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Scissortail to Present Weekend Christmas Concerts in Washita County



The Fiero String Quartet (pictured, from left: Elizabeth Chrisman, Jackie Skara, Rob Bradshaw, and Danielle Szabo) rehearse for “Die Fledermaus,” which will be performed Saturday, 3 p.m., at Clinton’s Southwest Playhouse. Piano accompaniment provided by Executive Artistic Director Megan Barth Argo.

SCISSORTAIL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

TINSEL and TUNES

Home for the Holidays

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December 14th at 7 PM

Cordell High School Auditorium
Cordell High School Band and Choral Department
All Profits go to Cordell Schools Music Department



Alexander Shook
WOK Contributor

Scissortail Productions, in collaboration with the cities of Cordell and Clinton, will present two concerts this weekend. Both events are free to attend, though donations are encouraged to benefit the arts and humanities of Western Oklahoma.

The first event, “Tinsel and Tunes: Home for the Holidays,” begins Saturday, December 14th, at 7 p.m. It will be hosted at the Cordell High School Auditorium.

This program will feature the Cordell High School Band and Choral Departments. There will also be performances by the Stardust jazz ensemble, among other artists.

All profits via donations will fund the Cordell Public School Music Department.

The second event, “The Golden Festival,” will be hosted at Clinton’s Southwest Playhouse on Sunday, December 15th, starting at 3 p.m. The main attraction will be Johann Strauss’s comedic operetta, “Die Fledermaus.” The show will be performed in English and has been abridged to include narration, provided by Southwest Playhouse’s Marji Anderson, to cover smaller plot beats. The Golden Festival will also feature a great collection of holiday music featuring the Stardust Jazz Ensemble. All profits from donations will go to support the Heart of the Arts Council of Clinton.

The cast for “Die Fledermaus” is comprised of internationally acclaimed opera performers, including: Dr. William Nield Christensen of Oklahoma City University; Dr. Christian Bester of Oklahoma State University (OSU); and Brianna Holt of Oklahoma Christian University.

“Our community is working to leave its footprints in the world of arts and humanities, and we’d be so thankful if you’d join us on that journey,” expressed Dr. Susan Adams-Johnson.

For more information, you can find Scissortail Production on Facebook or visit their website at scissortailproductions.com. Contact Dr. Susan Adams-Johnson by calling 405-274-1783.

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Thursday

Partly Cloudy

H: 53° L: 39°
Friday


Mostly Sunny

H: 57° L: 40°
Saturday


Partly Cloudy

H: 60° L: 43°
Sunday

Partly Cloudy


H: 53° L: 33°
Monday

Partly Cloudy

H: 50° L: 32°
Tuesday

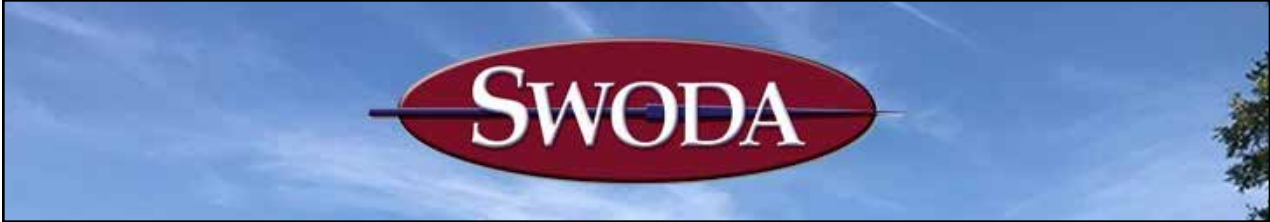


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SWODA: Seasonal Depression in Care Facilities



Cherrie Nutley
SWODA Obudsman

As colder months approach, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is raising awareness about the impact of seasonal depression, also known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), on nursing home residents. This condition can significantly affect mental health and overall well-being.

