SGA announces election results that were held September 22-23. According to Nancy Sanders the following individuals were officially elected. Remember that those who were chosen are a voice for all of us, therefore, if you have questions or concerns regarding what is going on here at SWOSU, you may speak to one of your Reps.

**President:** Candise Warren, **Vice President:** Shannon Eslinger, **Secretary:** Chase Cook, **Treasurer:** Jina Brown, **Sophomore Representative:** Matthew Wilson, **Freshman Representative:** Cindel Fish, Mar Rena Caswell.

Your Student Government Elected

By Carrie Myers

SGA’s next event will be the Fall Festival held later this month. On Friday, Oct. 31, a Halloween Dress-up Contest will be held. Cash prizes will be awarded.

This year’s contest will be different in that all contestants are being asked to follow the theme of “Entertainment.” So, dress as your favorite entertainers from the TV, film, and music industries. An audience of your peers, along with faculty and staff, will be the judges.

SGA President Candise Warren said tentative plans include selling a t-shirt with a Halloween theme to commemorate the day.

Watch for flyers with more details.
Fun Times in Computer Club

By Kristine Roed

Computer Club is going above and beyond what you would typically think of computers. Among other challenging tasks and projects, the pioneers of computer club plan to build a computer out of a toilet!

Brandon Raleigh, the president of computer club, says they plan to do a fundraiser for this interesting project, and

The WatchDawg will be posting details of this event once determined.

If you are thinking about signing up for Computer Club, do not hesitate! They put the “fun” in fundraiser.

Meeting times are every Monday at 12:00 p.m. in the Capps Building.

See Mrs. Carpenter in Mackey Hall, room 102 for more information.

Plan now to travel to State Conference

By Nicole Smith

Fall Conference is coming up Saturday, November 1 at the Tulsa Community College.

All PBL members who wish to attend must have their membership dues of $23 paid by Thursday, Oct. 9. So far, seven members are ready to attend.

PBL meetings were held Thursday, September 26 and Friday, September 27 to discuss the trip to Tulsa. The club is considering spending the night prior to the conference and is looking into funding options.

Officers have also been elected and are Kelsey Ackley, President; Blake Bustin, Vice-President; Nicole Smith, Secretary; Petra Acosta, Treasurer; Sarah Kenney, Representative; and Crystal Biddy, Historian.

The sponsor for Phi Beta Lambda is Ms. Holly Hernandez. Her office is located in Mackey Hall, Room 103. Visit with her about signing up for PBL. You will increase your skills, meet new friends and enjoy conference trips to exciting cities across the U.S.

PBL membership benefits:

- Discover Careers
- Travel to conferences in exciting cities
- Meet people from other campuses
- Win scholarships
- Hone your business skills

PBL members checking out the conference schedule (left to right) include Petra Acosta, Nicole Smith with baby Briggs, Kelsey Ackley, and Cindy Ezell.
O.H. McMahan Library holds Open House

By Carrie Myers

The O.H. McMahan Library Open House was a huge success, according to Sayre’s new librarian, April Howenstine. Muffins and coffee were served for breakfast, and cookies and punch were served in the afternoon.

The winner of the candy corn contest was Jenna Maddox, and a host of others won door prizes. Visitors to Friday’s Open House saw many new things added to the library, for example, a Children’s Literature section for Education majors and a big screen T.V. where students can catch up on news and current events. Audio books are now available for check-out.

Some outdated items that students probably won’t miss include the old microfiche machine and the card catalogue, all of which have been replaced by computerized information.

October 13-31 is Teen Read Week, and the theme is “Books With A Bite.”

Revolution Rock Show is Today!

By Kasie Gatlin

On October 7th, Revolution—a mix of sweaty, sultry live music, rock video and live dancing—will be at the SWOSU Weatherford campus!

Tickets are available at the SWOSU Business Room, Room 109 of the Administration Building.

