Graduation at 7

The sixty-fifth annual convocation exercises at SWOSU at Sayre will be held on Friday, May 9, at 7 p.m. in the Sayre Auditorium. SWOSU at Sayre is honored to have Galeard Roper as this year’s commencement speaker.

Galeard Roper is currently the superintendent of Elk City Public Schools. Roper has held this position since 1995. He began his teaching career in 1972 as a classroom teacher and coach at Roosevelt High School. Within a short three years, he became the Elementary Superintendent at Martha Dependent School. Roper became the superintendent of Lone Wolf Public Schools from 1978 until 1985. For a period of ten years, 1985 – 1995, he was the superintendent at Cheyenne Public Schools.

Galeard Roper’s educational roots run deep in Western Oklahoma. He graduated from Butler High School in 1966 and obtained a Bachelor of Education and Masters of Education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He continued his education by obtaining a Superintendent Certification from OSU.

Roper has received many distinguished awards. His most recent award was the District Administrator of the Year Award given by the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators. Roper has received this award four times over his career. Other awards include: Oklahoma Music Education Association State Administrator of the Year, Leadership Award – Elk City Chamber of Commerce.

Why Enroll for Summer?

By Yuridia Soto

Wow, summer is here! That means summer enrollment, right? Do you ever wonder about taking summer school? And how did summer break become summer break?

Well, historically less than a hundred years ago, America was an agricultural society. Most people worked on farms and managed their own crops. Therefore, the school year began late in the summer and ended late in the spring. It accommodated the farming style of life. For Americans eighty years ago, tending to their crops was the most important thing, because if there were no crops that meant no food. Schooling was a luxury—you could attend when you were done tending to the fields and the pastures.

However, school now is...
The Sixty-fifth Annual Spring Convocation for Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre will be held on Friday May 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sayre School Auditorium.

One hundred and seven students will receive an Associate degree in this ceremony. Galeard Roper, superintendent of Elk City Public Schools will be the featured speaker at this year’s ceremonies. Kayla Martinez will offer special music. Ms. Martinez is currently a student at SWOSU at Sayre, majoring in General Studies.

Immediately following the graduation ceremony, a reception will be held in the Southwestern-Sayre Student Center. All graduates, friends, and family are invited to attend.

Students earning an Associate in Science degree in GENERAL EDUCATION are: Butler – Lyndsay Lynn Gunke Broadbent; Canute – Cheryl Lynn Burrows Lumpkin, Megan Marie Malloy; Carnegie – Jeff Ewell Roland; Carter – Char Renea Simpson Fite, Amy Michelle Hefner; Coffes – Lindsey D. Popkess Horton; Cheyenne – Aaron Blake Fultz; Elk City – Sara Ann Brunk, Joshua Alan Cain, Tiffany Lea Castle, Renee R. Adams Klassen, Casie Nichole Leal, Matthew Thomas Lee, Dillon Lee Partain, Jerry L. Rorick, Nicole Leanne Smith, Kevin James Williams; Erick – Christina Marie Caputo, Crystal Ann Murt Oren; Sayre – Carlita Marie Crook, Sheena Marie Dunn, Layne Joseph Edwards, Cynthia Sabrina Ezzell, Chad Michael Hobick, Gloria Catherine Cavazos Hughes, Robin Jolene Trevino Kopp, Amber Janell Lewis, Crystal Ann Rippetoe, Haley Ann Johnson Spieker, Matthew Charles Swint, Travis C. Vernon; Weatherford – Hallie M. Ludvig Ford, Kari R. Rogers.

Students completing requirements for an Associate in Science in GENERAL BUSINESS are: Burns Flat – Barbara June Rhoades Brownridge; Canute – Kasie Lynn Gatlin; Carter –Questa Michelle Williamson; Elk City – Baylee Ryan Boydstun, Katherine Leigh Collins, Jayne Lynn Coy, Lauren Paige Eaves, Lacey Jade Jordan, William Bryan Koon, Adena Mignon Maness Martin, Douglas C. Tate; Erick – Sharon L. Archer Cummins; Hammon – Mary DeLena Spurlin Elliott; Sayre – Kelsey L. Ackley; Weatherford – Kari R. Rogers; Wellin – Jessica Robyn Jamison Secratt.