Seasonal depression is a type of depression that typically occurs in the fall and winter when daylight hours are shorter. Symptoms include persistent sadness, loss of interest in activities, changes in appetite or sleep patterns, difficulty concentrating, and fatigue.

For nursing home residents, seasonal depression can be especially severe due to factors such as limited mobility, reduced social interaction, and less exposure to natural sunlight. Recognizing symptoms early and taking proactive steps is essential to support residents' mental health.

Several approaches can help combat seasonal depression in nursing homes. Increasing residents' exposure to light is one effective strategy. Ensuring they have access to well-lit areas or natural sunlight, such as by sitting near windows or using specialized light therapy lamps, can help alleviate symptoms. Encouraging outdoor time, even for short walks or simply sitting outside during daylight hours, can also provide a mood boost. Social interaction is another key factor in supporting residents' mental health.

Organizing engaging activities such as arts and crafts, music therapy, or group exercises fosters connection and reduces feelings of loneliness. These activities also promote mental stimulation, which is vital for overall well-being.

A balanced diet plays a significant role in improving mood and energy levels. Ensuring residents have access to nutritious meals with the right mix of vitamins and minerals can have a positive impact. Additionally, offering emotional support by creating opportunities for residents to talk about their feelings is critical. Regular check-ins by staff or mental health professionals can help identify individuals who may need extra care and intervention.

By incorporating these strategies, nursing homes can create an environment that supports residents' mental health and helps alleviate the challenges of seasonal depression. Family members play an essential role in supporting loved ones during the winter months. Regular visits, phone calls, and video chats can provide comfort and help residents stay connected.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of long-term care residents. If you have concerns or need assistance, contact SWODA Ombudsman Supervision Cherrie Nutley at 580-562-5032. Together, we can ensure that elderly residents receive the care and support they need to thrive, even during the challenges of winter.



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HIGHER GROUND

Letters to Live By



Jim Morrison

How long has it been since you received a hand written letter from a friend? I'm not talking about a Christmas card with a few notes scribbled on the bottom, but a full letter with news and concerns.

Even today, there is something about a letter written with pen and ink that seems more personal. However, it seems that letters have gone the way of the three-cent stamp and the penny postcard. (Now I'm really dating myself)

The apostle Paul, languishing in captivity, with an uncertain future had the churches on his heart. He didn't second guess himself, thinking, "Only I wish I hadn't gone into the temple!" He had time on his hands and God inspired him to write what we have chosen to call the "Prison Epistles."

I took a class in Seminary by that name. I treasure that class to this day. It allowed me to look deep into the letters that Paul wrote while in captivity. We know three of them by the names of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians written to those churches. The letters known as 2 Timothy and Philemon were personal in nature. These three letters contain some of the most powerful teachings and truths ever known.

Let me sketch these three letters, then I will challenge you to act in response:

The church at Ephesus was started by Paul on his second missionary journey. He returned a year later and stayed there for three years.

Look at some of the teachings of this letter that are left for our instruction. It contains two of Paul's prayers. In those prayers Paul shares his heart for the people that they might hunger and thirst to know God better, so that they might realize the great resurrection power that was available to them.

Paul taught that although we were dead in our sins, God loved us so much that in his mercy he made us alive with Christ. God acted out of grace (undeserved favor) not through our efforts or good works.

He stressed unity in the church so that God's people might be equipped to do works of service. He instructed them and us also about how to walk as children of light in a dark world.

Paul preached the idea that, in God's eyes, we are to live a life of love as "Christ loved us and gave himself for us." We are to be kind, compassionate and forgiving. We are to find out what pleases the Lord and act accordingly. He showed how husbands were to love their wives which was not an accepted practice in that day. He showed us how to stand strong against the wiles of the devil by putting on God's armor.

The letter to the Philippian church was a letter of joy and heartfelt thanksgiving for the way the church had met his needs. He expressed his profound love for them. He thought that he might be able to see them again.

