Election of officers for SGA will be held Sept. 19-20. Bring photo ID to the Financial Aid office in order to cast your ballot. Those running for a student government office will have an opportunity to, as Mr. Kistler puts it, “campaign, put up signs, give away candy, give speeches on the front lawn, have a parade, or do whatever it takes to get elected to the office.” This campaigning will take place the week of Sept. 11th—15th. Sign up for an office with Ron Kistler at the financial aid office. (See page 7 and 8 for candidate information available at press time.)

A Message from Mr. Kistler:

I recently read a quote by Grace Speare: “The more we give of anything, the more we shall get back.”

One of my hats that I wear here at SWOSU in Sayre is that I am privileged to be the Student Government Association (SGA) sponsor. I look forward to taking part in this as the sponsor or mentor or guide. I do not plan to run the organization or tell the students how to run business of the student government. That will be up to you, the officers and members of SGA.

My only duty is to attend the meetings and functions, and to make sure that as an organization we make good choices that will reflect in a positive way for our school, ourselves and our community.

So back to the quote, as a student of SWOSU at Sayre, you have an opportunity to do so much more than just attend class daily.

Run for an office, participate in student government, be part of this school. We need new or fresh ideas that will bring meaningful experiences to our campus. Get on board, sign up for an SGA office in my office this week. (FINANCIAL AID)

We need a president, vice president and secretary for which you need to have a 3.0 GPA and have completed 24 hours of college credit. For class rep., there are no stated qualifications except being a freshman or sophomore. I look forward to working with new officers and memberships.

Join PBL — business skills and competitions mean fun and friends

By Joel Delp

Phi Beta Lambda (Future Business Leaders of America) is open to all students that attend SWOSU. The deadline to pay dues is soon, and the installation of officers is Wednesday, September 20. PBL members participate in a broad range of projects and ventures both on and off campus. They initiate business ventures, organize community service projects, attend state and national leadership conferences, participate in fundraisers, and create publications. Members gain a competitive advantage in the business world by interacting with local companies and their executives. As funding allows, students will also have the opportunity to win accolades on the state and national levels. Through participation in these activities, students are better prepared for careers, graduate school, and for life.

Join for the fun, fellowship, and travel. Any questions that you have that pertain to PBL can be answered by contacting Patsy Wootton, 928-5533, ext 153.
Employee Spotlight

Meet adjunct instructor Nelda Tucker

Nelda Tucker—a face not seen too often around the campus, but certainly one that is remembered by those who have the privilege of learning from her. Mrs. Tucker has been adjunct faculty here at SWOSU since June of 1996. Students really enjoy her hands-on, no-nonsense, down-to-earth approach to science. She recently retired from Sayre High School, where she had been for 13 years and was immensely popular with students—often selected as prom and class sponsor. Prior to coming to Sayre, Nelda taught math and science, and was also the High School Principal at Sweetwater Public Schools. Mrs. Tucker is the wife of Tommy Tucker and has two grown children, Monty and Lisa. She is also blessed with two wonderful grandchildren, Tyler (7) and Mason (2). A graduate of Sayre High, she went on to achieve her BS in education and MS in education administration from SWOSU at Weatherford. Mrs. Tucker is a member of Who’s Who Among American Educators, she has received the honor of Sayre High School Teacher of the Month, Sayre High School Teacher of the Year, Math Counts Coach Award, and she is an Honor Teacher at the Oklahoma School of Science and Math. Even with all these honors, when asked what the highest point of her career was, Mrs. Tucker responds, “Every day!” Nelda Tucker is one that has never kept our community and citizens far from her heart, and it is obvious from everyone who knows her she is never kept far from theirs either.

The Wonderful World of Weights Awaits

By Colter Gilmore

Would you like to shed some pounds, get rid of those hateful love handles, or stay in good health? The fitness center is the place for you.

It is open every morning at eight o’clock. On Wednesdays and Fridays it closes at four o’clock in the afternoon; however, it is open late on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday—until eight o’clock at night. You can work every muscle of your body with the two machines and the free weights that the fitness room provides for you, and also get a good cardio with the treadmills. If that does not interest you, then maybe the full-sized basketball court would come to your attention.