Two students will receive an Associate in Science degree CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Canute – Tabitha Nicole McRee Buckley; Elk City – William Thomas Warren.


Four students earned an Associate in Science degree COMPUTER SCIENCE A.S.: Altus – Nathan Alan Urbina; Elk City – Jerry L. Rorick; Erick – Sharon L. Archer Cummins; Sayre – Olivia Rene Gray Easter.


OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT A.S. degrees are: Anadarko – Chassica LaDon Taylor; Apache – Tara Noel Torres; Ardmore – Mila B. O’Hanlon; Elgin – Aubrey Cheyanne DeLong, Lindsay Jo Glover Owens, Jacob Alton Robertson; Hydro – Amber Michelle Fleming Clear; Lawton – Rachel K. Maysick; Okeene – Kara Layne Stotts Laubach; Weatherford – Candice Rae Carney, Caleb E. Reed, Jaelyn Suzanne Tooley; Willow – Ashlee M’Kale Fite Brewer; Yukon – Trisha Lan-Thy Tran.


MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN A.A.S. degrees are: Carter – Jessica Nichol Wallace Toler; Cordell – Trevor John Kuczajda; Elk City – Darcy Gwen McLeod; Weatherford – Khang Chuong Le.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY A.A.S. degrees are: Clinton – Jamie Reshelle Atkinson; Elk City – Amy Lavan Wooter Geraughty, April Lyn Harris, Kandy Shannon Harman Stevens, Linda Kay Zehnpfund; Fairview – Devan William McDonald; Hobart – Christi Lynn Myers; Sayre – Samantha Ann Flowers Benton, Jamie N. Graham, Amber Janell Lewis; Sentinel – Carl Scott Celsor; Weatherford – Megan Nicole Anson, Damon Joseph Schulz.
Dr. Mann’s Inauguration Offered Cultural Diversity

By Keri Barker

In an event on Thursday, April 3, 2008, Henrietta Mann was inaugurated as the first president of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College.

Many dignitaries from around the state attended the ceremony held at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Attending from Sayre were Kim Seymour, Registrar, and Sherron Manning, Director of Counseling/Assessment and Orientation. There was a great deal of Native American ceremony and Dr. Mann was presented with the ceremonial stole, medallion, and mace.

“It was an honor to attend this event,” said Kim Seymour. “Not many people will ever have the chance to be a part of these ceremonies.”

Henrietta Mann earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in American Studies from the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque in 1982. She is a full-blood Cheyenne enrolled with the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and has served on their Business Committee.

She was the first individual to fill the Endowed Chair in Native American Studies at Montana State University Bozeman, where she is now Professor Emeritus in Native American Studies and Special Assistant to the President.

In 1983 Dr. Mann was selected as the Cheyenne Indian of the Year and in 1988 she was honored as the National American Indian Woman of the Year.

Rolling Stone Magazine, in March 1991, named her one of the ten leading professors in the nation.

The National Women’s History Project in its series of six posters has featured her as one of five 20th Century Women Educators.

Serving as guest speaker for the event was Dr. C. Blu Clark of Oklahoma City University. The investiture also involved members of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes, as well as SWOSU President John Hays and other representatives from SWOSU, and civic leaders from around the nation.

MLT Student Honored

By Dillon Partain

Jessica Toler, of Carter, has been chosen as the SWOSU at Sayre Outstanding MLT Student. Toler was chosen for her scholastic achievement, community service, and positive attitude.

Community activities in which she has participated include the 1st United Methodist Church Health Fair and Free Clinic, the 1st Baptist Church of Carter Clean-Up Day, Change for MS, and the Operation Christmas Child program.

Toler completed her clinical training at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City where she earned high marks for her technical as well as professional abilities. She is a student member of the American Medical Technologists.

She has also served as freshman and sophomore MLT representative in the MLT Club, was nominated for National Scholars Honor Society and named to Who’s Who Among American Junior Colleges.

Having been chosen as the Sayre MLT Student of the Year, her credentials will be forwarded on to the American Medical Technologists to compete against other MLT students across the nation for the national Student of the Year Award. Toler will receive an AAS Medical Laboratory degree in May.

