at Billy's request. Wilton would spend Saturdays in Billy's home with no

agenda, just enjoying fellowship and laughter as good friends do. In 2021, Wilton published a book entitled, Saturdays with Billy. It is a wonderful collection of stories and insights into the life and heart of this great man of God.

One of the great stories he shared was of the beginning. In 1934, the Christian Men's Club gathered in a cow pasture to pray. Billy's father, Frank was a member of that group. A Charlotte business man, Verman Patterson, prayed "that out of Charlotte, God would raise up someone to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth." Billy was 15 at the time and not very interested in spiritual things. His thoughts were more often on baseball and girls. (I can relate to that.)

They decided to invite Mordecai Ham, a Jewish evangelist to preach a revival. Billy reluctantly attended with his friend Grady Wilson. On the last verse of the invitation hymn, Almost Persuaded, Billy surrendered his life to Christ, a decision that was to affect millions of people around the world in future years.

He struggled for over a year with what God wanted him to do. At the time he was dating a pretty girl in a nearby town. He knew in his heart that he had to break off that relationship. She did not share his values so he drove to break the news. He said, "I cried all the way home."

Later, while a student at Florida Bible Institute, late at night on a golf course, Billy found assurance that God had called him to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Later after preaching to crowds at Youth for Christ rallies, and a brief stint as president of Northwestern College, he entered fulltime evangelism. The rest is history.

As Wilton shared stories from his friendship with Graham, one of his statements stands out. Billy said, "One of the greatest tragedies I see in so many people who serve the Lord today is that they no longer see the need to learn." I heard a statement from someone that reflects that insight. "Many want to be taught but few want to learn." To really learn, requires energy, time, and sacrifice.

I recall some 69 years ago as I was preparing to go on our High School Senior trip (touring Oklahoma), I purchased a copy of Peace with God, for \$1.00. I read it on the school bus riding across Oklahoma. It was one of the first, if not the first book written by Graham. I'm sure it was the first Christian book I had read. I can't recall any specific thought or lesson from the book but I'm sure the Holy Spirit embedded in my subconscious some truths that would guide my life.

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

SWOSU Foundation Established Dr. Carl Hook Family Endowment

Hook Family Endowment



Dr. Carl Hook, Class of 1967 & 2019 Distinguished Alumnus



Southwestern Oklahoma State University

J. Boone Clemmons
SWOSU Public Relations VP

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) with locations in Weatherford, Sayre, and Yukon has announced the establishment of the Hook Family Endowment, which has been generously funded by longtime SWOSU benefactors Carl and Sandra Hook of Norman. The endowment will provide scholarships support in perpetuity to SWOSU students of the Junior and/or Senior classifications who are studying in the Department of Math and the Department of Chemistry & Physics at SWOSU.

“We are deeply grateful to Carl and Sandra Hook for this latest major philanthropic investment in our work here at SWOSU,” said SWOSU President Dr. Diana R. “Diane” Lovell. “SWOSU students in the Departments of Math and of Chemistry & Physics will benefit for decades to come from the generosity represented by the Hook Family Endowment.”

Carl Hook attended Thomas Public Schools prior to moving to Weatherford for high school. At SWOSU he studied Chemistry, Math, and Biology, graduating in 1967. Carl’s parents—father William Dean Hook and mother Dorothy K. Brundage—and older sibling—Dorothy Dean Hook—were all alumni of SWOSU, and his uncle, Bert Brundage, was instrumental in the establishment of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy and served on the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE). Carl’s wife, Sandra (Combs) Hook, is also a proud SWOSU alumnae along with Carl and Sandra’s grandson, Austin Loomis, who graduated in 2018 after serving as SWOSU’s Student Body President and playing for the SWOSU Football team; Austin’s wife, Meagan, graduated from SWOSU in 2019.