Whatever happened to him they were to conduct themselves in a "manner of the gospel of Christ." He warned them that they would likely experience suffering for the sake of Christ.

Chapter two contains rich poetry describing the incarnation of Christ, his purpose for coming and his ultimate exaltation. He describes his previous high stature in Judaism as worthless as manure in contrast to the "surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

He pictures the Christ-life as capable of doing what seems impossible because of the power of Christ now available to him. Above all God would supply all his needs through the riches available in Christ Jesus.

Paul begins his letter to the Colossians with thanksgiving and a prayer. This prayer is rich and worthy of our memorization. It ends with a picture of our being "rescued from the dominion of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of his Son." Because of the heresy of Gnosticism raising its head he asserts the supremacy of Christ and insist in chapter 2 vs 9 that "in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." Jesus was truly God in the flesh not just some ghostly figure that did not leave a print when he walked on the sand. Chapters 3 and 4 contain some of riches teachings found in the Bible.

Now in this busy season, I challenge you to feast upon these three letters. Let them soak into your inner being. Pray them back to God, seeking to grow in maturity and new understanding so that you might live out his life in your life.

To comment: jhm82@outlook.com

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LOCAL AND
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Mike Smith
News Director

SWOSU to Host Commencement Ceremony (Fall 2024) on December 13th



J. Boone Clemmons Southwestern Oklahoma State University
SWOSU PR & Marketing

(SWOSU) has announced the upcoming 2024 Fall Commencement Ceremony, scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. in the Pioneer Event Center. The event will honor the academic accomplishments of students who have completed or will complete associate’s, bachelor’s, or master’s degrees following the 2024 summer and fall semesters.

A livestream of the ceremony will also be provided for friends and family who cannot attend the ceremony at <https://wright.media/six>.

Additional information about the Fall 2024 Commencement Ceremony, including the link to the livestream and details about student line-ups for the ceremony, can be found on the SWOSU website: bulldog.swosu.edu/commencement/index.php

The Alma Mater Merc (SWOSU Bookstore) will continue to have regalia available until graduation day and can arrange shipping if necessary.

For any questions regarding graduation regalia, please contact Ashley Hancock, Director of the Alma Mater Merc, at Ashley.hancock@swosu.edu or 580-774-3245.

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THOMAS / NEW FIELD – Construction is underway on a new baseball/softball field, just west of the gymnasium for Thomas-Fay-Custer schools “Right now, we have to go down to the City Park and spend a lot of time traveling, especially junior high,” said District Superintendent Rob Freisen, “so it’ll be good to have kids on campus and be good to have a nice facility for kids to play out here.” Friesen is hopeful for the project to be complete in the Spring of 2025.

WEST OK / OPIOID GRANTS - District Attorney Angela Marsee, in collaboration with the Custer County Commissioners and the Oklahoma Alliance for Recovery Resources Incorporated, has secured \$150,000 funds from the Oklahoma Attorney General's Opioid Abatement Board to launch a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing opioid addiction in Custer and Beckham Counties.


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CUSTER COUNTY / SWOSU - Custer County has received a draft lease agreement from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) regarding the Hodge Building project at the Weatherford campus. The agreement surrounds the new rural healthcare center on the Weatherford campus. The proposal outlines terms for operating the county's health department. Custer County Regional Administrative Director for District 1 of the Oklahoma Department of Health Ashley Ferguson explains the agreement: “It would cost us about \$20,000 a year to lease the space in the Hodge building. There are some things we still need to work out. I've sent it to our attorney at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. They've sent it back. We're ready to talk to the District Attorney here in Custer County and have some questions regarding things like insurance, who's going to cover what, furniture, and who's going to cover what.” Ferguson says that, while no official move-in date or opening date has been set, progress has been consistently steady, and the brickwork has already been completed on construction of the building.