Honor Student, Jessica Toler, at left, with her instructor, Roxann Clifton, right, Director of Medical Technology for the Sayre campus.
Finals: Dumb, but Manageable

By Sarah Stephens

It is time for finals again!! Aren’t you thrilled? Okay, so if you are a normal student, thrilled is probably not the word you would use. Maybe you were thinking dumb! But Finals can be less stressful if you begin preparing for them ahead of time. Maybe giving up an hour of your day for the week ahead of finals—as opposed to cramming the night before.

Studies show that sleep deprivation is one of the most devastating ailments that can affect test scores. No one can remember what they supposedly learned if they can’t keep their eyes open. Seven hours of sleep is suggested, but may seem unreasonable. But the brain really works best when it is well rested.

So what is the best way to study? Teach yourself how to pick out key information. Many teachers help you out and hand out learning objectives. Use them!!! Don’t throw them away or lose them in your car. If you read the objectives, you can pick out the information from your notes or text book.

Write things down. If it seems important, write it out. You are more likely to remember what you saw if you wrote it down. Plus it is easier to study the condensed version of your notes right before the test.

The morning of your test get up a couple minutes early to study. Read over your condensed notes one last time. You will be more likely to remember what you studied if you weren’t rushing in the morning and had time to think about the subject.

Are your Finals comprehensive? Some teachers’ final tests aren’t different than any other test. Some may have a comprehensive final, meaning it will cover everything you have learned in the semester.

But the most important thing is don’t stress. Getting tense about tests doesn’t help anyone. You are more likely to remember what you studied if you are calm. Use the night before do things that will help you to be relaxed and calm the next day. And never underestimate the power of scheduling your time and practicing good time management.

Dressing for Graduation --a regal affair

By Tom Warren

Graduation Ceremonies are cultural traditions that some call a “rite of passage.”

“What’s that?” you may ask.

A rite of passage is a ceremony marking the passing of one’s present stage in life to the next stage. All graduation ceremonies are unique in their own way, but they all share the same history.

The graduation ceremony that will be held for SWOSU students on Friday, May 9th will consist of a great deal of regalia and color. Until 1950, the primary color for caps and gowns was grey, but now they usually bear the school’s colors.

The color of tassels has meaning. For example, green tassels will represent the medical field, and light tan tassels will be for criminology students. Education majors are light blue, and science is golden yellow. General studies, Arts, Letters, and Humanities caps will be adorned with white tassels.

Most caps are squares, or mortarboards, and are to be worn level, that is parallel to the ground, with the V-shaped peak of the cap coming down low on the forehead. Velvet caps are for doctors only.

Most colleges make a practice of moving the tassel to the other side of the cap, unless this is impractical out of doors due to the vagaries of the wind. It is common for undergraduates to begin the commencement ceremony with their tassels on the right. Switching the tassel to the left may be done as a group. For doctoral and masters students, the tassel commonly begins and remains on the left.

The sleeves indicate the level of their degree. The long pointed sleeves represent a bachelor’s degree. Oblong sleeves, with the arch and circle at the end, are worn to signify a master’s degree. The doctor’s degree will have bell-shaped sleeves and three velvet stripes.

Graduation gowns are to be worn closed and are at least mid-calf length if not longer. The SWOSU caps and gowns that will be worn are black.

Interestingly, the American Council on Education, which reviews the codes established for standardizing academic dress, suggests, “Shoes and other articles of visible apparel worn by graduates should be of dark colors that harmonize with the academic costume. Nothing else should be worn on the academic gown.”

Only honor cords, stoles, aiguillettes or hoods representing academic achievements or honors may adorn the gown. Among the graduates crossing the stage Friday, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Students will wear a gold stole with their robe.

Hoods are usually made of silk and hang around the neck and down the back of the robe. The velvet trim on the hood grows wider and the hood grows longer as the degree earned gets higher. The trim colors may indicate both the discipline of the degree and the color of the college where it was obtained. Only the doctorate hood has panels that lie cape-like across the back.

The history of academic regalia dates back to the Colonial colleges and, of course, was influenced by the academic traditions of Europe, a very historic rite.
FAFSA Made Easier?

