By Carrie Myers

S.G.A. announces “Monster Bash,” slated for October 30, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Students can enjoy games, a live D.J., a Dunk Tank and a Costume Contest. The contest will be held at 1:00 in the gym. Contestants should come dressed and prepared to parade around. Students may vote throughout the day or at the time of the contest. The first place winner will receive a PlayStation 3, second place is a $75 gift card for Wal-Mart, and third place will receive a $50 gift card to the bookstore. Spin-the-Wheel prizes will be given away, including an oil change, purse, and t-shirts. Dunk your S.G.A. president Carrie Myers at the dunk tank, and enjoy free Hamburgers and hotdawgs with Monster Energy drinks— all to be served at 11 a.m.

Computer Club Gets Creative

Students brought a surprise to Computer Club when they met Monday, October 12. It was a cake shaped like a textbook with a laptop sitting above it. This superlatively creative surprise was a birthday cake for club member Robby Sanchez. The cake was designed by Kassandra Raleigh, the wife of club president Brandon Raleigh. The name on the cake laptop was Toshiba-zilla, the nickname for Robby’s real laptop. The laptop screen (made of chocolate covered Rice Krispies treat) showed error messages that resemble real

showing signs of H1N1 flu? Please contact the Dean’s Office at 580-928-5533 x 106

(Continued on page 5)
Will You Be Reading a New Book or Listening?

By Rayburn Richie

Are you tired of the boring commute? Or will you be traveling soon, perhaps over the Thanksgiving Holiday? Why not pass the time with an exciting novel? The SWOSU libraries have many audio books that you can check out to listen to as you go home to see the folks or commute daily.

If you like audio books, many fictional and mystery novels by James Patterson, Mary Higgins Clark, and Lisa Scottoline are now available on CD in the O.H. McManan Library on the SWOSU Sayre campus. If you’re planning to read for pleasure, the Sayre library has many new selections to choose from. New fictional novels, such as the entire Maximum Ride series by James Patterson, can now be checked out.

If you’re catching up with Literary Club, the new selection is Sarah’s Key by Tatiana de Rosnay. It is on the New York Times Best Seller List. It is about a contemporary American journalist who investigates what happened to a little girl and her family during a roundup of Jews in Paris in 1942. Students who have not already placed an order with Club sponsor Judy Haught need to order their own book on Amazon.

In addition to many compact disc audio books, the Weatherford library now provides Playaway pre-loaded portable digital audio books that can be used while hiking or exercising—no CD player required. Also, starting this year, the library will be providing small netbook computers and Sony Digital Readers that are pre-loaded with over 535 e-book titles. The netbook computers ill also be loaded with standard Microsoft office software so that they may be used throughout the library.

If you know of an audio book title that would be of value to you, please contact the technical services librarian, Linda Pye at Weatherford 774-7021 or our Sayre librarian April Howenstine, at 580-928-5533 x 185.

New Construction to Benefit Handicapped

By Rob Ellis

Soon students may see construction workers busy on campus making necessary changes to meet requirements set forth by the A.D.A. (American Disabilities Act.) Some of these changes include automatic doors which open with a touch—one for each building. Also, painting the lines in all parking areas, especially the handicap parking areas, is priority. The big project at hand is the Widening of restroom doors and bathroom stalls. The wash basins are currently enclosed by cabinets, but this will be redone so that a person in a wheelchair can get to the sinks. Also, sloping bathroom ceilings in Mackey Hall may be raised. This will be a difficult task when considering the buildings date back to the 1950s. Construction is expected to last well into May, according to the administration.
By Carrie Myers

Every fall semester, Mrs. Judy Haught takes her Spanish students for a day of culture, food, and fun.

Six students attended the trip to Oklahoma City last week: Sarah Brown, Desaree Lovelace, Shannon Margerum, Phillip McKenzie, DeeDee Owens, and Lacy Weatherly.

The first stop was lunch, and Mrs Haught had chosen Chillino’s where the students enjoyed many different types of authentic Mexican cuisine—everything from Fish Tacos to Fajitas. When asked to translate, Mrs Haught taught everyone how to say “my bad” in Spanish.

Following lunch, the students were greeted by a guide. The guide took the class through the history of the first Mexican family believed to have settled in Oklahoma in the late 1800s. The History Center featured many different exhibits including Oklahoma Indians, Rock-n-Roll, Radio, and Television. Many students enjoyed the history of Rock-n-Roll, which featured Oklahoma bands such as Hanson, Flaming Lips, Cross Canadian Ragweed, All American Rejects and Hinder.