Fundamentals of Exercise class is being taught by Mrs. Connell in the gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m., but you are free to use it any other time. Also, try the walking track around the gazebo. Six times around the walking track makes approximately a mile. Don’t wait to lose the weight!

Two win Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships of $1,000

By Roy Herndon

Students Robert Bogle and Figianna Horn, members of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, were recently awarded scholarships that totaled a $1000.00 apiece. Bogle and Horn graduated from SWOSU last May with their associates degrees and are now on the Weatherford campus.

Students that are a member of the honor society, completing an associate’s degree, and transferring to Weatherford are eligible for this scholarship. For more information about Phi Theta Kappa, please contact Mrs. Coker.

Pictured from left to right: Robert Bogle and Figianna Horn.
By Trista Fields

In this edition of The Watchdawg, we are continuing our special feature of highlighting non-traditional students. Martha Barber is like many of our non-traditional students, a single mother and grandmother, fighting to find a new career midway through life. She has reached one giant step on the ladder by obtaining her associate degree in General Education last May and is continuing to pursue her major of Music Therapy minor in Criminal Justice from our campus, although soon she’ll be driving to Weatherford.

Born in Cheyenne, Martha soon moved to Moore, where she graduated in 1973. As a junior in high school, she married her junior high sweetheart, had her son Sean, then went back to school the next year, taking seven classes, and graduating with her own class. When seniors were having fun and taking it easy, Martha was busy being a wife, mother, and student at the age of 18.

After graduation she took many minimum wage jobs to help support her family. By the age of 21 she had a second son, Dustin. After 5 years of marriage, she divorced and was raising two sons alone.

After her divorce, she and her sons moved from Moore to western Oklahoma during the oil boom of the ’80s and she started singing in various bands. She also worked as a secretary for a number of oil field companies during the day and still kept her night job singing. Then in the early 90’s she had to have bilateral total knee replacement and had to rethink her future. That’s when she decided to go back to school and get a degree in Music Therapy.

Her son Sean, now 34, is an OSU graduate in Computer Science, and Dustin now 30, an OU grad from the School of Architecture. She also has 3 grandchildren; Cody, 7; Trinity, 4; and Aries, 3.

Martha has served as SGA Vice President and been very active representing the students here at Sayre. She attended The State Student Government Association Conference held in Claremore. She is a member of The Literary Club, served on The WatchDawg Newspaper Staff, and is a member of the Criminal Justice Association in Weatherford. She also received a Tuition Waiver Scholarship, a Stovall Foundation Scholarship, was nominated for and accepted into the National Scholars Honor Society and The United States Achievement Academy. She also had the honor to be asked to sing at Sayre’s graduation ceremonies for 2004 and 2005. She has also sung on the stage of The Grand Ole Opry, Nashville; The Oklahoma Opry, OKC; the Bluebird Café, Nashville; Riverbend Festivals, Chattanooga; Fall Color Cruises, Tennessee River; True Value Country Showdown, and was the opening act for the CMA award-winning True Value Country Showdown 1985.

“New Vocal Group of the Year” in 1996, Confederate Railroad. When asked about her decision to go back to school, she said, “I knew I wanted to stay in music somehow, and Music Therapy was just what the doctor ordered. I had a rude awakening at the age of 47 when I had to have knee replacement. I knew then that I would have to find another path on the roadway of life. Music is a universal language and I’ve always believed in music as a therapy. After all, music is a Band-Aid for the wounded soul and I’m a great nurse.”

Martha is currently busy planning Batch’s Benefit, a fundraiser for a long-time music friend of hers, Billy Batchelor, who played with Smokin’ Okie for three decades. He needs help with medical expenses, and Martha has stepped up to spearhead the project (just like she did with Alex Nichols’ Benefit! It will be Sunday, Nov. 5 at the Elk City Civic Center. Local bands and musicians will be coming out to play, and Martha hopes everyone will donate and enjoy the music.