By Kevin Williams

Have you ever dreaded filling out the awful FAFSA form one must do before qualifying for financial aid to go to college, or ever stressed out to fill it out in time to meet the deadline? Have you ever wondered if it would ever get easier? If so, there is good news.

Legislation could make it as easy as checking a box when filing your taxes. According to USNEWS, House Democrats and Republicans overwhelmingly voted for a bill that would allow parents to check a box on their tax return to have their information sent to the Department of Education and thus automatically answer some questions on a Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Families would still have to fill out more than 90 other blanks in an electronic version of the FAFSA, but more than 60 of those remaining questions would be fairly easy ones such as the names, ages, and addresses of family members. Congressional members believe it will be a very popular idea and would pass by the end of the year. The Department of Education claimed it only took one hour to fill out the FAFSA. Harvard economists Susan Dynarski and Judith E. Scott-Clayton disputed the time and estimated it actually took the average American about 10 hours to complete the form.

One reason it takes so long: Many colleges, and 13 states, ask families to fill out the form before they have had time to fill out their taxes for the year. Considering questions have to be answered from your tax return, would it not be easier with this new proposal? Maybe with this proposal, college students can breathe a sigh of relief.

Financial Aid Questions

By Nicole Smith

Understanding the financial aid process can be hard, and you may not know where to turn for answers. The financial aid officers at colleges and universities are there to help. Following are some questions the Associated Colleges of the Midwest suggests families ask:

1. What kind of financial assistance does the college offer: need-based, merit-based or both?
2. Can the college provide an early estimate of what our financial aid award might be?
3. What forms are needed in order to apply?
4. When are financial aid applications due?
5. What costs for a student are taken into account by the financial aid office? Tuition, room, board, transportation? What about additional expenses such as books, fees, computers and personal expenses?
6. What is included in the comprehensive fee? For example, do students have to pay extra for computer time or to attend campus events?
7. When will we be notified about the amount of assistance we can expect?
8. Does the institution have an appeal process to review special circumstances?
9. Is there a commitment for financial assistance after the first year?
10. How and when do we apply for financial assistance after the first year?
11. What if we do not qualify for need-based aid? Are there alternative financing options?
12. What grants, loans, and work-study opportunities does the college offer? Are there any we might be eligible for?
13. What is the average student loan indebtedness of the college’s graduates?
14. Is there a restriction to the length of time that financial assistance will continue?
15. How long does it typically take a student to graduate from this college? Four years? Longer?
16. What impact do scholarships from outside sources have on other financial aid?
17. What happens if our family’s financial situation changes substantially during the school year?
18. Are there payment options available, such as monthly or quarterly?

Attention: Summer School Enrollees Elementary Ed Majors

For any students taking summer classes, look into Structural Concepts of Arithmetic, which is being offered in place of the Math Concepts class. This is a required course for elementary education majors. This class is not listed on the summer schedule. Structural Concepts of Arithmetic will meet from 8:00-9:15 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Structural Concepts of Mathematics will be offered in the fall and the same textbook can be used in both. For more information stop by the Registrar’s office or talk to Mrs. Dayna Coker.
By Candise Warren

As most everyone knows, President Bush signed a bill the beginning of 2008 that will put money in the hands of many Americans if they filed a tax return this year. This money is intended to be spent in order to stimulate the economy.

According to the IRS website; “Starting in May, the Treasury will begin sending economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million households. To receive a payment, taxpayers must have a valid Social Security number, $3,000 of income and file a 2007 federal tax return. [The] IRS will take care of the rest. Eligible people will receive up to $600 ($1,200 for married couples), and parents will receive an additional $300 for each eligible child younger than 17. Millions of retirees, disabled veterans and low-wage workers who usually are exempt from filing a tax return must do so this year in order to receive a stimulus payment.”

DOES HE REALLY KNOW ALL YOUR SECRETS?

By Candise Warren

Jim VanBuren started working for SWOSU-Sayre in January of this year, and he is a very interesting person—the one that keeps Mackey Hall clean and safe.

Jim was born in Sayre, but he spent most of his school years in Harrah. He lives in Carter, and has held many interesting jobs. He worked for OG&G as a Control Operator for many years, and then was the owner of his own oilfield company from 1980 until 2001.

In 2001 he survived a stroke, but he was not able to maintain the oilfield business at that time. When he was able to work again, he started working at Elk City Junior High School, as a custodian.

