Calendar

April 22nd  Earth Day!
May 7th  Graduation practice 10:30 a.m.
       @ Sayre school auditorium
May 9th  Graduation 2008 7:00 p.m.
       (Graduates arrive @ 6:30 p.m.) Reception following
       @ SWOSU Sayre Student Union
June 2nd — Enrollment for summer classes
June 3rd  summer classes begin
June 9th  Last day to drop for a refund
July 31st  Summer Semester ends
Aug 20th  Fall Classes begin

BCM Cookout a Little Bit Wet

By Tom Warren

It was a beautiful spring day—the day before the cookout—but the day the cookout occurred was a rainy, windy day (which is typical in western Oklahoma!)

However, the weather did not stop BCM director, Josh Priddle, from cooking for the students at the Sayre campus. He cooked until he ran out of burgers and left them wanting more!

Over sixty students turned out for the cookout despite the weather, and most just ate their meal inside the gym instead of going outdoors. Free pop, chips, and cookies accompanied the burgers.

The cookout was also a good time to meet the new BCM director, Derek Wheeler. Wheeler will start as director next year when Priddle resigns. The BCM provides a meal for students at the SWOSU at Sayre campus every Wednesday up until finals week.

Donate books...

And take it off your taxes!

Book Donations are being taken for the library at the North Fork correctional Facility’s Education Department. Any used book will be accepted, according to Warden Fred Figueroa.

Because the average value of a used text book is $50, a donation slip will be given in the amount of $50 for each donated book. This may be an option for some of your books that the bookstore is not buying back.

See Ms. Holly Hernandez for information. Please donate by May 9 during her posted office hours. For more info, call 580-928-5527-x153 or email her at holly.hernandez@swosu.edu.
By Jeff Roland

SWOSU at Sayre was represented in the town's Alumni parade this year, although the representation wasn't as ostentatious as usual. Our parade entry was a car instead of a float. Ron Kistler said "this was due to lack of help and not having many volunteers." Due to the Alumni celebration falling so early (it won't come again this early for another couple of centuries), and coinciding with Spring Break, it was difficult to get together a float. However, Bulldog stickers adorned the car, and a handful of students showed up to decorate the car and ride in the parade. If you'd like to see our next parade entry be bigger and better, then join SGA and volunteer a bit of your time to locate a trailer and decorate. See Mr. Ron Kistler in the Financial Aid office about volunteering for SGA. Planning for next fall's events will soon begin.

By Janice Hodge, SWOSU at Sayre Librarian

National Library Week was first observed in 1958 with the theme “Wake Up and Read," and it has remained the goal of the American Libraries Association to keep the public aware of the importance of reading. Each year a new theme presents the idea of why reading is so important to each and everybody. Libraries have always been a place of learning. The atmosphere and environment nourishes the need to learn. Technology has extended the walls of the library to include one's car or computer, allowing a person to listen to a book on tape or CD and research just about anything and everything just by the click of a button. A library's homepage provides the patron access to the library any time of day. American Library Association will continue to promote National Library Day and encourage patrons to visit a library to explore the racks and racks of available books to read and enjoy. However, if one just can't find the time for a nice long book, try books on CD. Whatever your choice, visit your local library and enter into the world of knowledge.

By Candise Warren

Many students are not aware of the process that they must complete in order to be eligible for work study. Terry Billey, the work study contact on the Sayre campus, stated: "There is a simple process, and it has to be done before a student can apply to be a work study."

Work study affords students the opportunity to earn money that is applied to their financial aid. Helping a teacher grade papers, assisting in offices on campus, and working in the fitness center are only some of the jobs that are available each semester. There is always a need for more students willing to participate.

To begin with, a student must log on to: www.swosu.edu. Once the page loads, click on "more quick links" then on "Bulldog Job Board" at the top, click the "students" button, then "register now."

At this point you will need to create a "user ID" and a "password." Once you confirm the password, click "Continue Registration." At this screen, fill in your personal information, and click "submit."

The information will be forwarded to student services and checked for errors. Once it is checked, a resume must be uploaded. At this point, you will be able to make changes to your resume and browse job postings.

Letters to the Editor?