Carl Hook earned an M. D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1970. Hook undertook surgical training at St. Anthony’s Hospital and specialty training in Otorhinolaryngology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Following just under three decades of private medical practice Hook became President, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Chairman of Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO), a firm owned by the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) that functions as the dominant provider of medical professional liability insurance in the State of Oklahoma. In 2015, Hook negotiated the sale of PLICO to The Medical Protective Company (whose parent company is Berkshire Hathaway), the largest medical liability insurer in the United States. Although retired from active management as of 2017 Hook continues to serve as Chairman of the PLICO Advisory Board of Physicians.

Carl Hook is a Past Chair of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees and in 2019 he received SWOSU’s highest honor: induction into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Carl and Sandra have been married for over 59 years; the Hooks are proud parents of two, grandparents of five, and great-grandparents to one beautiful little girl. The Hooks are active members of McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church. The Hook Family Endowment is stewarded by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. The Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy, award scholarships, and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU.

For more information about the Hook Family Endowment or any SWOSU Foundation, Inc. funds, please contact the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. at 580-774-3267 or visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com.

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WEST OK / SALES TAX ELIMINATION – The Oklahoma State Legislature recently passed a bill eliminating the state’s 4.5% portion of the grocery tax. A statewide conversation has now been sparked as to why the municipal portion of the tax is so vital to small communities, including those in western Oklahoma. “That 3%, to us and other small towns, is critical,” said Cordell Mayor Phil Kliever. “If we lose that, we’ll have to try and raise money in other ways that’ll probably end up being more painful (for taxpaying citizens).” The bill has been signed into law by Governor Kevin Stitt and will take effect in August of this year.

WEATHERFORD CC / PROPOSAL – The Weatherford City Commission approved a proposal recently for professional services for a single asset capital investment study, says Mayor Mike Brown. The commission also tabled a memorandum of understanding between the city and the YMCA of greater Oklahoma City to acknowledge and formalize their agreement to participate in a joint project for the development and operation of the multipurpose facility.

WEATHERFORD CC / OPIOIDS – Towards the end of February, the Weatherford City Commission approved a resolution declaring the eligibility of the city of Weatherford to submit an application to the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board for funding of a harm reduction project. City Clerk Carolyn Sanders outlines the meaning of the resolution, including various harm-reduction policies that could be implemented using the \$60,000 grant provided by SWODA. Mayor Mike Brown elaborates, saying that one potential idea would be to have rescue kits in offices at City Hall.

CUSTER CO / EARP – A city of Weatherford employee faces eight felony charges in Custer County District Court. 39-year-old Todd Earp allegedly solicited nude photographs of juvenile males and Earp offered to pay the minors via CashApp. Additionally, Earp had conversations with numerous males on several different dates about sexual acts for the exchange of money. Earp sent the males pictures of himself in various stages of dress and also in different sexual acts. Court records show that Earp negotiated these agreements and would attempt to have the males come to his home. Earp frequently gave his address to the individuals that he met with.

WRH / TELEMEDICINE – Weatherford Regional Hospital Chief Executive Officer Darin Farrell says the leadership of the SSM Rural Health Division has negotiated a Telemedicine Specialty contract to help support those who are hospitalized at the Weatherford facility. “The specialist will be available to us through telemedicine in four different areas: Neurology, Homology, Cardiology, and Nephrology,” explains Farrel. The contract will also allow a specialist to appear via telemedicine and use devices such as an electronic stethoscope and the ability to zoom in and out on specific areas during a consultation with the patient.

WEATHERFORD / ROTARY – Kim Silman, the new Executive Director of the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce, was the guest speaker at Weatherford’s Rotary International. Silman succeeds Elizabeth Amen, who recently took over as Executive Director of Connections Food & Resource Center. She looks forward to recruiting new chamber members.



WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!