CLINTON / AIRPORT FEE - Clinton City Council recently approved airport fee adjustments. It includes an increase in monthly hangar rental fees and land lease rates. “We're going to continue to get grant money and to comply with all the FAA and state agency that has a funding,” said City Manager Robert Johnston, “but then we come up with a series of adjustments which we'd recommend you adopt.” The increases are scheduled to begin January 1st.

CUSTER CO / SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES No races developed following the three-day filing period for School Board of Education races in Custer County School Districts. Carrie Schmidt filed for and will claim Board Seat 5 in the Weatherford school district after incumbent Dennis Green did not seek another term on the board. Green discussed what he will take away after 10 years of serving on the board: “I enjoyed the people I worked with, the school board members, administrators and especially superintendents. It’s time to step away and let somebody else do that job now.” Additionally, John Coleman for Clinton schools, Casey Whitson for Thomas-Fay-Custer schools and Adam Richardson for Arapaho-Butler schools all filed unopposed.


WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!
Oh HAPPY Day TO YOU!

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Alcohol causing problems? Alcoholics Anonymous meets daily at 928 W. Main, Weatherford. Call (580) 819-0727 for more information.

Christian Free Store – Donations of school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. are needed or if you are in need. Please call (580) 637-2345 or (580) 291-3875. **Alfalfa, OK, Community Center** “Bible Study,” Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00 Hwy 58. Five miles South of Hwy 152. For more information contact (405) 643-9211. Free and Open to the Public. **OK Parkinson’s Alliance**, monthly support group meeting the second Thursday of each month, excluding December, at 5:30 p.m. at Weatherford’s Pioneer Center, 1000 Gartrell Place. Patients, caregivers, family or friends are welcome. Questions? Contact OK Parkinson’s Alliance (405) 810-0695 or info@OKpa.org. **Iron Sharpens Iron** is a Christ-centered adult support group every Tuesday night at 7pm. 233 E Main in Hydro, First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday Wishes for December 11 - Andrew Davis, Elisabeth Fraser, Matthew Goeringer, Debra Hupfer, Penny Lanier, Mary Ralston, Monty Reynolds, Jenna Scales, Bob Schmidt, Brenda Williams, Laurie Wood, Emma Jean Wynn; **December 12** - Leonard Boyd, Megan Fite, Jina Hampton, Mike Hopper, Chet Hunter, Lonnie Hymer, Joy Keng, Alice Peet, Sue Roles, Josh Vanderburgh, Lisa Wandrie, Amber Wood; **December 13** - Valerie Farriss, Tre Ingram, Steven Kixmiller, Sara Martin, Pat Meyer, Richard Meyer, Kaleb Miller, Addison Holland, Irl Nikkel, Holly Noel Ronan, Lisa Snider, Bret Wood; **December 14** - Audrey Christian, Elise Cox, Rodolfo Guyman, Amber Koch, Martha Martinez, Maddie Newman, Joella Poauty, Jackie Robinson, Tember Thomas, Michael Tippens, Mark Woods, Glenn Wynn; **December 15** - Lorna Kay Altland, Jo Crowdis, Maegan Fite, Kandy Harrall, Clint Holsted, Patricia Keezer, Keryl Lacy, Ray Lee, Scooter Leggit, Lynn Martin, Scott Sanders, Debbie Sanders, Kelsey Wager, Sheree Wood, Margaret Wright; **December 16** - Amanda Arriaga, Renee Basgall, Todd Doyals, Betty Goldman, Steven Green, Christine Irish, Victor Izaguirre, Steve Josey, Ben Kuykendall, Melissa McCoy, Richard Palmer, Brandon Pounds, Peggy Reynolds, Ashley Ricks, Ronnie Skinner, Mike Smith, Sylvia Spain, Karey Stufflebeam, Steve Tomkins;

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Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society
Gayla Peevey, the Oklahoma native who performed “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas,” visits Matilda at the Oklahoma City Zoo.



Roger Klock (Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society)
Oklahoma Actor Ridgely Bond (left) and Oklahoma singer-songwriter Ralph Blaine (right) with “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.”

