THE WATCHDAWG

The Focus is You!

A Great Opportunity to Help

By Matthew Swint

Would you like the opportunity to help a mother or a father to sleep with the assurance that there will be food on the table for Thanksgiving, or make a child’s Christmas a time of happiness?

The SGA is giving you these opportunities to give back during the holiday season. Today’s is the last day you can donate to low income families by bringing canned goods to the financial aid office. SGA President Paula Howes says, “I feel that if people are in a situation to contribute to their community then they should.” The SGA will gather the canned goods on the 20th and deliver them to groups who know of needy families in the area.

Another chance to give to others is the Angel Trees that are being displayed in the library, Bulldog Café, and financial aid office. Studies have shown that without toys, children don’t develop necessary motor skills. Playing with simple toys like balls, blocks, and costumes is essential for children to lead happy, healthy, and productive lives.

When you donate a toy to one of the over 29 million needy children in the US, you provide a positive outlet for a child’s energy and creativity. And the DHS has identified 60 needy families right here in our area. All you have to do is pick a name, buy a gift, put it in a bag, and the SGA will deliver them to DHS by the 9th of December.

You can make a world of difference in the lives of others—and feel good about yourself.

The Truth about Thanksgiving . . .

By Trista Fields

Perhaps you believe that it all started between the Pilgrims and First Americans, or maybe you think it is just a day to sit and eat lots of turkey! Here is the True Thanksgiving Story. So maybe it was not the pilgrims who started the whole thing. We do know that the First Americans did have many feasts, in fact the Wampanoag group held six feast within a year. We also know that the pilgrims and First Americans did have a feast together, but it was certainly not the beginning of a tradition since no one repeated it for decades afterward. These pious colonists would have spent a day of thanksgiving in prayer and fasting, not feasting!

They had the feast to give thanks for the first good crop, and crop festivals date back to antiquity. However, the feast was a big hit for it has been celebrated for a little over four hundred years. The holiday was not made official until October 3, 1863 when President Lincoln proclaimed that the last Thursday of November next, would be our national day of Thanksgiving:

“I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.”—President Abraham Lincoln

Freshman Julie Berry checks out the donations received so far in the SGA can drive. Photo by Joel Delp.

The Focus is You!

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SWOSUP at SWOSU?

• November 21-24 – No classes! Thanksgiving Break

• November 29 – Computer Club will have a short program beginning at 1 p.m. in SHM 104. Snacks will be provided (prior to entering the lab.)

• December 1 – Blizzard for Bucks @ Gym 11:00-1:00 Free Quiznos subs!

• December 5 – Panorama Event – Dr. Gary Telgenhoff, “Speak For You: The Real CSI” - Weatherford’s Fine Arts Canter – 7:30 p.m. Coming in January: Harlem Gospel Choir. In March: Pauly Shore. For more information, call (580) 774-3063 or e-mail news@swosu.edu.

• December 14-15, and 18-20 – SWOSU Final Exams. Times will be posted on bulletin boards around campus.

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Gala Event To Be Held...Black Tie Optional!

By Lauren Pryor

SWOSU is going to celebrate the renovation of the Memorial Student Center Ballroom on the Weatherford campus. A gala event is planned for Friday, December 1, at 7 p.m.

Brandi Gateley, assistant director for alumni and development, said the event is patterned after the successful Wellness Center dedication event held last year. All net proceeds from the event will go to SWOSU General Scholarship Fund.

"Everyone had a great time last year and the Student Center project gives us another reason to have a party," Gateley said. "The SWOSU campus is so excited about the renovation project at the Memorial Student Center, and we want to celebrate."