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Happy Birthday Wishes for March 6 - Kyle Albert, Brenda Bass, Maranda Bray, Ron Ferguson, Kelly Hoffman, Michelle Landry, Sarah Lilly, Margaret Nelson, Darrien Reinschmidt, Billy Shirey, Kaelib Simpson, Cassie Trevino, Aaron Weaver; **March 7** - Maxine Adams, Chandler Basler, Georganna Edwards, Caden Gates, Colton Gates, Kimberly Hinds, Judy Payne, Kale Sawatsky, Judy Sisson, Brian Thompkins, Jade Visnieski, Jeanna Vontungeln; **March 8** - Sheila Altland, Donna Birkenfeld, Tanner Boyd, Tamra Harper, Zel Harrell, Chip Helm, Phillip Hubert, Kelly Maddox, Braxton McConnell, Craig Meacham, Scott Mitchell, Sheila Mouse, Mike Pickett, John Smith, Jocelyn Thomas, Patrick Williams; **March 9** - Benjamin Badgett, Michael Berrong, Sharon Butcher, Amy Chrismon, Misty Courtney, Janet Gomez, Chris Jensen, Haley Kliever, Sam Lackey, Rhonda Lovell, Bruce McLemore, Teresa Payne, McCary Rodolph, Leya Smith, Lynn Stephenson, Jim Tull, Talon Watkins, Gary Wilson; **March 10** - Anjali Grogan, Brian Hamar, Charlene Harrington, Dale Heinrichs, Trent Keasler, Teddy King, Brent Miller, Brad Perkins; **March 11** - Angie Caler, Perry Cleaver, Megan Davenport, Laurie Garcia, Kelsey Granger, Sesario Sambrano, Keith Sawatsky, Carmelito Switzer, Duncan Taylor, Kevin Townsley, Jason Trout, Kurt Van Huss, Winnifred White Tail, Hailman White Tail Jr., Tara Williams; **March 12** - Donna Arganbright, Julian Borjas, Randy Devine, Tony Graham, Genisis Rose, Ronnie Schmitz, Bill Stamper, Kyle Wager.

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Wings of Time, Volume III - Charles Lindbergh's Stimulus of Courage



Courtesy Pacific and Atlantic Photos, Inc.

After his famous flight, Charles Lindbergh lands in Le Bourget Field in Paris on May 21, 1927.



Courtesy Swedish Classic Picture Library

While touring, the Spirit of St. Louis lands in South London on May 29th, 1927 a few days after his transatlantic flight.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Gentlemen: As a stimulus to the courageous aviators, I desire to offer, through the auspices and regulations of the Aero Club of America, a prize of \$25,000 to the first aviator of any Allied Country crossing the Atlantic in one flight, from Paris to New York or New York to Paris, all other details in your care.

*Yours very sincerely,
Raymond Orteig*

These words spoken by New York City hotel owner Robert Orteig sparked an immeasurable amount of determination in the hearts of pilots in 1919. Orteig was an aviation enthusiast, and his hotels were second homes to French airmen visiting the US after WWI. Inspired by their stories and the dream of air travel, he posted his challenge: fly 3,600 miles (twice the distance of the time's current longest nonstop flight) across the Atlantic. Many took up the challenge, but the distance proved insurmountable for 5 years with some pilots disappearing completely.

The prize seemed out of reach. Several groups from the US and Europe formed teams to compete and in 1927 there were several notable competitors vying for the prize. However, each began to wrestle with challenges like test flight crashes, legal battles between members, and other mishaps.

While all eyes were on these known explorers and sponsors, a mail carrier for the US Post Office and a barnstorming man under the nickname "Daredevil Lindbergh" had been working with a team in San Diego, California on a design for a single engine plane to attempt the journey.

Charles Lindbergh had previously had somewhat of an unlucky streak with the air. He had dealt with a broken propeller several times in Wisconsin, an engine failure in Florida, run his plane into a ditch in Minnesota, had a mid-air collision in flight training 8 days before graduating for the military in Texas, and had to bail out of his mail courier plane when flying into Chicago, not once, but twice! Despite the setbacks, Lindbergh graduated first overall in his Army Air Service class, was promoted to Captain in 1926, and gained a steel resolve in the most extreme circumstances.