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

In the symphony of Christmas classics, certain melodies have become emblematic of the festive season, transcending time and generations. Two such iconic songs, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas," stand out not only for their enchanting tunes but also for the intriguing stories behind their creation.

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"

The year was 1944, and the world was ensconced in the throes of World War II. It was against this backdrop of uncertainty and separation that songwriters Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane composed "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Originally written for the film "Meet Me in St. Louis," the song was performed by Judy Garland and encapsulated the bittersweet emotions of wartime, offering a message of hope and comfort.

Blane's contribution to the song's creation was pivotal, as he crafted lyrics that resonated with a universal longing for joy amidst hardship. The line "Someday soon, we all will be together, if the fates allow" captures the essence of the era and the collective yearning for a brighter future. Over the years, the song has evolved through various renditions, each iteration carrying the

enduring spirit of togetherness in the face of adversity.

Ralph Blane was an Oklahoma-born composer, hailing from Broken Arrow, whose repertoire of music credits feature other memorable melodies earning him multiple Tony nominations and an Academy Award nomination. Born Ralph Uriah Hunsecker, he eventually pursued his passion in New York City to study music and adopted the name Ralph Blane to better fit the theater.

His final work had him work as a lyricist for the music in the classic movie Home Alone in 1990.

"I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas"

Fast forward to the 1950s, and a different kind of Christmas wish echoed through the airwaves. "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" emerged as a whimsical holiday tune penned by Jon Rox and sung by ten-year-old Gayla Peevey, an Oklahoma native and singing star. The song exudes childlike innocence and a sense of humor, as Peevey playfully expresses her desire for a most unconventional Christmas gift.

Peevey's infectious rendition of the song captured the hearts of listeners, and her Oklahoma roots added a touch of regional charm to the tune. The catchy chorus and playful lyrics turned the song into an instant holiday favorite, showcasing how even the most unconventional

wishes can find a place in the festive season.

Her career in showmanship began on an Oklahoma City radio broadcast where she held a guest spot alongside her uncle. Following quick and successful tours and television contracts, Peevey's music prowess was quickly spotted by Columbia Records, and in 1953, a record contract was signed, and she flew out to New York City to record the Christmas hit.

The Oklahoma City Zoo championed her song and launched a campaign to “Buy a Hippo for Gayla”. Eventually, baby hippopotamus Matilda was purchased, gifted to Gayla on Christmas Eve – December 24th, 1953 - and she quickly donated her to the zoo. Every year, Gayla proved her success with more hits, song writing, teaching, and ran her own advertisement operations. All the while, Matilda spent a happy 45 years at the Oklahoma City Zoo.

As we adorn our homes with festive decorations and gather with loved ones, the melodies of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" continue to serenade us through the holiday season. Each song, with its unique history and timeless appeal, serves as a musical testament to the talented folks of Oklahoma and to the enduring spirit of Christmas – a celebration of hope, joy, and the magic of the season.

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Freshmen Reherman and Rogers Sweep Bulldogs of the Week



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

A pair of freshmen from SWOSU Hoops, Nate Reherman and Kray Rogers, have swept the Bulldogs of the Week honor after solid contributions that helped lift the team to a pair of wins last week. The weekly student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media, the home of SWOSU Athletics for both livestream and radio.

Nate Reherman (Weatherford, Okla.) poured in a season high 17 points against Harding on Thursday on an efficient 5-of-6 shooting and a perfect 5-for-5 at the foul line.

Reherman's 28 minutes of floor time was the most minutes he's seen so far this season. He scored once against Arkansas Tech on Saturday in 10 more minutes of action.

Kray Rogers (Fort Cobb, Okla.) eclipsed double-digit scoring for the first time this season with a 10-point performance against Tech.

All of Rogers's points came in the first half to give the Dawgs a boost. Against the Bisons, he shot 4-of-11 from the field and knocked down a pair of three balls in 24 minutes of action.