The staff of The WatchDawg would like to say thanks to Martha” for all the time and effort put into the many different organizations and clubs that she has been a big part of during her tenure here at SWOSU. She is an example of what non-traditional students can accomplish and we wish her the best of luck while continuing her education at Weatherford.

Martha dressed as Stevie Nicks, for the 70’s Theme mixer at SGA Convention. (Lto r) Troy Ford, Terry Ford, Chad Lagunas and Martha Barber.

Martha singing with the band “TEXXAS” at the True Value Country Showdown 1985. Photo by Randy Craft.

2006 Graduation Southwestern Oklahoma State University Sayre, OK. Photo by Mick Swink

Tucker Band, 1982, Elk City, OK.
Alarming Stats on Domestic Violence- Don’t Be a Victim

By Jeanne Shadaram

An estimated 8-12 million women in the United States are at risk of being abused by their current or former intimate partners. Domestic violence, also known as partner-abuse, spouse-abuse, or battering, is one facet of the larger problem of family violence. Family violence occurs among persons within family or other intimate relationships, and includes child abuse and elder abuse as well as domestic violence. Family violence usually results from the abuse of power or the domination and victimization of a physically less powerful person by a physically more powerful person.

Until the mid 1970’s assault against wives were considered misdemeanors in most states, even when an identical assault against a stranger would have been considered a felony. The home was considered to be “sacred,” a place of “love” and “sanctuary,” not a place for the government to “meddle.” Fortunately, that has changed and the current consensus among state and federal policy makers is that domestic violence is a CRIME, safety for victims of domestic violence and their children MUST be a priority, and changes in traditional services, including medical care, are needed to meet the needs of abused women.

Domestic violence is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviors that may include repeated battering and injury, psychological abuse, sexual assault, progressive social isolation, deprivation, and intimidation. These behaviors are perpetrated by someone who is or was involved in an intimate relationship with the victim. Although some women are successful in escaping a violent relationship after the first assault, most abuse is recurrent and escalates in both frequency and severity. In addition, a woman’s independence may be compromised by her partner’s need to dominate her and control many aspects of her life; he may restrict her access to food, clothing, money, friends, transportation, health care, social services or employment.

National Statistics:

*Every 7.4 seconds in America, an incident of domestic violence occurs.
*Every 9 seconds a woman is battered in the U.S.
*6 million women are beaten each year by their husbands or boyfriends and 1,000 of them are killed.
*Police officers spend at least 1/3 of their time responding to domestic violence calls.
*Over 500,000 women are stalked by an intimate partner each year.
*There are approximately only 1,900 domestic violence shelter programs in the U.S.
*Women are more likely to be attacked by someone they know rather than by a stranger.
*In 1998, nearly 3 out of 4 victims of intimate partner homicide were women.
*95% of all domestic violence victims are female.
*Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women, exceeding the number of injuries from rape, robbery and automobile accidents combined.
*Between 1993 and 1998 women ages 16 to 24 experienced the highest per capita rates of intimate violence.
*At least one in every three women will be a victim of domestic violence at some point in her life.
*Women of all races are equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner.
*Of the children who witness domestic violence, 60% of the boys eventually become batters, and 50% of the girls become victims.
*85-95% of all domestic violence victims are known by the victim.
*Between 1993 and 1998 women ages 16 to 24 experienced the highest per capita rates of intimate violence.

By Brandon Miller

Have you ever wished that you could eat for free? (Probably right after you paid your tuition and fees!) SWOSU at Sayre has somewhat of a way to make your wish come true. Two local church groups have volunteered to have free lunches at the campus.

The Methodist church has volunteered to serve lunch on Mondays in the “Lit Pit” or the southside commons area in Mackey Hall near Mrs. Haught’s

FREE FOOD? Two locations to serve your need for food and fellowship

The inside and out of the local BCM, one of the places where the food is free! The other is inside Mackey Hall on campus.

The Watchdog Volume II, Issue 1

Volume II, Issue 1
**Tutors needed for local children**

For America Reads and America Counts program

By Ron Kistler

Are you interested in helping children? Do you qualify for Federal Work-Study?