By 1927, Lindbergh had secured a sponsor out of San Diego, Ryan Airlines Corporation, who were confident in his abilities after meeting with him.

They modified his Spirit of St. Louis aircraft with an elongated fuselage and wingspan, moved the engine to the front of the plane, and slid the cockpit further back—a visibility issue solved by installing a periscope next to his seat. To even see where he was flying, he would need to peer out of the scope or turn the plane sideways to look out of the window. A problem for others, but merely an inconvenience for Lindbergh. The plane had to be reinforced to carry the extra fuel and needed to have weight reduced in other areas, one of the things to go? His leather seat, tossed and replaced by a wicker chair. As a solo pilot, he'd have to navigate himself and the only way to trust his dials wouldn't fail would be to use paper maps.

Lindbergh was confident, a speedster, and set out to make his mark on history. On May 20, 1927, Charles took off from Roosevelt Field in Long Island. His flight is marked in history with awe, prowess, and glory, but his experience for 33 hours was anything but. The transatlantic flight was long and arduous. He almost immediately began to feel fatigue. The air was cold; sleet bashed against the plane. He thought of turning around but continued on. His body ached, and his face burned from the frigid winds. He knew he couldn't raise the windows for fear of falling asleep. So, he pressed on, dueling with hallucinations and exhaustion.

He flew low to the water, the altimeter having him merely 10 feet above the water's surface as he attempted to stay focused. On the first day, he reached the New Foundland coast, and a post by The New York Times kept the public updated, "Captain Lindbergh's airplane passed over St. John's at 8:15 o'clock tonight...seen by hundreds and disappeared...flying quite low...." When nightfall came, a dense cloud of fog rolled in, Lindbergh pushed the plane to climb up and up and up, 10,000 feet above the sea. He hit a storm, saw ice forming on the edge of his plane, and stuck a bare hand out to be met with icicles sharply stinging his skin. He spun the plane around, attempting to navigate around the storm. He eventually got back to warmer air and set off at 90 miles per hour back on course. His stories and flight log say that when he hit the halfway point he initially planned to celebrate, but he reported feeling "only dread." 27 hours into his flight, Lindbergh's hopes rose to new heights. He saw people, fishing boats, signs he had reached the other side. He flew around the area for a bit while confirming his location - just off the tip of Ireland. He was ahead

of schedule and right on course.

He began touring above and along the coast, and news stations reported to the public that his plane had been spotted in Europe. Robert Orteig was vacationing in France at the time, so he dashed over to Paris.

That night, at around 10pm, 33 and a half hours later, Charles Lindbergh flew over a crowd in Paris, circled the Eiffel Tower, and landed on the airstrip at Le Bourget airfield to a dazzling amount of people. A reported 150,000 flocked to the field, carried him above their heads in cheers. Lindbergh had mentioned having trouble finding the airstrip at first due to the confusing display of lights.

The strip was lit up and roads around the airfield were covered in vehicles, causing the biggest traffic jam in Paris's history. Lindbergh's accomplishment set the world into a boom. Especially after the unprecedented conflict of WWI, this sort of achievement was precisely what was needed. News, parades, proposals, tours, invitations, letters, gifts, songs, books, prints, and merchandise were created in his name and for his achievement.

When personally handing Lindbergh the infamous Orteig prize at breakfast later, Mr. Raymond Orteig told him, "I had two thoughts in making this offer. One was to stimulate aviation, the other to strengthen friendly relations between the United States and France. Through you, Colonel Lindbergh, my aspirations have materialized beyond words." In response, Lindbergh went on to address the room, "[Mr. Orteig's] offer of \$25,000 for the first New York to Paris flier was a challenge to the pilots of the world to see if they could build and operate a sufficiently capable plane. I don't think any such challenge within reason will ever pass unanswered."