Protect Your Home and Family by Preparing for Next Year's Wildfires



In my last column, I explained how flood insurance works and why it's critical to think about adding it to your lineup of protection when it comes to your insurance considerations. Oklahomans know how extreme our weather can be, pivoting from hot to cold, wet to dry, and everything in between. This month, I want to talk about another weather threat we often face in our state: wildfires.

Before a fire strikes, you must know what is in your insurance policy and coverages. You can find this information on your declarations page attached to your policy.

The Oklahoma Insurance Department (OID) has a guide on our website explaining how to read your declarations page. Some policies have a specific wildfire deductible, so it's essential you check with your insurer to avoid any surprises in

the event of wildfire damage. Homeowners policies usually do not cover fire damage to vehicles. Your auto insurance policy should cover that if you have comprehensive coverage.

Another critical action to take before a fire is to create your home inventory. I often speak on the importance of creating a home inventory before any disaster, and that is because of how much time and hassle it'll save you, especially in the event of a total loss.

Go through your home, take numerous photos and videos of your belongings, and write down exactly what they are. Document the serial numbers and product codes on your electronics and appliances. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) provides a free home inventory mobile application, making this process

even more accessible and convenient.

For our folks who prefer a physical inventory, don't forget to grab our free home inventory guide at oid.ok.gov.

Your pre-fire plans should continue beyond reviewing your insurance coverage and documenting your property. Did you know there are simple things you can do to help mitigate your home's fire risk?

The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) provides a comprehensive guide to preparing your home for wildfires. To summarize, you will want to clear your roof and gutters of any flammable debris and materials, install flame-resistant fixtures, and create a defensible area around your house.

The defensible area is a zone that extends at least five feet away from your home and is clear of vegetation, debris and combustible materials.

You can extend your defensible zone by maintaining the yard, trimming trees and shrubs, and performing upkeep on any other structures on your property.

Oklahomans know all too well the old saying that if you don't like the weather here, wait five minutes. Dry and warm weather creates a ripe environment for wildfires, but you can take some quick and simple actions to prepare you and your family. If you have any insurance questions, don't hesitate to reach out to OID at 800-522-0071 or oid.ok.gov.

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GAC Showings Begin: SWOSU Men Start Strong, Lady Bulldogs Falter



Jon Chidester
SWOSU Media Relations

SWOSU participated in their first two conference basketball games of the season, facing Harding on December 5th and Arkansas Tech on December 7th.

Following a slow start in both conference games, the Lady Bulldogs (4-3, 0-2 GAC) will look to bounce back with one game a week from today on Saturday, December 14 on the road at Southern Nazarene.

The men's team (5-2, 2-0 GAC) has now beaten two GAC Tournament qualifying teams from a year ago in their first two conference games.

Lady Bulldogs vs. Harding: 50-60

It was cold shooting that did the Lady Bulldogs in on Thursday. They finished 4-of-22 (18%) from the three-point line in the game and shot sub 30% in both the third and fourth quarters when a comeback was needed. They finished shooting just 32% overall from the field in the game—the lowest mark of the young season.

The Lady Bisons outscored SWOSU 24-15 in the second quarter, which proved to be a difference maker in the game. Tied 22-22 midway through the second quarter, Harding finished the quarter on an 18-7 run to take a 40-29 lead into halftime.

Harding only eclipsed 40% shooting in a quarter once thanks to a tough SWOSU defense, but they did so emphatically after they shot 10-for-14 in that second quarter to grow their lead.

Entering the fourth, Harding narrowly edged the Lady Bulldogs to grow the lead to 55-41. Despite the Lady Bisons shooting just 1-of-10 from the field in the final 10 minutes, SWOSU failed to take advantage with just nine points to show.

The Lady Bisons won the rebounding battle 54-28 which included 17 offensive rebounds that they converted into 15 second chance points.