Jim raised his two children by himself. His son was one and a half years old and his daughter nine months old when he became their sole caretaker. His son is now employed as one of the higher-ups with Chesapeake; his daughter nine months old when he became their sole caretaker. His son is now employed as one of the higher-ups with Chesapeake.

Jim VanBuren, Custodian

Weatherford, and lives near him in Carter.

His daughter is a RN in Washington State and is preparing for her schooling to become a doctor. She has told Jim that when he is ready to slow down, she will come and get him and bring him up there with her to live so she can take care of him.

I remember the custodian in the movie The Breakfast Club stating that he knew everything there was to know about all the kids that went to school there. I asked Jim if that was true, he said that it was not really true here. At the junior high, though, he knew just about everything that went on. “The kids would get called to the office and wonder how anyone knew what they had said or done. They never noticed me walking by, but when the principal would walk down the hall, they would all get quiet.”

I have seen Jim in his office, and he is always reading books on his breaks. I asked him if he read them for entertainment, and he said; “just for general knowledge.” I also asked him about the school uniform issue, and he said he saw the principals spending most of their time trying to police clothing issues, and he felt it was definitely needed.

If you get the chance, stop and say hi to Jim, he is very interesting to talk to, and will give you his thoughts on just about anything you would like to ask him. He stated, “I have no secrets.” When asked if he wanted to send a special message to the faculty and students, he said; “I enjoy everyone; they have all been nice to me.”

The Watchdawg Staff

Sponsor: Terry Ford
Cody Carnahan; Editor of the Week
Kerri Barker
Jina Brown
Dillon Partain
Jeff Roland
Nicole Smith
Yuridia Soto
Sarah Stephens
Gina Sullivan
Candise Warren
Tom Warren

“To all my staff members, thanks for a terrific paper! -s– Mrs. Ford
SWOSU-Sayre Radiology Students Attend State Convention

Students in Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre’s Radiologic Technology program recently attended the 62nd Annual Radiological Sciences Seminar held at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills.

The students were accompanied by program director Chris Stufflebean and clinical coordinator Jess Parker.

On the first day of the two-day event, selected SWOSU-Sayre students competed against 14 teams of students from across the state in a Jeopardy-styled competition called “Wilhelm’s Trivia.” The SWOSU-Sayre team, led by Justin Noll of Weatherford, won first place. Each team member was awarded $75.

On the convention’s second day, students attended educational seminars, and a keynote address was delivered at noon. An awards banquet followed where Noll received his Wilhelm’s award.

Two other SWOSU-Sayre students, Kasi Gaither of Shamrock, Texas and Joe Robinson of Boise City, were awarded $250 scholarships by the Oklahoma Society of Radiologic Technologists. The scholarships were awarded based on an application submitted prior to the convention.

The students and faculty would like to thank SWOSU for supporting their attendance at the convention. The event provides students with the opportunity to learn and experience many things about their profession.

Meet Our Distance Learning Specialist

By Candise Warren

If you have taken an Interactive Video Class, then most likely you have met Shirley Bound. She is the lady that keeps everything running as smoothly as possible on our end of those classes. I always saw her up and down the halls, but I never truly realized all that she has to do until her fax machine quit just recently.

Shirley came to work here at the SWOSU-Sayre campus in 2003, and has been in charge of the interactive classes since that time. Her husband Carl is the man that keeps everything running smoothly with the mechanical things, and keeps the grounds in tip-top shape. They will have been married for 40 years in December of this year.

They have two daughters: Shawna is married and lives in Chicago, and Trina lives in Elk City and has a daughter (Shirley’s precious granddaughter) that is in the 6th grade at Grandview School.

Shirley and Carl both enjoy playing golf, working in the yard and garden, and they love riding their tandem bike (the proverbial bicycle-built-for-two) around Sayre when the weather is nice. They have lived in a few other places, most recently before moving back to Oklahoma, she lived in Arizona. Shirley has 3 sisters and a brother that also live in this area.