The tickets can also be purchased with a credit card by calling (580) 774-3019. Tickets are already on sale. For $10 for SWOSU students if pre-purchased, $20 for non-SWOSU students if pre-purchased, $30 for tickets purchased at the door, and $10 group rate for groups of 15 or more.

For more information, you can also call (580) 774-3063 or e-mail news@swosu.edu. All events start at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford.

A free wii will be given away at intermission by the Collegiate Activities Board.

This production is from Broadway in New York City, so don’t miss it! It is making stops at University of Nebraska, University of Kansas and University of Texas, but not OU or OSU—only SWOSU!
A Note From Your SGA President . . .

By Candise Warren

We held our first official meeting on October 3, 2008, and had a great turn-out of officers as well as members of the student body.

If there is ever something that you would like to see done, or just see done differently, there will be a suggestion box set up in the Student Financial Services office for you to put your suggestions in.

I plan on using technology to keep us all in touch as much as possible, and that means that even if we are not having an official meeting one week, we can still look at suggestions and decide how to handle them. As a side note, all SERIOUS suggestions will be considered; anything frivolous or inappropriate will be discarded.

The first order is the Fall Festival that will be held later this month. We hashed out the food that will be served, the games that will be played, and the fun times to be had. I think that it will be a great day for students, faculty and staff all.

We are hoping to have a t-shirt to offer for sale to commemorate the day. The design will have a Halloween theme.

Next we are looking into doing a few fundraisers so that we can have a great attraction in the spring semester, but also so that we can provide Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance to a few families on campus. The SGA decided that we will assist one family with a Thanksgiving dinner, and two families with presents and dinner for Christmas. We will take nominations, and then decide as a group who is the recipient. If you know someone with a family that could really use some help during these tough financial times with Christmas or Thanksgiving, please feel free to nominate them.

Another item that is high on our list of things to accomplish is more awareness and pride in SWOSU-Sayre, and a way to attract more adults back to school.

There are already scholarships and incentives in place for high school seniors, but what about adults who are stuck in dead end jobs? They could find a new and exciting future with a degree from SWOSU-Sayre. This is another area we need your suggestions in and possible even nominations in the future.

I want to thank everyone for their vote of confidence. I promise not to let you down. With that said, I am not here to be "supreme ruler," I am here to take your thoughts and ideas, and try to find the best way to make them a possibility. That does not mean that all ideas will work out, I still have rules to follow myself. As the head of the Student Government Association, I will take your ideas before the committee, and then decisions will be made from there.

I will wrap this up by saying that ALL students are invited to attend the meetings, and if you wish to be notified of meeting dates, you can e-mail me at the following: warren@student.swosu.edu and I will add you to my list. There will also be signs up during the week with information about the meetings.

I hope to make this the best year that SWOSU-Sayre’s SGA has ever had.
“Reach Higher” helps adults go back to college

By Ben Mauldin

Some of you may have heard of it, and some of you may have not. Reach Higher is a way for adult and regular college students to go to school.

In a pamphlet available on campus were some answers to the question, “What is ReachHigher?”

Oklahoma’s flexible, affordable degree completion program for working adults like you who want to finish their college degree.

A second chance to finish a university degree. Since many of the classes are online, you can keep a normal routine and maintain normal work hours.

A flexible program that allows you to complete a degree in organizational leadership in two years.

Available at eight universities with common costs and curriculum and with a convenient online application.

A curriculum designed to ensure that students are prepared to succeed in the workplace.

For more information please go to www.ReachHigherOklahoma.org.

ReachHigher?

A COLLEGE DEGREE GIVES YOU . . .

- Personal satisfaction
- Better job opportunities
- Increased financial potential

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For more information please go to www.ReachHigherOklahoma.org.

*Oct 22, 2008

*Southwestern Conference Center, Weatherford

By Shannon Eslinger

Performing a real Fall treat will be Greg Rodgers. He will speak Oct. 22 in Weatherford’s Southwestern Conference Center at 7 p.m.