The black tie optional affair will feature a dinner and dancing with music provided by the SWOSU Faculty Jazz Combo. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. followed by the dinner and the dancing at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are now available at the SWOSU foundation office, located in Room 201 of the Administration Building. Tickets are $50 each or $500 for a reserved table of eight. For additional information, call (580) 774-3267 or e-mail Gateley at brandi.gateley@swosu.edu

Career Day Held; Volunteers Appreciated

By Joel Delp

On November 8, 2006, SWOSU at Sayre hosted around 180 high school seniors from eleven different schools. With the competition for students at an all time high, this event helps to recruit future college students to Sayre's campus. The following students took time out of their own schedule to make career day successful: Megan Dickson, Chad Lagunas, Jeff Roland, Jamie Atkinson, Scott Celsor, Andrea Cross, Brian Exinia, Jami Graham, April Harris, Erin Keeton, Kimberly Keller, Amber Lewis, Devan McDonald, Damon Schulz, Kandy Stevens, Linda Zehnpfund, and Sue Brown. Also Jessica Jamison, Lauren Eaves, Doug Tate, Kathy Lampshire, Brian Atteberry, J. D. Moore, and Laura Kirkland.

Mrs. Kim Seymour stated, "Thanks to everyone for your continued help and support in making career day a success."

Dean Jim James also added, "Thanks to everyone and especially Kim for running point on this event."

Win Cash with Blizzard of Bucks

What better way to beat your winter blues than with some bucks? It's called Blizzard of Bucks, and the SGA is proud to bring this student activity to campus on December 1.

Students will compete against one another in the wildest, goofiest games ever for a chance to step into the incredible Money Machine and "Go for the Dough" in a swirling sea of green, claim the promoters. The winning student will see how much cash he can grab out of the air while inside a glass booth. Some lucky student could win up to $500 cash money.

Before students "go for the dough," a free lunch of Quiznos Sub sandwiches will be served in the gym at 11 a.m. The game show will begin after lunch at around 12 p.m.

"America's #1 campus game show, Blizzard of Bucks is crazier, bigger, better and more fun than ever! It's got a whole new look with new games, with more prizes, and even more chances to win," says the flyer.
Who’s Your Dawgy?

By Tisha Burns

We have an amazing Mascot at our humble SWOSU campuses. This mascot is at every SWOSU home game and at other events. But, what is this amazing mascot’s name? Her name is Brandy.

She is there to cheer on our men and women athletes, alongside the cheerleaders and pom-pom squad. She is always making the crowd laugh with her skits and props that she uses to get the crowd into a cheerful spirit.

In addition to games, she appears at a number of other events throughout the year. She not only works well with the cheerleaders, but she also takes time to get up in the stands, jokes with students who are watching the games, and takes time out of her busy game performances to take pictures with kids who are amazed by her. Brandy, as shown in the picture below, is always dressed for the occasion.

Laura-Leigh Altom is the embodiment of Brandy this season. Laura-Leigh is perfect fit for our mascot. She is a down-home country girl from Blair, Oklahoma. Being a cheerleader in high school, she is agile enough for the job, and she loves to join the cheerleaders in high kicks even though she’s wearing a bulky dog suit!

Laura-Leigh is probably one of the nicest persons you’d ever want to meet. She is a beautiful girl who is friendly to everyone and was one of the top three homecoming queen candidates last year.

She brings props to add humor to the ballgames, like bones, lightup pom-poms and even dressed Brandy in a tiara and sash for homecoming.

So if you see Brandy, tell Laura-Leigh that you appreciate the job she does.

Laura-Leigh as Brandy the Bulldog and 7-year-old Kyle Bagzis, at SWOSU’s Homecoming. Photo by Tisha Burns.

What’s New at the Movies?

By Roy Herndon

Above the streets of London, Roddy St. James is a young girl’s pet mouse who thinks he’s got it made. But when a sewer rat named Sid—the definition of low life—comes spewing out of the sink and decides it’s his turn to enjoy the lap of luxury, Roddy schemes to rid himself of the pest by luring him into the bathroom for a dip in the whirlpool.

Roddy’s plan backfires when he inadvertently winds up being the one flushed away into the bustling world down below.

Underground, Roddy discovers a vast metropolis, where he meets Rita, a street-wise rat who is on a mission of her own. If Roddy is going to get home, he and Rita will need to escape the clutches of the villainous Toad, who royally despises all rodents and has dispatched two hapless Hench rats, Spike and Whitey, as well as his cousin—the dreaded mercenary, Le Frog—to see that Roddy and Rita never make it. Will Roddy give up his lonely life of luxury or decide it is better to have a family and people to care for.