If you can answer yes to these questions then you would qualify to help with America Reads and America Counts Program. This is a federal program that was created to help elementary students that are having difficulties with reading and math skills.

The nice thing about it is that you get paid for the help you provide.

Our campus is set up with Sayre Elementary and you would be working with students in grades 1-6. This program is for students who have qualified for work-study and are willing to spend quality time each week, at the elementary school, working with children.

If you have aspirations to be an elementary teacher this would give you great experience and insight in the elementary teaching field. If you are interested and for more details please come see Ron Kistler in the financial aid office.

---

**Get your Photo I. D. made A.S.A.P.**

By Megan Dickson

Kick off September by exploring the many wonderful resources available at the library during National Library Card Sign-Up Month, Sponsored by the American Library Association.

On our campus, your I.D. is your library card, so don’t forget to have your photo I.D. made.

This provides access to SWOSU games and events, the campus weight room, Weatherford’s library and Wellness Center, and student discounts around Oklahoma. Also your photo ID is needed to vote in the big SGA election next week!

Bring your student identification, number or your enrollment information so your number can be placed on your photo I.D. (If you don’t know your number, the librarians can help you look it up on Campus Connect. This number is important because it allows you to log on to Campus Connect or Blackboard or when accessing the library from a home computer. It only takes a couple of minutes, it’s free, and is quite painless. “However, we can’t promise Glamour Shots,” jokes Librarian Janice Hodge.

Visit the library this month and explore the Teaching Resource Collection on the College Research Paper © for eight articles and other resources to make the most of the library on this campus and in the community.
Despite the rain, many SWOSU folks attended and enjoyed Elk City’s rodeo parade.

By Bridgette Gibson

Book Club is going strong and active. Those present at the first meeting voted to hold future meetings on Fridays at 1 p.m.

The first book chosen to be read is a mystery novel *No Place Like Home* by contemporary novelist Mary Higgins Clark. The book club meets to discuss the book and enjoy snacks. Some instructors give bonus points for participation. So, if you enjoy reading and discussing and sharing your opinions, come join the fun.

Mrs. Haught, sponsor, has already sold out of books, so pick one up from a .com like Amazon or Barns & Noble. Used books are very reasonably priced at $2 or $3, and new run about $7.

During Dawg Day, Mrs. Haught gave away copies of books to randomly-drawn names, and two of the students who won were Rebecca Rippy and Shannon Adair. Pick up your freebie from Mrs. Haught.

A pick-up, a trailer, another pickup and horses? The SWOSU entourage just kept coming!

AND THE WINNER IS . . . Book Club sponsor Judy Haught invited Librarian Janice Hodge to draw out names of winners from the DawgDay club sign-up.

PIT PARTY . . . It was standing-room only at the Lit Pit as voters haggled over whether club should meet on Wednesdays or Fridays. Fridays won by the slimmest of margins. However, everyone can join line at <swosu.edu> by selecting <Sayre Campus> then <Current Students> then <Literary Club>.

The SGA always enters a float in the Elk City Rodeo parade in the fall and in the Sayre Alumni Parade in the spring.

Rodeo Parade rounds up big batch of students

By Bridgette Gibson

Many SWOSU students, faculty members, and family attended Elk City’s Rodeo Parade. With a trailer and two pickup beds filled with people—and horses following—the SWOSU “float” made quite a showing.

The trailer was full of folks that braved the rain and kept the candy flowing to show their school spirit for SWOSU at Sayre. The float was decorated with hay and SWOSU banners. One SWOSU student brought horses and decorated them for the parade. The horses bore the proud colors of SWOSU painted on their rumps along with a paw print to represent the “Bulldog” logo of SWOSU.

As the parade got under way it began to drizzle, but soon warmed up again. It didn’t seem to dampen the spirits of the spectators, who begged for the candy that was thrown, along with footballs and Frisbees provided by the SGA.

Those who participated were Alex and Amber Nichols, Tom Warner, Ron Kistler, Jen and Kent Hodge, Jenni Hayden, Jeff Roland, Chasten Musick, Holly Perkins, Joe Snow, Terry, Tate, and Madison Ford, Gina and Joshua Sullivan, Rebecca and Cheyenne Rippy, Martha, Robert, Aundrea, and Tylar Bustamante, and Bridgette and Justin Gibson.