Shirley is responsible for making sure that the classes are dialed up and running and she does a great job. There are 6 rooms on campus that either receive, mostly upper-level and graduate classes from Weatherford, or send, mostly to local high schools that have concurrent students, classes. This campus receives over 60 classes a semester, and sends about 10 a semester. The classes that are received are the ones that make Shirley do all the work. She is responsible for all the testing, faxing and/or mailing all assignments and sometimes even monitoring or being a disciplinarian when the need arises.

Everyone needs to take the time to say “THANK YOU” to Shirley for all her hard work.

WANTED

*Photographers
*Writers
*Reporters
*Graphic Designers
*Fun People

Enroll in Newspaper Fall ‘08!!
SWOSU at Sayre students cast in “Cheaper by the Dozen”

The Red Carpet Community Theatre of Elk City will be presenting “Cheaper by the Dozen.” This comedy/drama is based off the real life story of the Gilbreth family that takes place in the 1920s.

Once again, SWOSU at Sayre students are helping to round out the cast. Throughout the play, the audience will experience the unorthodox methods that the father of the Gilbreth children tries to raise his family around. The results are extremely funny yet extremely effective!

The cast includes SWOSU’s own Cody Carnahan of Sayre as “Frank” and SWOSU’s Tom Warren, of Elk City, is cast as “Doctor Burton.” Other members include: Clay Schefelmear as “Mr. Gilbreth,” Natalie Butcher as “Mrs. Gilbreth,” Katie Currell as “Ernestine,” Christy Dowdy as “Mrs. Fitzgerald,” Maisy Rainey as “Jackie,” Grayson Butcher as “Dan,” Bryce Butcher as “Bill,” Paden Dowdy as “Fred,” Stephanie Allen as “Anne,” Ta’ah Williams as “Martha,” Joshua Dodd as “Joe Scales,” Marllana McArthur as “Miss Brill,” and Taylor Keyes as “Larry.” The crew includes director Carson Guthrie, stage manager Jan Williams, and assistant stage managers Gabby Butcher and Mariah Alspach.

The production will run April 28 through May 4, with no show Wednesday. For reservations call 580-225-1941. Tickets cost $10 and are available at the door.

Graduate of MLT Program receives Honor

Kim Digby, a 2005 MLT program graduate, was recently honored with an "Excellence in Service" award.

Ms. Digby, an employee of Diagnostics Labs of Oklahoma at the Clinton Integrity Hospital in Clinton, Oklahoma, has been employed by DLO at the Clinton lab for the past three years. During that time, she has been named microbiology section head. Ms. Digby was presented the award by Dr. A.A. Mohammad on behalf of the medical staff. Dr. Mohammad singled out Ms. Digby for her commitment to service and quality improvement in microbiology laboratory services. He said she has a talent for “talking to bugs and getting information from them” which increases his ability to better care for patients. Congratulations to one of our own!
More than Take-out in Your Trash?

By Sarah Stephens

All college students have heard the term identity theft, but what they may not know is, it is a very real threat to students. Studies show that 31% of all victims are 18-29 year olds. And the worst part is, most students never realize they are at risk.

Financial guru Dave Ramsey suggests there are several reasons why students are at such a high risk. The biggest reason is that students are just not aware of what they are doing with their personal information.

Your credit is one of the most important things you have, next to your college degree of course. Students are much more likely to share personal information online whether it be online shopping or social sites.

Another reason is the number of credit card offers that students receive. Anywhere from three to six offers a week, if not more. And students most often just throw the offers away. Identity thieves would find more than old take-out food in a student's trash. They could find a wealth of personal information.

Campuses also may be guilty of putting students at risk. Some may post students' grades by social security numbers. This is just another chance for thieves to gain access to personal information. Not to mention the credit card offers at the student unions, which shout, “Free t-shirts; sign-up for such-and-such credit cards.”

When students' identities have been stolen, often times they don’t notice until it is too late. Because students almost never balance their checkbooks or read through credit card bills, they are less likely to catch the extra charges or missing money.

So what can you do to protect yourself? The number one thing is be careful. A popular scam is to receive an email claiming to be the bank and that you need to verify your personal information. Many students have admitted sending the information. More often than not, it is not really the bank—and they have just sent their information to thieves.

Make sure to read your financial reports. If you start getting bills for credit cards you don’t own, you probably have been a victim of ID theft. Shred your papers that contain personal information. More often than not, it is not really the bank—and they have just sent their information to thieves.