It is hilarious and well written movie that appeals to people of all ages—a perfect family film for all generations.

Matt Swint reports, “The slugs make the movie.”

Funniest line in the movie: “AAAAAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAAH HHHHHHHHHHHHH HHHHHHHHHHHH!”

By Slugs in the Sewer
Four Staff Members Receive Awards

An awards ceremony was held last week honoring SWOSU at Sayre support staff members for their years of service.

Four persons received awards: Earl Bales, Carl Bound, Linda Woodruff, and Dianna Mosburg.

Earl Bales received an award for his fifth year of service at SWOSU at Sayre. He is the Sayre campus network administrator, and also works as an instructor in computer science.

Carl Bound began working for SWOSU in the spring of 1991, and was awarded for his 15th year with the Maintenance Department.

This was Linda Woodruff’s 25th year of working in higher education. She worked for Sayre Jr. College for six years before the merger. Linda is the business officer for the local campus.

Dianna Mosburg worked at the Al Harris Library at Weatherford 11 years before she came to Sayre’s O.H. McMahan Library in 1992. Dianna is the Library Technician, and was awarded for her 25th year of working at SWOSU.

A Reception followed, which was hosted by Jennifer Hodge and Jennni Hayden, support staff members. Guests included Dean Jim James and other Sayre personnel. Guests from Weatherford included Dr. Cindy Foust, Associate Provost; Dr. John Hays, President; Gulen Hemminger, Administration Assistant in Human Resources; Jan Schmitz, Benefits Specialist in Human Resources; Gail Wilcox, Chair of the Support Personnel Organization; Sonja Roper, Administrative Assistant to the Registrar; and Janice Sperle, 2006 Staff Employee of the Year.

Phi Theta Kappa Inducts Officers for 06’-07’

By Roy Herndon

Phi Theta Kappa has elected its officers for the 2006-2007 school year. Phi Theta Kappa is an organization on Sayre campus that is open to anyone to join that has a 3.5 GPA. It is a great way to find out about scholarships, meet new people, and it also looks good on a resume in the future ahead.

For further information contact Mrs. Coker.

Officers listed from Left to Right, Secretary: Kelly Bearshield; President: Robert Bogle, Vice-President: Tami Tosh.
Faculty and Law Enforcement discuss campus safety

By Tisha Burns

On Wednesday, November 15, Scott Jay, the Sheriff of Beckham County, held a meeting with all of the surrounding school administrators including our very own Dean Jim James.

This “summit” was held for our administrators and local law enforcement in this county so that they could be educated in how to respond to an act of violence.

A few weeks ago, a man with a gun was spotted at Sweetwater Public School. Sheriff Scott Jay got the call and stepped up to the challenge of taking charge of the investigation. He sent his deputies door to door in the local surroundings searching for the alleged gun man.

This brought a lot of things to Sheriff Jay’s attention. This county does not have a design on how to respond to an act of violence; therefore, if something would have happened, everybody would have been completely unprepared.

Sheriff Jay then did some research. He gathered information and put a presentation together and held a meeting out at the Western Technology Center. It was an hour-and-a-half long filled with information, examples, and a plan. It explained what had to be done in the case of an emergency, so that hopefully nobody would be taken completely off guard.

One new change in police policy is that police no longer wait for the shooter to leave or to negotiate. They will immediately converge on the premises. It is recommended that everyone in the building stay in the room, out of the line of sight of the shooter, behind a desk or some other barricade. Instructors will lock the door so that a shooter cannot come in; however, because college students are adults, the instructor will not prevent anyone from leaving who wishes to leave.

Sheriff Jay also went to a meeting November 16 to meet with the Legislature and is now trying to get this plan of action—this coalition between the schools and law enforcement—passed state wide, as it has been done in North Carolina.

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Internet Entertainment

By Brandon Miller

Have you ever been surfing the web and wonder where everyone finds all of the funny videos that everyone is always talking about?

