Students tell plans for Spring Break 2008!

By Yuridia Soto

Wow! Spring Break 2008 is finally here. SWOSU students and faculty are looking forward to a hard-earned week off from school. Enjoying the sunny weather, catching up on sleep, having time to party, or having time to relax are a few things that Sayre students have planned. Where are people going and what are they doing? The WatchDawg poll reveals that some are spending money and going places; others, unfortunately, can’t go anywhere or can’t afford it.

About 45% said that they will be working and catching up on hours, while 33% said just chilling and catching up on sleep, and 15% have a plan—it may be spending it here with family or going somewhere. The rest said they had nothing planned or never do anything on spring break.

PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK:

“I plan to go to Iowa with my fiancé to meet his family.”—Amanda Chase

“I plan to relax for a day, and then travel to New Mexico to visit with my mother. I really miss her. She means a lot to me. She is in her eighties. I am glad to have her for my mother.”—Jennie Early

“Las Vegas Trip”—anonymous

“I plan to remodel my kitchen.”—Shannon Margerum

“I don’t have any plans for spring break. It would be nice to just sit at home and do nothing. I am constantly taking care of my husband, my dogs, or my house. A week off of that would be a treat for me.”—Andrea Becker

“My plans for spring break are to work at least 75 hours.”—Brady Redd

“I don’t have any plans except catch up on sleep.”—Kayla York

BEST SPRING BREAKS:

“My best Spring Break: my fiancé and I traveled to Daytona Beach, Florida, for Bike Week. We had the time of our lives and my son saw his first naked butt at the tender age of 6.”—Camie Myers

“I remember a couple of spring breaks that I had a good time on. One was during fifth grade and we went to Mexico for a day. The other was last year we went to Mission Arlington and held an outdoor Bible study for children.”—Danielle Bennett

“Padre Island 1986. That’s all you need to know.”—Mrs. Ford

WORST SPRING BREAK

“Don’t think I’ve ever had a bad Spring Break.”—Erin Willson

“Last Spring Break I helped Brady fix 3 miles of barbed wire fence.”—Blake Bustin

“My worst Spring Break was a few years ago. I was sick the entire time”—Levi Muck

“My worst Spring Breaks were when I had to stay home and work.”—Christy Gordon

“My worst Spring Break was when my cousin hit me on a four-wheeler and I broke my collar bone.”—Allen

Although most people believe Spring Break to be just a big party, actually there is a history behind the idea of “Spring Break.” Like so much in our world, Spring Break originated with the ancient Greeks. Athens’ elders noticed that the young people became particularly playful. Socrates then proposed, and the Greeks adopted, a wild rite to welcome spring and allow young people to vent their inherent urges…and Spring Break was born.

It wasn’t until the 1960s, or “the Swinging Sixties” as they are called, that America truly took to Spring Break. Baby Boomers flocked to the beach in Detroit, still eager to forget the War, social progress, and exams…and get drunk and crazy.

Today’s version of Spring Break didn’t happen overnight. It took many years to progress into the crazy, stress-relieving, partying time that it has become. Remember, it’s an honorable rite of ancient origin, one that you should proudly proclaim your part in, and whose traditions you should do your ut-

March 9: Daylight Savings—Clocks “spring forward” one hour. (This is about a month earlier than usual.)
March 11: Josh Blue, of Last Comic Standing, will perform at Weatherford Fine Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.
March 12: SWOSU Blood Drive. In the gym from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
March 17-21: Spring Break holiday. No Classes.
March 17: St. Patrick’s Day, Celebration in nearby Shamrock, Texas.
March 22: Sayre Alumni Parade—Ride the SWOSU float—Contact Ron Kistler 928-5533, ext. 127.
March 23: Easter Holiday.
March 26: Education Career Fair—10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. At the Weatherford Student Center Ballroom.
By Nicole Smith

In past years Easter has had many different meanings to its celebration. In fact, it was originally a pagan festival in which ancient Saxons celebrated their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Eastre. In the second century, Christian missionaries encountered these tribes and attempted to convert them to Christianity. It just so happened that the pagan festivals of the Saxon’s and the observance of the Resurrection of Christ by the Christians were celebrated at the same time of the year. Therefore, the Christian celebrations were slowly converted over to the Saxon’s and the name Eastre was eventually changed to Easter.