A member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Greg is a burgeoning writer and storyteller. He is a descendant of Reverend Israel Folsom, a co-author of the first Choctaw dictionary and prominent Choctaw leader in both Mississippi and Oklahoma during the 1800’s. Greg is an alumnus of the University of Oklahoma’s Native American Studies Program. Greg’s storytelling repertory includes both traditional and contemporary Choctaw stories, family stories, and travel stories from the year he spent in Prague teaching English.

Greg’s performances are a public demonstration of his true passion, the collection and respectful preservation of his people’s memories---the foundation of the Choctaw oral narrative.

He has performed stories in front of diverse audiences, including the Choctaw Nation Storytelling Festival, held annually in McAlester, Oklahoma, and in 2006 Okla. Choctaw Gathering in Bakersfield, California. In between the writing, telling, and collecting of stories, Greg serves as a newly elected board member for both the Oklahoma Choctaw Tribal Alliance and Territory Tellers, the Oklahoma state storytelling organization. He is also a regional vice president for the Folsom Family Association.
SWOSU Attends State Fair & Hoot and Scoot

The BLUE of Southwestern at Sayre is showing up everywhere. Staff members Nancy Sanders and Ron Kistler have been doing a lot of public relations work lately, traveling to Oklahoma City to man the booth at the State Fair and taking the blue tent to Sayre’s Hoot and Scoot. Others attending the State Fair booth included Debbie Carpenter, Holly Hernandez, Paula McKennon and Terry Ford.

Watch for the booth at Cordell’s Pumpkin Fest.

At Sayre’s Hoot-n-Scoot, Nancy Sanders, Kathy Brooks, and Ron Kistler were ready to answer any questions.

Some SWOSU Alumni stopped by to look at pictures.

At the State Fair, Ron Kistler assists two prospective students, Madison Ford and Nicole O’dell, both of Sayre.

Don’t forget the free lunches.

Mondays—In Mackey Hall’s lit pit, southeast corner.

Wednesdays—Across the street at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

“Tales from the Field”

with Jeff Corwin!

November 11th Free Admission!!!

Totally exotic tales!!

7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
SWOSU campus in Weatherford
V.I.P.E.R. helps abused students free

By Nicole Smith

There is currently a new program available at SWOSU @ Sayre and Weatherford. The main objective of VIPER is to minimize incidence of any violent relational crimes. Other services that are available are medical assistance, counseling, housing needs or relocation, legal assistance, campus judicial systems, and academic concerns. This service is available to any age, gender, creed, or color, and is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. Victims of past or present can be counseled. The program is designed to help people who come in and ask for help themselves. There can be no referrals. The VIPER program works off of grants from the Department of Justice and hopes to make a difference. For more information, call Wendy Henson at (580)774-6037 or email at viper@swosu.edu. Wendy Henson is the project coordinator and the person to contact for more information about the program. The official website for VIPER is http://www.swosu.edu/viper. The VIPER program, which started in February of this year, is not only new to Southwestern, but also to all regional schools in Oklahoma and is federally funded.

Violent Crimes Against Women Include:
Intimate Partner Violence
Sexual Assault
Rape
Emotional Abuse
Stalking

Letters to the Editor are Welcomed!

Letters will be printed with full name and must be 500 words or less. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy, but all ideas will not be altered. Publication of all materials is at the discretion of the editor. Rebuttals will be run side-by-side.

We look forward to hearing from you, the reader. Letters to the Editor can be mailed to the following address:
Attention: Terry Ford
SWOSU
409 E. Mississippi,
Sayre Oklahoma 73662
or E-Mail to the following address:
terry.ford@swosu.edu

V.I.P.E.R. helps abused students free

SWOSU’s Violence Intervention, Prevention and Early Response.

An educational program designed to develop men and women committed to Healthy relationships and boundaries.