Have an opinion you want to share? An issue around campus inspiring or upsetting you? Questions, comments, complaints? Let us know by emailing terry.ford@swosu.edu or dropping it by Mrs. Ford's office. Letters may be edited for length, clarity, to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. Letters must include full name.
By Jina Brown
Earth Day 2008 is April 22nd. With the high concern about global warming, I feel that more people are going to get it together this year and do something. All it takes to make an impact is just a little time.
A good idea is to plant a tree or two. If you don’t have the money or space to plant trees, you can simply pick up litter or turn off a few lights. Another good idea for Earth Day is to walk instead of drive, not necessarily all day, but maybe for one or two of your daily errands.
Come on, everybody! Let’s get together and love the Earth!

Correction: The Watchdawg inadvertently typed a word incorrectly in the article by Amanda Chase entitled “Are You Whipped or Mojo’d.” The word “boos” was incorrectly typed as “beaus.” As Amanda pointed out, “boo” is slang for boyfriend in modern colloquial, and “beau” is an old-fashioned word for “a frequent and attentive male companion, a male escort for a girl; a dandy or fop.” The origin of “beau” (beaus or beaux for plural) dates back to Middle English and French in the 1300s, whereas Amanda’s word “boo” dates to rap music in the here and now! The Watchdawg regrets this error, and we’re sorry for any embarrassment, Amanda!
By Kevin Williams
Prayer in the public school system has become a largely debated issue today. Many say: “Why should we force our religion on others?”
I ask, “How are we forcing our religion on others when Baptists, Catholics, Assemblies of God, Methodists, Nazarenes, and several other denominations come together to pray?”
Also statistics have proven strongly, violence has dramatically increased since prayer was prohibited. Columbine, Fort Gibson, Virginia Tech, and several other school shootings have taken place. Bomb threats, gun threats, etc. have escalated alongside them. This isn’t a mystery of why violence quickly began to increase.
It is because America has been taking God out of people’s lives. When you begin to do that, you are allowing evil to control and have a free reign on everything. Despite arguments, we were a country based on Biblical principle.
Why are we beginning to outlaw all of the things we were founded on?

By Lauren Riley
What if we lived in a country where we were told that we had to believe in a certain religion, and when we went to school, we had to say a prayer or do some kind of ritual for this religion even though we didn’t believe in it?
In the First Amendment it states that, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”; which means that it prohibits the establishment of a national religion by Congress or the preference of one religion over another, or religion over non-religion.
Being a faithful Christian, I love living in America and being free to choose my religion, but that doesn’t mean I expect everyone else to have the same beliefs as I do.
So when the topic of prayer in school comes to mind, my first thought is, yes, I want to have an organized prayer in school because I am a Christian and that is what I believe in. The down fall is, if we allow our Christian prayer to be said in school, we would have to allow any other religion to say their prayer or perform their ritual, and we would have to listen to this every morning. I personally would not want to listen to something I didn’t believe in, or force others to listen to my rituals that they don’t believe in.
We still have the right to talk about God to our friends and teachers that share our Christian beliefs, and meet as a group to have an organized prayer together. There are also clubs we can join like the FCA (Fellow Christian Athletes) that meet before and after school and do activities together. At my high school, even if you weren’t an athlete, they would still allow you to join this group. Christians could even decide to attend a private school.
So as much as I would love to have an organized prayer in school, we can’t judge other people for choosing a different religion, because one day they will be judged for making their own religious decisions.
This year a group of state officials formally recommended on Jan. 15 to Gov. Brad Henry and the Legislature proposals to improve the safety and well-being of students by developing standard safety plans and providing more training for Oklahoma college and career technology campuses.

The Campus Life and Safety and Security (CLASS) Task Force estimated Oklahoma college and career technology campuses need an additional $16 million annually to fulfill safety needs. These funds would be raised from a variety of sources, including federal grants. It also requested that the governor allow the task force to continue meeting to monitor implementation of its recommendations and share resources among institutions.

Gov. Henry created the CLASS Task Force in 2007 following the deadly shootings at Virginia Tech. The task force is comprised of 15 officials from higher education, CareerTech, public safety and health services.

Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, chairman of the task force, praised the group’s work but emphasized its recommendations should only be the beginning of ongoing efforts. “I believe this task force has not only met our purpose as outlined by the governor, but exceeded it,” Johnson said. “We’ve made some solid recommendations, but after this report is issued today, let’s not lose sight of our responsibilities. Let’s continue to implement these recommendations on our campuses.”