Traditions associated with Easter survive in different symbols. The Easter Bunny originated with the pagan festival celebrating the goddess Eastre through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. The exchange of eggs in the springtime is a custom that was centuries old when Easter was first celebrated by Christians. In earliest times of many cultures, the egg symbolized rebirth, and they were often wrapped in gold leaf or, if you were a peasant, colored brightly by boiling them with the leaves or petals of certain flowers to represent the sunlight of spring.

In 325 A.D., Easter was celebrated on different days of the week until the emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicaea convened and determined the Easter Rule. The Easter Rule states that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the full moon on or after the vernal equinox. However, the “full moon” in the rule is the ecclesiastical full moon, which is defined as the fourteenth day of a tabular lunation, where day 1 corresponds to the ecclesiastical New Moon. It doesn’t always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon, and the ecclesiastical “vernal equinox” is always on March 21. Therefore, Easter will always occur on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.

Often times in the midst of celebrating this sacred holiday we may forget what Easter is about or just not know how it all came to be what it is. Now we can look back to see and understand what exactly we’re celebrating. Happy Easter, everyone!

Bunnies, Eggs, and The Rest of the Story

Josh Blue coming to SWOSU Weatherford

Comedian Josh Blue, who won NBC’s Last Comic Standing, will perform at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford on Tuesday, March 11, as part of the university’s Panorama series, which brings outstanding speakers and entertainers to SWOSU.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to his Last Comic win, Blue appeared as a guest star on Comedy Central’s Mind of Mencia. He became the first comedian to perform stand-up on The Ellen DeGeneres Show and was named Best Winning Reality Show Guest for his appearance on Live with Regis and Kelly.

His “7 More Days in the Tank” DVD has been a popular item among his fans. Despite his hectic touring schedule, Blue maintains an active role on the U.S. Paralympics Soccer Team.

“Not only is Josh Blue America’s funniest comedian, he’s breaking down barriers for people with disabilities,” said Stephen Bennett, president and CEO of United Cerebral Palsy. “He has shown millions of Americans that people with disabilities can live without limits.

Blue will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the SWOSU campus. Advance tickets for the event are $10 for SWOSU students and $20 for non-SWOSU students. All tickets at the door will be $25.

Tickets are available at the SWOSU Public Relations & Marketing Office, Room 205 of the Administration Building; SWOSU Business Office, Room 109 of the Administration Building; Business Office on the SWOSU-Sayre campus; and at the Weatherford Daily News. Tickets can also be purchased with a credit card by calling (580) 774-3019.

Panorama is partially supported by an endowed lectureship sponsored by SBC. Additional information about the Panorama series is available by calling the SWOSU Public Relations & Marketing Office at (580) 774-3063.
By Candise Warren

When you enter the Dean’s office, if you look to the desk to your right, you will see a smiling face that will ask you if she can help you. Terry Billey is an asset to Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre. She has worked in the Dean’s office for 12 1/2 years now, and through promotions is still in the “same vicinity I was when I started,” she said, looking around the office. She is Administrative Assistant to the Dean.

Before Mrs. Billey came to SWOSU, she worked for Whinery Funeral Service, where she officially was a receptionist, but did whatever needed to be done. Her diligence has carried forth in her present job. She still does whatever needs to be done.

Mrs. Billey is a graduate of Merritt High School class of 1984. Mrs. Billey moved from the Texas Panhandle her sophomore year in high school. After high school, she got her Associates in General Education right here at SWOSU at Sayre.