A program committed to providing a cohesive response system to provide appropriate care to all SWOSU community members who are survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence/abuse, and stalking.

Committed to creating an environment at Southwestern Oklahoma State University That will not tolerate violent relational crimes.
Editorial: Rules Are Made to be Broken?
By Candise Warren

Rules, why do we have them? When I was growing up, rules were something that we followed unequivocally. We never questioned rules, never dis obeyed, and never, ever, ever, ever BROKE them. I have noticed recently that rules seem to be something that are put in place specifically so they can be broken.

What kind of message is the school giving our kids when they put “rules” in place, but then tell them it is “ok, as long as it is for a good reason” to break the rules? What about in business situations when it suits the person in charge to “bend the rules” to suit their needs?

Someone, at sometime, put those rules and regulations in place for a reason. Have you ever stopped to wonder why those rules were made? Were they put in place to protect others, or to prevent an unfair advantage?

My proposal is this, instead of breaking (bending, twisting or what ever cute name it is assigned) the rules, how about we stand up for upholding the rules. If a rule is no longer suitable, then go through the proper channels to change it.

I will leave my rant with this one last thought. What if the justice system bent the rules to suit whomever or whatever it seemed fit to bend them for? Where would the justice be in that? Instead, if a law is no longer applicable, someone lobbies to get it changed. As so it should be with following the rules.

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Buying A New Car?
By Sarah Stevens

Buying a new car can be either a very exciting or very confusing and stressful time. There are several things to consider when looking for that new (used) car. The most important thing is that you be patient, which I know is sometimes not always an option. Also know what kind of credit you have, what kind of car you are looking for, and know how much you can afford.

The first part of the equation also may be the most important. Understandably there are times when your old car breaks down or some other circumstances arise—that it is unavoidable. But there are the times when you are simply searching for a car new enough to have a CD player and air conditioning. Then you rush into a decision or get caught in the “I have to drive it home today” mentality. You should never be afraid to tell the salesman you need to think about it.

The second part is equally important. Knowing what kind of credit you have will help you set a price range and what interest rate you will be able to get. The better your credit, obviously, the better your interest rate will be. And some students may not even have any credit at all, which is almost worse than bad credit. If it is at all possible, a co-signer may not be a bad idea. Sometimes that will give you a chance to establish credit, while still receiving a decent interest rate.

Before you begin your search, research the types of cars you want. Find out about gas mileage, reliability, safety, and the price you can expect. And maybe you have your heart on, say a Mustang. Then don’t be afraid to hold out, search endlessly, and find the best possible deal on the car you are looking for. Or the other plan of attack would be set a price range you would like to stay in, and then search so you know what kind of car you can get for the money.

The internet has revolutionized car shopping. Now you can shop for cars the same way you shop for shoes online. Many of the larger dealerships will have their cars on the website, along with price, miles, pictures, and features. You can also find out what the value of a car is to reduce the chance of being overcharged at the dealership.

The last part is what you can afford. If you talk to the bank before you buy your car, they can give you an idea of how much your payments would be. If you talk to dealerships let them know what you are looking for, and what your price range would be. Most salesman will be happy to help you. And if they don’t have anything on their lot, they will most likely offer to call you if they get anything in.

And don’t forget you will have to pay for tax, title, and license, as well as insurance.
Study Skills You Need for Midterm Exams

By Tiffiny Holloway

Midterm Exams. Most people stress over studying for their exams. Your instructors have to submit your midterm grades by October 27th, so midterm exams are very near. A lot of people don’t know what material to study for their exams. Here are a few key things that will help you improve your study skills and note taking skills.

1. Note-taking: Most students will either take too few notes or so many that the material becomes confusing. Keep it simple; summarize what the professor is lecturing about, but still cover the things that he or she places emphasizes on.

   Some professors like to give their own definition of something and that will differ from what the book says, so make sure to write all definitions that the professor talks about!