Make sure to read your financial reports. If you start getting bills for credit cards you don’t own, you probably have been a victim of ID theft. Shred your papers that contain personal information. More often than not, it is not really the bank—and they have just sent their information to thieves.

TV Review

By Cody Carnahan

It’s not just a battle in each show but a battle between each other. American Idol barely beat Dancing With the Stars in last week’s ratings. American Idol Monday night and American Idol Tuesday night beat Dancing with the Stars with only a few thousand more viewers.

This is one of Dancing with the Stars’ lowest ratings of course, due to American Idol being aired during the same season.

Next on the list is CSI. CSI along with CSI: Miami has been on the top twenty nearly every time. However, CSI's other run-off, CSI: New York has not very often been in the top twenty.

Of course, sooner or later, some kind of sport event comes in and this time basketball came in towards the top.

Next is the FOX show The cast of Two and a Half Men.
Duke Makes Centerfold

Southwestern Oklahoma State University’s Bulldog mascot continues to make the news, this time in a national publication.

Duke, the university’s 2-year-old dog, had his portrait published in the March edition of the American Kennel Club Gazette. Duke’s photo accompanied a story about bulldogs making the list of top 10 dogs in America, based on AKC’s 2007 registration figures.

According to the article, bulldogs are the most common dog mascot of college sports teams. Over 30 United States colleges and universities have a Bulldog (real or costumed) as their mascot, the most famous being Yale’s Handsome Dan, Georgetown’s Jack and the University of Georgia’s Uga.

But, it was a “high five” picture of Duke, taken by SWOSU photographer/graphic artist Kyle Wright, that was picked to appear in the national magazine. Bob Newcomb of The Bulldog Club of America said Bulldogs make a good sporting symbol.

“They have characteristics that are admired in competition,” Newcomb said. “Bulldogs are resolute, tenacious, and courageous. Their charming, friendly nature makes them wonderful ambassadors.”

SWOSU’s Duke was purchased in 2007 by the SWOSU Alumni Association.

He attends various university events and sporting activities and is a popular attraction.

Duke was officially recorded a “Champion” by the American Kennel Club on February 18, 2007.

Duke is housed in Weatherford by Rita Hays, a faculty member at Southwestern Oklahoma State.

More To Do Than Work This Summer?

By Sarah Stephens

Every student looks forward to the day of their last final and the summer break officially starts. But who wants to waste their summer sleeping? Okay probably most of us. But before you snuggle in for the entire break, there may be a few options to consider.

The first option is to work. And this is by far the most common. Use the free time to work as hard as you can. If you save your money, you may even have enough money to pay for your next semester. Okay, that is not the most glamorous option. But here’s to stating the obvious. Lucky for us there are a couple of better options.

You could treat yourself to a short vacation. There are many options that a college student could afford. Go camping near a lake. This is an affordable break from the everyday. Camping is a great chance for friends to get to know each other without the distractions of television and internet. For those of us who like our electricity and technology, there is always a trip to the beach. A weekend in a hotel near the beach is always a good destination.

Another option is studying abroad. There are always opportunities for students to study in beautiful countries. For more information about these programs go to http://www.studiesabroad.com. Deadlines for many of the trips have not passed. Studying abroad is a great chance to experience a different culture.

Student internships are also a great way to gain experience for a resume. The pay is not great, but often internships can open doors to future professions. For more information visit the following site: http://www.summerinternships.com. And of course there are summer classes at SWOSU that are worth looking into. Summer classes are a great way to fill in the extra hours needed before the Fall semester. The Sayre campus is offering many courses for the Summer semester. To see the classes scheduled, you can visit the SWOSU homepage and navigate to the schedule. Or you can pick up a schedule in the hallways of the campus.
By Keri Barker
Meet Polly Barker—an inspiration to all students. Of course most of you may already know her. Polly entered SWOSU at Sayre in the fall of 2001 where she was working toward becoming a teacher. She received her first Associates in Science in the spring of 2004, after which she changed her major to nursing.

Outgoing and friendly, she worked at the Bulldog Café, so many of you got to know her there.