The task force spent seven months examining campus needs in emergency response, notification systems, counseling services, current laws and policies, and available funding. It established subcommittees to guide each of these focus areas. The task force also surveyed Oklahoma’s CareerTech campuses and public and independent colleges and universities about current security plans and student counseling services. “Education, communication and preparation are essential to safe and secure environments on our campuses,” said Phil Berkenbile, vice chair of the task force and state director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. “I also commend the work of the task force and believe by working together we can reduce risks and effectively manage emergencies we cannot prevent.”

The surveys, administered anonymously through Oklahoma’s Office of Homeland Security, reveal 90 percent of campuses have crisis management teams established, but campuses vary on how often faculty and students receive safety training and how they are notified about emergencies. The task force subcommittees revealed other key findings, including:

* The availability of accurate records and photographs needs improvement.
* Many facilities do not have adequate back-up generators.
* Cooperation and planning with local law enforcement needs improvement.
* Most campuses have incident-reporting procedures.

It's been one year since the Virginia Tech campus shooting.

* Overall, Oklahoma’s postsecondary institutions are significantly understaffed by mental health professionals.
* There is a widespread uncertainty concerning the application of federal or state privacy laws for students in need.
* Local and regional partnerships should be formed to identify potential funding sources and secure needed revenue.
* Information sharing should continue through a Web site, workshops and other means.

Based on those findings, the task force issued recommendations to improve emergency response and student safety on college and CareerTech campuses. Those recommendations include:

* The adoption of a statewide standard for campus policy and practices that will enhance the safety and security of students, faculty, administrators and visitors.
* A complete assessment of campus notification needs and development of a prioritized communication plan utilizing multiple appropriate methods.
* The establishment of a regular review protocol for campus response plans by appropriate campus staff and local responders.

The complete CLASS Task Force final report and recommendations are available online at this address: www.okhighered.org/class. Contact: Ben Hardcastle, OSRHE, (405) 225-9346.
Meet SWOSU Student: Cody Carnahan

By Sarah Stephens
Meet the soon-to-be world famous film director and actor. Cody Carnahan is one of the more interesting people you will meet on campus. He’s not hard to miss around campus. He will more than likely have a unique hat; rumor has it that even teachers are borrowing his hats.

Carnahan’s dream began on July 9, 1989, in a little corner of Western Oklahoma. This big dreamer was born. He was introduced to the dramatic arts at birth; when he was cast as baby Jesus in his family’s Christmas play. And when he tired of lying in his plastic manger, he danced around the manger, singing Christmas carols.

In his early years, he attended First Love Christian School and Fellowship, then transferring to Sayre in the 4th grade. These days Carnahan is a well known figure in Sayre public schools, acting as the band-aid during his college freshman year (assistant to the band director). He also works at Sayre Floral when he is not attending college classes.

He has been in numerous plays in the Sayre Schools and community. His most recent include; Sanders Family Christmas; Patsy Cline; Boys Next Door; Bye Bye Birdie; Oklahoma; Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten; and is currently playing the older brother, Frank, in Cheaper by the Dozen, at the Red Carpet Theatre.

Carnahan is an active member at First Baptist Church. He can often be found on Sunday nights helping the kids of the church pull together a musical to perform in front of the church. He also regularly travels on missions trips with the youth group; he spent his Spring Break this year presenting drama to underprivileged kids in Arlington, Texas. What’s next for this theatre veteran? Hollywood? After he finishes his four years at SWOSU he plans on attending a film production school in Los Angeles, writing a novel, and turning it into a movie. The sky is the limit for this dreamer. So keep an eye out at the theatres; you never know, the next big film could have been written and directed by Cody Carnahan, from little of Sayre, Oklahoma.

Meet SWOSU Counselor: Sherron Manning

By Candise Warren
Woman! By Candise Warren

Sherron Manning’s title at SWOSU is Counselor, but she does SO much more. Her official website is; “Director of Counseling and Assessment.”

Mrs. Manning started her college career right here at Sayre Junior College, where she obtained her Associates Degree. Looking around Mrs. Manning’s office, you can see her family. Her husband of 25 years is Gary, and he works for Great Plains National Bank. She also has two of the most adorable granddaughters, Taylor is 4, and Aubrey is less than a year old.

Among Mrs. Manning’s many jobs, she arranges the materials for Freshman Orientation, performs career counseling, and does all the accreditation for the State Regents of Higher Education. She is also the on-site administrator for the ACT testing. Work Keys testing, placement testing, Proficiency exams and CLEP testing.