2. Reading the chapters: If you know what chapters you will be covering the next day, read them that night. This will give you insight as to what will be talked about during class.

3. PowerPoint Presentations: If your teacher uses Power Point during lectures and has it posted where you can get to it, PRINT IT!!!! Make sure you print the slides as handouts and do three slides per page, this way you can write your notes on the handouts. This will be very helpful for your note taking.

4. Study time: An article from www.study-skills.ca lists that concentration is very important when studying. Each person studies differently. Some people study well in noisy areas while some can only study in silence. Whatever works best for you, do it.

   When you study, start with your notes and power point handouts. If the professor has listed any terms on the power point handouts, then you will definitely need to know those.

   For me to be able to memorize any material, I have to have complete silence and read my notes aloud to myself.

   When you’re studying, do not turn on the TV or the computer. This will only cause you to stray from your studying. If you’re hungry while you’re studying, grab a snack and continue studying.

   If you go to http://www.tulsa.oklahoma.net/~j Nichols/StudySchedule.html you will find a study schedule timetable that you can print out.

   This will be helpful if you are on a tight schedule.

   According to “How to Study” by Ron Blue, some people can only learn by listening, so they must use the audio option. Digital voice recorders are about $35.00 and can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Best Buy and many other places.

   Studying is the key to success in college so it is wise to master your study skills.

Poet Laureate N. Scott Momaday postponed

By Ben Mauldin

Oklahoma’s poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize winning author, N. Scott Momaday, was to read at SWOSU on September 30th, at 1:00 in the SWOSU Memorial Student Center. “That event was cancelled due to the death of his wife, Barbara,” stated Brian Adler, Director of Public Relations and Marketing. At this time, it is not known when Momaday will perform.
Pickens Pledge Makes Sense (and dollars) to Me!

By Kasie Gatlin

Thomas Boone Pickens has spent the past few years of his time and money creating alternative forms of energy. His time has been spent traveling and talking to environmentalists telling them how our dependence on foreign oil is costing the United States almost $700 billion a year.

Pickens has created an energy solution, The Pickens Pledge. This pledge has already been approved by Oklahoman Governor Brad Henry. This plan will help replace foreign imports by more than one-third in ten years.

In just one year, one 410-foot tall wind turbine can produce as much energy as 12,000 barrels of imported oil. The central plains of the U.S. are the best source of wind energy, and this is a renewable resource.

The Pickens Pledge is our future if we want to get away from the dependence on foreign oil.

I’m glad someone who is rich—and actually makes money from the oil industry—still cares enough to do something positive to help this country, instead of just sitting back and getting richer. He is a very generous philanthropist, and I think we should give his plan a chance.

T. Boone Pickens, serious about alternative energy

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Ever Wonder Why?

By Tom Warren

“Ever Wonder Why?” is a column of curiosity by staff writer Tom Warren.

Did you ever wonder why Halloween began? Children everywhere think Halloween is all about candy, trick-or-treating, costumes, and all that stuff. But Halloween is a lot more than that. It is about beliefs and stories of the old Celts.

Halloween started as an ancient festival for the Celts, the people who lived in what is today Europe. They lived almost 2,000 years ago, and were mostly populated in Great Britain and Ireland. In those days, fall was the worst and scariest time of the year. Back then, they did not celebrate the first day of fall like today.

They thought evil spirits pushed the sun away. But their worst day of fall was October 31st, their New Year’s Eve, known as Halloween or All Hallows Eve. It also marked the beginning of winter. To please their god, Samhain, on that horrible day, they would sacrifice other humans and animals. In the year 42, the Romans took over the Celts. They had a goddess named Pomona. She was the goddess of fruit. The Romans and Celts got their holidays mixed up, or blended. Soon they became one festival. Today, those two holidays are Halloween and All Saint’s Day, a holiday that we set aside to remember all of the saints that helped our world.

In the 1700’s, the English came to America. They brought all of their holidays—including Halloween.