Lindbergh's resolve paired with Orteig's ideals paved the way for greatness, for a boom in aviation. Within the next 18 months, a record number of cross country and cross Atlantic flights were completed, with pilots and aviation transferring passengers. New designs and new beliefs sprouted into the possibility of commercial airlines. Pilots in the US tripled, manufacturing quadrupled, and just two years later in Oklahoma, another daredevil in the cockpit took flight on September 12, 1929, when Eula "Pearl" Carter Scott became the youngest pilot in the US at 13 years of age. Next time, we'll fly around with Pearl, and see how she, like Lindbergh, strove to prove the capabilities of pilots to the world.



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"West OK Weekly"

Miller and Barrera Named as the Newest Bulldogs of the Week

Jon Chidester
SWOSU Asst. AD

SWOSU track and field's Deuna Miller and

baseball's Marco Barrera have been named the latest Bulldogs of the Week. The weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media, the home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Miller (Fredrick, OK) set personal and SWOSU records on the track over the weekend. Track and field visited their first outdoor meet of the semester where Miller competed in the 100m, 200m, long jump, 4x100m relay, and 4x400m relay. She set a SWOSU record after clocking in at 12.54 seconds in the 100m and a personal record in the 200m at 27.19 seconds.

Barrera (Wilmington, CA) could not be stopped in the batter's box against Southeastern Oklahoma State this weekend. He batted 9-12 with a two doubles, a home run, and an on base percentage of .813% through the three games. In the series finale, Barrera's home run sparked a nine-run sixth inning, leading to a 16-15 comeback win and a series sweep for the Bulldogs.

BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK
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SWOSU Women's Basketball fell on the road in the final game of the 2023-24 regular season by a final score of 76-48 to nationally ranked Southern Nazarene.

The Lady Bulldogs conclude the regular season 13-15 overall and 10-12 in Great American Conference play. Their season continues on though, having already clinched a spot in the GAC Tournament next week in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Saturday was not SWOSU's day for an upset bid. The Lady Bulldogs were held to 27% shooting as a team and managed 48 points in the contest. Both are the second lowest marks of the season.

The No. 6/7 Crimson Storm opened the game on a 10-0 run and did not look back. They led 39-20 at the break and opened up a lead of as many as 30 points late in the fourth quarter for the wire-to-wire victory. SNU shot 49% from the field and knocked down 8-of-17 from the three-point line. They were also 18-22 from the foul line.

Averi Zinn scored 11 points on 4-of-16 shooting as SWOSU's leading scorer. Mason Jones had nine, Lanie Gooch eight.

The postseason tournament takes place inside Shawnee's FireLake Arena March 7-10. SWOSU will be the number six seed and will face three-seeded Northwestern. More information on the quarterfinal matchup will be released in the coming days.

In the final regular season game of the season, SWOSU Hoops fell 81-60 on the road to Southern Nazarene.

The Bulldogs finish the regular season 10-17 overall and 10-12 in the GAC. With Saturday's results around the league, SWOSU clinches a spot in the GAC Tournament next week as the No. 6 seed and will face three-seeded Northwestern in the quarterfinals. More details on that will be posted in the coming days.

The loss Saturday splits the regular season series with SNU after SWOSU had previously defeated the Crimson Storm 74-63 in December. The Dawgs fell behind early on Saturday and could not produce a run big enough to entertain a comeback.

Foul trouble and cold shooting put the Dawgs in a hole in the first half. They shot 34.5% and trailed by as many as 18 late in the half. Trailing 33-15 with 1:46 to play in the half, Eli Al-Debaran knocked down three deep balls to give SWOSU a manageable 37-24 deficit at halftime.

After the break, SNU quickly pushed the margin to 20-plus points and led by as many as 26 to cruise to victory.

The Dawgs improved their shooting in the second half to 45% but it was overmatched by the Crimson Storm who knocked down five more threes and finished above the 50% field goal percentage mark.

Al-Debaran had 11 points at halftime and finished with 19 for his best scoring performance of the season. Mark Berry notched a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Ben Smith had 13 points after three first-half fouls had him score two points and play just nine minutes in the first half.

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