Work Keys testing is for people with or without degrees that want to become career ready. This program is endorsed by Governor Brad Henry with the EDGE Incentive and the Department of Commerce uses it to show new companies considering relocating to Oklahoma that the state has a workforce capable of working and being productive.

This testing is used locally by West-OK Computer Company, SFI, and Dyna-Turn. Placement testing is for people who have not taken the ACT/SAT or have received a low score. Proficiency exams are for people who have not made at least a C in English Composition II. CLEP testing is for people that want to try to test out of a class instead of taking it. CLEP testing costs a fee, but is significantly lower than the fee of actually attending the classes.

Mrs. Manning is also responsible for arranging the testing for telecourses. Mrs. Manning also uses a tool called the Discover Program to help undecided students decide on a field of study. She is also the person to talk to if a student needs assistance because of a disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act is her guide. College Success is a new program that is designed to help students that have had academic problems in the past.

When asked if there was anything else she would like the students to know, Mrs. Manning replied; “That the office is opened from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday – Friday, and telecourse tests can also be taken at the library until 8:00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights.” Call her for availability.

So, as has been well demonstrated, Mrs. Manning wears many hats at Southwestern-Sayre. Her title is counselor; her jobs are many.
Miss Southwestern Pageant contestants welcomed to planning meeting

By Dillon Partain

An information meeting on the upcoming Miss Southwestern Pageant will be held on Tuesday April 22 at 5:00 p.m. at the Memorial Student Center Skyview Room at Weatherford.

The Miss Southwestern Scholarship Pageant is open to all full-time female students on Weatherford and Sayre campuses with a grade point average of 2.5 or above. No entry fees or sponsorships are necessary. Entry Deadline is Thursday, Sept. 18, and the Pageant Date is Oct. 25, 2008. For more information, contact Pageant co-Directors, Debbie Brown, 774-3063, Administration Room 205 or Rebecca Manney, 774-3782, Stafford Center, Room 207. The current Miss SWOSU is Bobbi Poff of Elk City. She will be competing in the Miss Oklahoma Pageant soon. Her platform has been to promote the Children’s Miracle Network.

Pryor Selected As Outstanding Writer

By Jeff Roland

SWOSU at Sayre student Miroslava Pryor was selected as winner of the Oklahoma Young Writers Competition with her short story “Innocence Lost.” Her entry was published in the 2008 “Mosaic Voices” Anthology. She, along with 37 out of 107 others, were selected as winners and invited to an awards luncheon at Oklahoma City University at OKC. Student winners were invited to attend a presentation by acclaimed poet Jimmy Santiago Baca, followed by the awards luncheon. Winners were provided with copies of the anthology and their writings were critiqued in sessions by the judges. Entries represented grades 6th – college. Pryor’s work was the only one chosen for publication from all of the colleges entered in the State. Mrs. Ford, who submitted several college entries from Sayre, received an award for being the instructor for the winning student.

By Judy Haught

Recently the power of the written word was brought home to me when I attended the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English spring conference. The featured speaker was author Jimmy Santiago Baca. Baca, in addition to having written several books of prose, is a renowned poet; in fact, his poetry is featured in the textbook I use in my Introduction to Literature class. “To comprehend the impact of sitting in Mr. Baca’s audience, you must realize that to an English teacher such an event is the equivalent of seeing a rock star,” said Mrs. Haught.

“Baca’s life is a testament to the fact that education and reading can not only transform but literally rescue a person from poverty and despair.” (See related article, this page.)

The presentation to outstanding English instructors, or the Geraldine Burns Awards, was given by Dr. Jerry Nye, Professor Emeritus, and Susan AlJarah, instructor, both from SWOSU at Weatherford.
Final Exam Schedule

Spring 2008

Thursday, May 1, 2008
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM All
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM All

Friday, May 2, 2008
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM All
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM All

Monday, May 5, 2008
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM All
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM All

Tuesday, May 6, 2008
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM All
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM All

Wednesday, May 7, 2008
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM All
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM All

NO EARLY FINALS
*Short class and night class final exams will be held during the last regular class session, except for those meeting during Final Exam days.*

**All other final exams will be scheduled by the instructor.**

Interactive Video courses received from the Weatherford campus may have more than one exam scheduled at the same time. In that event, the student should contact the instructor and the Interactive Video Room Coordinator in advance so that other arrangements can be made.