Mrs. Billey’s father worked in construction, and the family moved to where the work was. She moved between Sweetwater, OK, Canadian, TX, Pampa, TX, and in that general vicinity until she moved to the Merritt area. She also lived in south Texas for a short while. Of all the places she has lived Mrs. Billey says, “Western Oklahoma is where I was meant to be.”

Mrs. Billey is married and has two children. Her husband is a funeral director at Whinery Funeral Service and a volunteer firefighter. She said that she spends many evenings at the fire house with her husband. She has helped with painting the lettering and striping on the fire department vehicles. According to Mrs. Manning, she is a very talented artist.

Aly, her daughter, is 21 and an attendee of SWOSU at Weatherford majoring in Mass Communications with a desire to do Public Relations work. Ty, her 19-year-old son, is doing his general studies while he tries to decide what he wants to major in. Both children received college golf scholarships. All of her family are avid golf fans.

“My children have been my hobby for so many years, that I am finding new avenues for my free time,” she said. She does some artwork that is available to be seen at the Sayre Fire Department and in her home. She is very talented.

When you look around Mrs. Billey’s desk you can see how important her family is to her. She is a very modest person and is fun to visit with.

So, next time you are down on that end of the hall, be sure to stick your head in and say “hi” to Mrs. Billey. She is an important part of what makes this University so great.

One Talented Lady . . .

Terry Billey, Administrative Assistant to the Dean

Showing her wit and sense of humor, Mrs. Billey dressed for Halloween as one of IHOP’s famous dishes, “Pigs in a Blanket.”

Blood donor to win Caribbean cruise

By Tom Warren

The Oklahoma Blood Institute will be sponsoring a blood drive on Wednesday, March 12.

The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m.

It will be held in the Patterson Fieldhouse Gym on the SWOSU campus at Sayre. T-shirts will be given away to each donor.

The theme for this blood drive is: “Help Someone Survive Spring Break.” Best of all, each donor receives a chance to win a Caribbean cruise for two!

Donors also receive members for life points and health checks.

If you have any questions, contact Chris Stufflebean at the Sayre campus at (580) 928-5533 ext.155.
Student Health Care Now Available

By Keri Barker

SWOSU is pleased to announce the availability of a Student Health Insurance Plan for you and your loved ones.

All domestic students taking 6 or more credit hours are eligible to enroll in a Health Insurance Plan with provider, Academic Health Plans.

Domestic students will pay the provider directly. International students will have the insurance premium automatically assessed to their university account. In order for International students to waive coverage, students complete and submit a waiver form with proof of comparable coverage prior to the waiver deadline date.

Since many group insurance plans may not cover treatment out-of-area, we have made this plan available to provide coverage appropriate to our student population at a reasonable price.

If you are presently insured, we urge you to review your current plan to make certain that you will be adequately covered while in school.

Of course, if you are not presently insured, you will want to protect yourself from the unexpected cost of medical care by enrolling in the SWOSU Student Health Insurance Plan.

Domestic students may enroll online or complete an enrollment form for student and dependents and mail it directly to Academic Health Insurance Plan.

International students may also enroll their dependants in the plan by completing an International Student Dependant Enrollment Form and mailing it to Academic Health Plans. You can get this form from the library, Dean’s office or Registrar’s office.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this plan in detail, please call Academic Health Plans office at (888)308-7320, or visit their web page at: www.AHPCare.com/swosu.

First Annual Counselors Day to be held

By Nicole Smith

High school counselors should mark their calendars for Friday, March 28, 2008, as the date that the SWOSU-Sayre campus will host its 1st Annual Counselors Appreciation Day. Registration will be held in the Bulldog Café from 9:30-10:00

This will be a day of food, fun, and great prizes. One lucky counselor will go home with a flat screen TV!

Staff and faculty are encouraged to drop by and meet the counselors during registration and enjoy some donuts and coffee.

The program will begin at 10:00 where counselors will have the opportunity to learn about some of Sayre’s degree programs such as Radiologic Technology, Medical Laboratory Technician, Physical Therapy Assistant, and Occupational Therapist Assistant.