While working toward her Associates in Pre-Nursing, Polly was diagnosed with breast cancer in the summer of 2005. After her mastectomy, she continued on with her education while going through chemotherapy treatments the following fall and radiation treatments in the spring—all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Polly received her Associates of Science in Pre-Nursing degree in the spring of 2005. Now in remission, she will graduate May 10th with her Bachelors degree in nursing. Polly is proof that with drive, anyone can achieve goals, and come through almost any ordeal with grace, dignity and maybe even a little bit of pride.

By Gina Sullivan
Can you read the following paragraph?

I cdnoult blivee that I cluod au- lacity uesdnatnrd waht I was rdamoeg/. The phaonmneal pweor of the haumn mnid:  
Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmags- dribe Uinevrtsiy, it de- ons’t mttear in waht or- der the ltertes in a word are, they don’t have to be in the rght pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can siltl raed it, wouthit a porlebm. This is bcuseae the human mind deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Aamzanig huh? Yeh, and I awlayas tghouht spelmng was ipmoanrt.

Spelling is impor- tant when you are learning how to read, but once you have mastered the skill of reading, your mind fills in the areas missing or out of place, automatically. Because the mind corrects as we read without our conscious awareness, it is hard to proof-read class work.

This is why many instructors inform students to proof-read from the bottom up, so that your mind is less likely to make corrections before you realize there is a mistake on your paper. Now you should be able to correct your rough draft and turn in a correctly spelled final draft for a much better grade.

My 2 Cents: A Good Place To Start

By Keri Barker
As an adult, going back to school can be a bit of an overwhelming experience.

However, SWOSU at Sayre is a good place to start. Because of its smaller campus, SWOSU is much less intimidating than larger universities.

SWOSU also has a very friendly staff, which also helps make the transition much easier. They are always eager to help and answer questions.

The faculty are helpful, too. At least they know your name, whereas at a large university, you are often only a number. SWOSU has flexible hours which make this university ideal for adult students who have a busy life outside of their education.

In all, if you are considering returning to school, SWOSU at Sayre is a great place to further one’s education while maintaining his or her life.
not and should not be a luxury to us. Yet we still maintain a school calendar that reflects life eighty years ago. Should that change? Many people say “yes,” we should take education a little more seriously and not consider it the luxury it was once thought to be. It has its advantages as well as its disadvantages.

Sayre student Carrie Myers, of Elk City, said, “This is my first summer of summer school so I’m not sure what it will be like. I hope I can earn some more credits. Credits I need toward my degree. I hope to gain knowledge on how summer school works and be a pro next year.”

“I believe the best thing about summer school is that it only lasts a couple of months and its over,” stated Stephanie Stamm, student from Elk City. “Maybe having fewer students in the classes, there will be more one-on-one teaching.”

Others said “No, we need a break from school,” and “Family time is important as well as time to ourselves.” One young man said, “The problem with summer school is it’s in the summer.”

Sadie Steward, of Erick, said, “I attended summer school two years ago because I needed some extra classes. Although it was very hard for me because it is four days a week, it is very fast-paced. It was also very hard when everyone else was having fun at the lake and going on vacations while I was stuck at home studying.”

However, many students find summer the perfect time to pick up a few extra credits while classes are small and the professors are laid back, and before tuition goes up.

“No one seems to be in too big of a hurry during summer school,” said one student. “There’s less tension in the air than in the fall.”

So enjoy your summer, whether it is taking a break or taking an extra class or two. Maybe you can take a class in the morning and study beside the pool in the afternoon—having the best of both worlds!

By Jeff Roland

Both campuses of SWOSU will be doing away with the Blackboard system of maintaining grades and switching to one called Desire2Learn.

“The migration from Blackboard to Desire2Learn is progressing very well,” stated Karen Klein, programmer/analyst for Information Technology Services. “All Instructor accounts have been built and student accounts are being added daily.”

Students will be enrolled in courses for the summer semester within the next few weeks, but they will not be allowed access into courses before the start date of each course offering.

“Most of the courses needed for the summer semester have been moved from Blackboard to Desire2Learn and now are ready to process the remaining ones. Instructors are asked to complete the Course Request Form for all courses that need to be migrated, even if it will not be taught for a year or so. Blackboard will only be available until May 19th so instructors should please submit your requests as soon as possible,” said Klein.

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