So, if you weren’t part of the fun this year, come join us next time! The next parade will be Easter Weekend in Sayre.

Despite the rain, many SWOSU folks attended and enjoyed Elk City’s rodeo parade.

The Literary Club chooses a mystery

By Bridgette Gibson

Book Club is going strong and active. Those present at the first meeting voted to hold future meetings on Fridays at 1 p.m.

The first book chosen to be read is a mystery novel *No Place Like Home* by contemporary novelist Mary Higgins Clark. The book club meets to discuss the book and enjoy snacks. Some instructors give bonus points for participation. So, if you enjoy reading and discussing and sharing your opinions, come join the fun.

Mrs. Haught, sponsor, has already sold out of books, so pick one up from a .com like Amazon or Barns & Noble. Used books are very reasonably priced at $2 or $3, and new run about $7.

During Dawg Day, Mrs. Haught gave away copies of books to randomly-drawn names, and two of the students who won were Rebecca Rippy and Shannon Adair. Pick up your freebie from Mrs. Haught.
Howes Announces for President

Hi. My name is Paula Howes. I am running for the President seat in SGA. Although I haven’t ever been formally involved with this organization, I believe I will be able to accomplish great things with fellow members, faculty, and students.

I have been attending SWOSU at Sayre since the fall of 2005. After obtaining my Associates Degree in General Education, I plan on going to SWOSU in Weatherford. Once at Weatherford I plan on getting my Bachelor’s in Biological Sciences.

Once I finish school I plan on pursuing a career in genetics. I haven’t decided what exactly I want to do in this field, but I know I want to pursue something within it.

VOTE!!

STEPHEN S. BROOKS

FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE

“He will listen to what you think matters.”

Alex Wants Your Vote for President

Alex Nichols served as an officer last year and is qualified through KNOWLEDGE & experience to serve as President!

Sue Brown throws hat in ring for Pres

Hi everyone. I’m Sue Brown. I’m seeking the office of SGA president. I feel I have the leadership qualities to bring well-organized events to the campus. I have six children—from age 16-26, so I think I’m practically an expert in being in touch with what kids like! You’ve seen me all over campus, working in the library and cleaning up the campus. You can always find me if you have any ideas for improvements or questions! I’m very approachable!

Megan for Secretary

Twenty-year-old sophomore Megan Dickson lives in Weatherford and has knowledge of what’s going on at both campuses. She will have fun ideas for activities and will keep you informed on all of SGA’s events!

If it’s worth skipping class for, Megan will make sure you know about it!

Bridgette Gibson is Running for Vice-President

Hello, my name is Bridgette Gibson and I have been in SGA for two years. I’m tired of hearing people gripe about our campus, and I want to bring in some changes and a spirit of cooperation. SGA should be fun, and the events should be planned with the students in mind. After all, it’s our student fees that fund these events.

Meet your candidates . . .
Who’s on the ballot?
A race is heating up for president as three qualified students vie for the leadership position. There is also a race for the vice-presidency and for secretary.
The SGA constitution allows for three freshmen representatives and three sophomore representatives. There is still an open seat for sophomore representative.
The election ballot as of press time on Tuesday included the following candidates:

For President:
Alex Nichols
Paula Howes
Susan Brown

For Vice-President:
Adam Brooks
Bridgette Gibson

For Secretary:
Megan Dickson
Rebecca Rippy

For Freshman Representatives:
Stephen Brooks
Jamie Sparlin
Chastain Musick

For Sophomore Representatives:
Jeff Roland
Dena Mackey

Voting information:
Who? Any SWOSU at Sayre student
When? Sept. 19 & 20
Where? Financial Aid Office. See Jennifer or Ron
How? Bring photo ID