Afterward, they will surely enjoy a hands-on computer experience with Debbie Carpenter, our Computer Science Instructor. Door prizes will be given away throughout the morning with the flat screen TV to be given after a buffet style lunch.

“We hope the counselors will come join us and let us show our appreciation for all they do for their current students—our future students,” stated Mrs. Sherron Manning, SWOSU counselor.
SGA's Mentalist entertained the Sayre crowd

By Nicole Smith
March Madness of the Mind was enjoyed March 5. Mentalist Chris Carter performed at SWOSU at Sayre.

It was a shame the crowd was so small, because Carter was absolutely amazing. He seemed to know what people were thinking about and who their best friend was. He even knew about one girl’s tattoo, although it was not visible!

Many commented that this was SGA’s best entertainment yet. Free pizza, pop, and cinnamon sticks were also provided by SGA.

SGA’s Valentine Winners told

The names of the winners of the Valentine’s Day Romantic Dinners for Two from Sassy’s Café, at the Flying W Guest Ranch were the following people: Kelsey Ackley, Jenni Hayden, Jennifer Wynn, Holly Hernandez, Tommye Davis, and Roxann Clifton.

Some winners were drawn from a hat that consisted of all those who had purchased Valentine’s gifts from SGA. Another drawing was from a hat containing all of the faculty.

Dinners were provided by the SGA. Thanks to Ron Kistler, Nicole Smith, Candise and Tom Warren and others for their hard work!

Join The Parade!

By Sarah Stephens
The Sayre Southwestern Oklahoma State Campus will be participating in the Sayre Alumni Parade. The Parade will be Saturday, March 22, 2008. The parade will start at 11a.m., however if you are planning on participating, you'll need to line up at 10 a.m. at the east end of Main Street—that is the end with courthouse and activity barn.

In addition to the parade, there are other festivities, including a dance at the Two Peppers Cantina.

Check with your teachers; some may even give you extra credit for riding on the SWOSU float. So show up in our blue and gray school colors, ready to wave to the crowds.

If you would like to help or participate, talk to Ron Kistler, the financial aid advisor. He would like to welcome all the students to come and show their school spirit.
ELK CITY STUDENT WINS TIMED W.A.R.P. CONTEST

By Gina Sullivan

Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre held its 9th annual Timed W.A.R.P. (writing and research project) for area high school juniors on Tuesday, February 26, 2008.

First place goes to Ashley Lackey of Elk City. She won a $600.00 scholarship.

Second place goes to Hannah Briggs of Elk City. She won a $500.00 scholarship.

Third place goes to Amber Simons of Merritt. She won a $400.00 scholarship.

The day’s activities included a research and writing competition for the students and a service learning workshop for English teachers, presented by Debbie Carpenter.

Lunch was provided by the Bulldog Café. Entertainment consisted of door prizes and Egg-cellent Maze

Attending Timed W.A.R.P. were students and their English teachers from Elk City, Merritt, Canute, Granite, Hammon, and one home-schooled student from Sayre. Students enjoyed Bingo, Scene-it, and billiards.

Spring Break Word Search

N T N F D P Y S J T W H H O J
U H A J E N K A O M J V D C J
C P L M M V S N A D S A S I A
N V H Q P R S F V D Y O V R M
A A G P I A I R L T B Q D O A
C I N M M N Y A O V O K E T I
R L A L O S A N G E L E S R C
S I N O Y N A C D N A R G E A
M A W P V B O I A Q S B P U Z
Q K M P E R D S W P V A E P L
N A X A L B G C G E U S D D C
H S C A H V Y O H J B L Z F U
N H N T U A W I L P U T C T C
I D J Q Q J B E P Z X D E O U
O X I N E O H P A S P E N Y C

Places to Visit:
ACAPULCO ASPEN BAHAMAS
CANCUN DAYTONABEACH GRAND CANYON
JAMAICA LOSANGELES MIAMI
ORLANDO PHOENIX PUERTO RICO
TAMPA SAN FRANCISCO VAIL