I have the answer to your question! I have done some research and found a few main sites that are loaded with hyperlinks to many other websites. My main interest in this research was to find websites loaded with funny videos and pictures. Some of them even have very entertaining flash games. The following are just a few of the sites that I have found and even some that I personally enjoy browsing: KillSomeTime, CompFused, funlol, collegedowntime, and YouTube.

If you are very familiar with Myspace then you may know of their video section. You do not have to be a member to look at the videos. Also, Google has recently added a video category and you may search for any type of video you like. I have had great results with both.

* In the event of an active shooter, all designated personnel will lock outside doors and call 911.

* All instructors must lock their rooms and have students lay on the floor.

Dean Jim James and Sheriff Scott Jay are part of a Faculty and Law Enforcement Coalition on Safety. Photo by Tisha Burns.
Get registered on Bulldog Job Board

Interested in a job? Planning to get a work-study position? Then you need to know about the Bulldog Job Board.

In the past, students could fill out a paper application for a work study or other campus job, but as of December 1, all students will have to apply online. That’s right—no paper applications. But don’t worry. A set of step-by-step instructions can be obtained at the Financial Aid Office and in no time, you will have your resume posted online for all employers to see. Instructors who wish to hire a work study student must also register online and post their jobs to the website.

The Bulldog Job Board is a free service and is open to all students and alumni of SWOSU. It is available at www.swosu.edu, under More Quick Links on the left side, where you can click on Bulldog Job Board, then click Go.

You may bring your resume in on a disc, and from the homepage, click on Upload a Resume.

You don’t have a resume, you say? That can be fixed. From the homepage, you can go to Career Services homepage at http://www.swosu.edu/administration/careers/where you’ll find sample resumes for you to use as a template.

A resume is a requirement for application.

From the homepage, you’ll be able to search for jobs posted to your school, enter criteria specific to the type of job you are looking for, and even search for jobs in a national job database.

This employment service involves a cooperative effort with College Central Network, Inc.

Children Get Stressed Too!

By Bridgette Gibson

The sound of the siren, the screeching of brakes—they all look to see what accident has happened so close to the school, only to see an ambulance drive by with the lights flashing and the sirens going.

As they all stand in awe of the commotion, one little boy will soon find out that the ambulance was going to change his whole world. Have you ever wondered how children respond to major stress in their lives?

After recess, the little boy’s teacher takes him aside and lets him know that he is being picked up by a relative. As they drive to the hospital the little boy is informed that his mother has been in an accident. Upon their arrival to the hospital, he finds out that his mother will have to undergo surgery to fix the damage to her leg.

He is taken back to see her before she is wheeled to surgery. Not once does he shed a tear, he appears detached and not quite sure how to react. He himself has had several injuries, but his mom has always been hardy. He asks his mom, “Are you going to be okay?”

She may be unsure of how everything is going to turn out, but as a mother she knows her duty to her child is to reassure him. She responds with, “Yes, I’m going to be just fine, but say a prayer for me, okay?”

Her son grabs her hand and says, “Ok, I love you mom.” Although the boy is unsure of all that is going on around him, not once does he break down.

The next day at school he acts a little detached but otherwise there’s no indication that anything has happened. Some children respond to stress with drama and hystericis and others with cool detachment as if nothing has happened.

Does their response come from their raising, the environment they are in, or the things they learn at school? Each child is different and so will be his or her responses to each situation.

Help children deal with stress with the following ideas:

Show how they can cope in a healthy way. Keep calm, control anger, think through a plan, and share the plan with the family. Be proactive. Plan plenty of playtime, inform children about changes, and plan activities where children can play out their feelings. Find individual talk time.

Also, talk about stressful events and everyday events. Use stories and books and art to express feelings. Acting out or drawing feelings can be a nice vent.

Give the child some degree of control. Children should be allowed to choose within the framework of what is expected. Allow them to make some manageable decisions, such as how to arrange their room, to voice their opinion in some family decisions, which activity to complete.
By Tisha Burns

Dillon Sottile, a twenty-eight-year-old Elk City resident, is a non-traditional student here at SWOSU Sayre. He has a two-year-old daughter named Danni, and one on the way with his Cassy, 28, his wife of four years.