Election Information:
To Run for OFFICE:
When? Campaign during Sept. 11-15
Requirements?
For President: Must have 24 hours & a 3.0 GPA
For Vice-President: Must have 24 hours & a 3.0 GPA
For Secretary: Must have 24 hours & a 3.0 GPA
For the three (3) Freshman Representatives: No requirements.
For the three (3) Sophomore Representatives: 24 hours of credit
How? Sign up with Ron Kistler
Where? Financial Student Services in Alexander Building

When’s the vote?
The election will be held on two days, both Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 19th and 20th, for the convenience of both groups of students—the MWF people and the TR people.
Students should bring a photo ID to the Financial Student Services Office in order to vote. This can be any identification with a picture, such as a driver’s licence or a student photo ID. A photo ID is available free in the campus library. (See related story, page 5.)

Voting can take place any time between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sept. 19th and 20th.

What’s SGA?
The Student Government Association by-laws indicate the organization’s purpose is to (1) bring about closer relations between students and faculty, (2) to look for ways and ideals to improve our university, and (3) to promote, correlate, and supervise student activities.
The SGA attempts to schedule some kind of event each month—some for education, for outreach to high schools, and some just for fun and entertainment.
The Student Senate is elected by the students and operated by students.
Bridgette Gibson is Running for Vice-President

Hello, my name is Bridgette Gibson and I have been in SGA for two years. I’m tired of hearing people gripe about our campus, and I want to bring in some changes and a spirit of cooperation. SGA should be fun, and the events should be planned with the students in mind. After all, it’s our student fees that fund these events.

Megan for Sec./Reporter

Twenty-year-old sophomore Megan Dickson lives in Weatherford and has knowledge of what’s going on at both campuses. She will have fun ideas for activities and will keep you informed on all of SGA’s events! If it’s worth skipping class for, Megan will make sure you know about it!
Meet the new Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director

By Julie Berry

Ever wondered who that guy at the BCM is, the one who keeps talking while you’re trying to eat your free food? That’s Josh Priddle, the new BCM Director for the SWOSU Sayre campus. He served as the youth pastor for Swanlake Baptist Church before coming to Sayre. Josh graduated from SWOSU in Weatherford in August. He currently attends seminary at Southwest Theological. He is extremely excited about being here and is looking forward to becoming an active participant on campus. Josh has two goals for the BCM: to know God and to make him known.

Come visit Josh at the BCM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, or drop him a line at this e-address: <www.joshpriddle.com>.

The Writing Center is ready to improve your papers

The Writing Center welcomes students back this fall. It is located in the Al Harris Library, Basement Room B3. Trained student consultants will be available to help writers in any discipline. Experienced writers as well struggling writers can benefit from discussions of their writing at any stage in the writing process, from discussing topic possibilities to polishing final drafts. The Center can also help with organization and discussions of content with speeches and presentations. Students are urged to use this free service. Research has repeatedly shown that good writing skills are essential for college and workplace success. Research has also shown that students who take the time to discuss their writing with interested readers and work on thoughtful revision can improve skills.

Write to ask questions or e-mail your paper, the address is writing.center@swosu.edu or call 774-7083. Visit the web page to find the hours. The fall hours will be posted by Sept. 5, but since hours may change during the semester, it is a good idea to check the web page. If you have further questions about the Writing Center, call Dr. Valerie Reimers, 774-3244.

Friends of Billy’s will be holding a benefit for local musician and long time resident of Elk City, Billy Batchelor on Sunday, November 5, 2006 at the Elk City Civic Center. Billy is the founder and bass player of “The Smokin Okie Band” that entertained thousands of fans in the tri-state area for 3 decades. He and his wife Barbara, desperately need the help and support of all of their family, friends & co-workers during this difficult time in his life. Billy has several major medical problems that have required major surgery, and needs our help to cover the cost of medical & personal expenses. We are looking for donations from local merchants and businesses in the area for the auction. We’re also looking for musicians to come out and show their support and are in need of bands to perform. For more information, please contact us at the phone numbers and e-mail address listed below. The numbers to call are 580) 821-0004 or (580) 821-0251 or try mshyde1955@yahoo.com

Billy & Barbara Batchelor

SWOSU student Martha Barber has planned a benefit for a long-time friend on Nov. 5 . . .