Hailey Grant led the team with 14 points. Layni Zinn, who had 11 points at halftime, finished with 13 on the night. Averi Zinn had 4 points and 4 assists.

Bulldogs vs. Harding: 81-67

The Bulldogs found themselves down by a score of 18-12 in the first half, but three straight buckets from Nate Reheman provided the energy needed to flip the game's momentum. SWOSU gained a 26-25 lead with 6:00 to go in the half and did not trail at any point for the remainder of the game.

Following a Harding bucket to start the second half, MJ Warrior's tough and-one bucket sparked a 12-0 run in just over three minutes of game time. The Dawgs were able to maintain a lead of at least five points for the last 18 minutes of the game to close out the Bisons. When Harding was forced to play the foul game to save time on the clock, the Bulldogs knocked down six clutch free throws in the final 1:21, courtesy of Jalyn Todd, Tobias Roland and Reheman. The Dawgs shot an impressive 25-of-26 (96%) from the line.

Roland led SWOSU with 22 points on 6-9 shooting and a perfect 8-8 from the charity line. Warrior poured in 20 of his own on a hyper efficient 8-9 from the field and Reheman had his best outing in a Dawg uniform with a 17-point night on 5-6 shooting and 5-5 from the line.

SWOSU shot 54.2% while holding Harding to a season low 42.1%. The Bisons averaged 86.4 points per game prior; the Dawgs held them to a season low of 67.

Lady Bulldogs vs. Arkansas Tech: 70-75

Tech held a 15-point lead with 8:27 left before SWOSU managed to dwindle that margin down to as few as three points inside of 10 seconds. Two Golden Suns free throws finally iced the game for good.

The Lady Bulldogs hit five three-point shots (5-8) in the final quarter to shrink the deficit. ATU had four early three balls of their own in the fourth quarter, nearly nullifying SWOSU's hot hand.

SWOSU faced a large deficit in the fourth quarter following a third quarter that saw Tech outscore the Dawgs 25-17. ATU led 28-26 at halftime. Both teams shot sub-30% in the first quarter in a one possession game after the first.

Averi Zinn led the team with a season high 20 points on 8-of-22 shooting. Hailey Grant finished with 11 points and two blocks. Maebry Shields added a career high nine.

The loss comes despite a 25-turnover performance from the Lady Bulldog defense which they converted into 32 points. A stat line less friendly was in rebounding, where SWOSU was outrebounded 51-29 which costed them 14 second chance points. SWOSU shot 37% overall in the contest. Tech finished at 47%.

Bulldogs vs. Harding: 73-61

The Dawgs had their defensive presence felt early. Tech only made one basket in their first 12 attempts. It allowed SWOSU to build a 12-5 lead in the early going. Despite a close game throughout, SWOSU paced the way. The Wonder Boys took a 2-0 lead to start the game before SWOSU led for the remaining 39 minutes and change.

SWOSU held a 39-33 lead over the Wonder Boys thanks to an 8-2 run to close the half. Shooting splits had the Dawgs leading in field goal percentage (57.1%-44.0%) and three-point percentage (46.2%-27.3%) with SWOSU knocking down six threes compared to Tech's three.

The SWOSU defense held Arkansas Tech to 0-of-10 from the three-point line the second half.

After the break, the Bulldog defense continued their performance by limiting ATU to 8-of-25 (32%) from the field from the field. In the game, the Wonder Boys would only make 19 field goals and get three three-point makes – both representing season lows for the visitors.

Four Dawgs made it into double figures with Tobias Roland (16), Eli Al-Debaran (15), MJ Warrior (12) and freshman Kray Rogers (10). Rogers' 10 is a season high, and they all came in the first half to give the offense a boost. Warrior added seven assists, four rebounds and a steal to his stat sheet.

ATU finished 20-26 (76.9%) from the free throw line to just 5-10 (50.0%) for the Bulldogs. The 16 free throw disparity is the largest for SWOSU in the young season.



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