Dillon is a 1997 graduate from Merritt. Dillon has attended SWOSU Sayre before, but while going to college right out of high school, he worked a sixty-hour-a-week job at Bar-S. “So, I pretty much flunked out,” admits Dillon.

He now works at the Lincoln Teen Center in Elk City.

“I like to play basketball with my friends Jered, Landon, and Taner.”

If you’ve ever had Dillon in class, you probably haven’t forgotten him. He is a random guy with random comments that often make me laugh.

His major is Secondary History Education, and he plans on coaching baseball as well. While talking to him, he had some very interesting things to say. “I’m pretty much the coolest person in this school,” volunteered Dillon. “I don’t like peas by themselves. I guess. I only like them with stew, but if you want to know more about me, go to MySpace.”

“It’s pretty hard being the most attractive person in this school... I think every girl in this school has a crush on me. There might be some man crushes out there, too. I have a bird dog, but I’m against hunting. Probably my favorite sport is wiffleball.”

Dillon also spends time at the church Eastside Baptist, where he is a member. Dillon says that most of the people he hangs out with range in age from about 10 to 21. “That explains my personality,” he admits.

Employee Spotlight

Terry Billey

The newspaper staff’s selection for Employee Spotlight is our very own Terry Billey. You all would know her as administrative assistant to the Dean. She has been the Dean’s administrator for over eleven years. (You know what they say, behind every successful Dean is a good secretary.) Terry is a married woman, and she has two wonderful children that she has watched grow up to young adults. Her son, Ty, is a senior at Sayre High, and her daughter Alyson is a 20-year-old college student. Her husband, Carl, has a rather unique job. He’s a funeral director and works at Whinery Funeral Home. His job once took him to Oklahoma City as a volunteer to help identify the remains after the Murrah bombing.

Terry claims to be a “boring person,” but we know she is only being humble. She is active in all school activities, following her children in their academic team events, drama class performances, and sports events—especially golf. The whole family loves golf, and both of her kids played on their high school teams.

She is active on many committees on the Sayre campus, and we know it wouldn’t run right without her.

“She’s nice, friendly, always there, and always has a smile,” says librarian Dianna Mosburg.

“She’s an excellent employee,” said the dean, Jim James. “She’s loyal, hardworking—just a pleasure to have as part of the team.”

Our hats are off to you, Terry. In this season of thankfulness, we thank you, and all the staff and faculty as well, for all you do.
I.M. Hokum recalls the Shaggy Shag

Submitted by Prof. Emeritus Chris Christian, whose pen name was I.M. Hokum

Since the day Sadie Hawkins’ pappy declared a day for her so that she might obtain the so-desired husband, the gals have since declared a Sadie Hawkins Day once a year.

Here at SWOSU the “GIRL CHASE BOY” routine will start. There was a schedule for this day: the parade of Dog patch-clad persona who will be competing for the biggest honor—the best dressed dog patcher of the year.

The event to top the evening will be the Shaggy Shag. The cider still will no doubt be a center of attraction.

The men will flee for their lives as the women chase them. Tickets for this event will be . . .

This photo from yesteryear shows Sayre college students kicking up their heels at the Sadie Hawkins Day Dance!

Centennial History

Why’s Cordell’s Courthouse in the Road?

By Julie Berry

Cordell sprang up as a center of housing and commerce in Washita County. Soon after that an unsatisfied factory water supply forced the relocation of Cordell, to the present location of New Cordell, now the town’s legal but seldom used-name. The move also created Cordell’s most endearing feature. The Washita County Courthouse sits in the middle of the road, resulting in beautiful approach to the city, particularly for travelers along highway 152. This unusual arrangement can be credited to A. J. Johnson and J.C. Harrel, who each donated half the land needed for the courthouse on either side of the section line later used to demark the highway. The county government was not officially moved until 1904. The original wood courthouse burned in the early morning of August, 4, 1909 but most of the county records were saved. The county selected the young architect Andrew Solomon Layton to rebuild the courthouse, and the beautiful present building—now on the National Register of Historic Places—was designed in 1910 and completed in 1911 at a cost of $75,000.