The last stop was a surprise visit to the State Capital. For most students this was their first visit.

For one student who is majoring in Political Science, this was a dream come true. Shannon Margerum was by far the most excited student, almost screaming with joy when we found out we could tour the Senate and House Chambers, the offices of Sen. Tom Ivester and Gov. Brad Henry.

Many students found themselves very tired on the ride home. I had the pleasure of sitting by one on the bus who was exhausted, snoring very loudly at times—such a good laugh to end the trip.
Call for Writers to Enter Upcoming Contests

By Rob Ellis

Writers—your poems and essays are wanted! Two writing contests are coming up, one with a Nov. 1 deadline and the other Dec. 4.

The first is for the Sugar Mule Publication. All current residents of Oklahoma are invited to submit to this special issue of Sugar Mule; all genres are solicited. The editor does not require that Oklahoma be the topic or theme and wishes to encourage experimental submissions, but she does admit to a bias for stories, poems and essays “that capture the near-ineffable oddness and beauty and pain of living in the state.” All work submitted by Nov. 1, 2009, will be considered for the July 2010 edition. Read the guidelines for submission at the following website: http://lists.topica.com/lists/PoetryArtsOK/read/message.html?mid=914619636&sort=d&start=0

Please don’t wait until the deadline has passed for this next all important writing contest—the NCTE Oklahoma Young Writers Contest.

The deadline is Dec 4th. Entry forms are available from Mrs. Terry Ford or Mrs. Judy Haught. The rules are as stated in these five categories: Short Story (maximum 1500 words), Essay (Expository, no narrative essays, max 500 words), Personal Narrative (first person, max 500 words) Descriptive Paragraph and Poetry. A $2.00 entry fee will be assessed per entry. Fillers or descriptive sentences may be submitted as fillers for a cost of $1.00 per entry.

Winners will be honored guests at the Young Writers Conference Luncheon and acknowledged at the NCTE Spring Conference with an award and a copy of the anthology where their work appears.

Writers of fillers used in the anthology are welcome to attend the Young Writers Conference and Luncheon for the discounted price of $10 per person. and purchase of the 2010 Anthology is available for $3. In addition to the College Age Category, the other age groups for the contest are K-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

This is a contest sponsored by the National Council for Teachers of English and Petree College of Arts and Sciences Center for Interpersonal Studies through Film and Literature Oklahoma City University. Both Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Haught are members of the NCTE.

PBL Expresses Thanks to All Who Donated Food

SWOSU’s PBL organization has recently taken donations of non-perishable food items for the Agape Clinic Food Pantry in Weatherford, and would like to thank anyone who contributed. Your time, money and effort are very much appreciated and have been a wonderful blessing, according to PBL President Kelsey Wynn. The project continues with donations of clothing for women and children. Boxes are located in Mackey Hall and Alexander.

Volunteer to help on Career Day, November 4

By Kylie Franklin

This year, SWOSU at Sayre will be having the annual CAREER DAY on Wednesday, November 4.

Past Career Days have hosted 200 to 250 seniors that have come from all of the area schools for information on careers. This year we hope won't be any different. This event is open to all high school seniors, and will begin at 9 a.m. with tours of the campus. At 9:45 a.m., Dr. Jim James, Dean of the College of Associates and Applied Programs, will give the Welcome. Students will attend sessions from 10-11:20 a.m. Guest speakers will be on campus to provide information on many different career choices and degree programs.

At 11:30 a.m., free lunch will be served to both guests and college students—a 124-foot-long submarine sandwich, with cookies chips, pop and water will be available in the gym. Our high school guests will be eligible for door prizes, to be given away after lunch.

College students are needed to volunteer from 8:30-9:30 a.m. to be leaders and show the seniors around the campus. See Registrar Kim Seymour in the Alexander Building to sign up to give tours. Remember, volunteering looks great on your resume, and you may be able to encourage someone to continue his or her education!

PBL’s PBL organization has recently taken donations of non-perishable food items for the Agape Clinic Food Pantry in Weatherford, and would like to thank anyone who contributed. Your time, money and effort are very much appreciated and have been a wonderful blessing, according to PBL President Kelsey Wynn. The project continues with donations of clothing for women and children. Boxes are located in Mackey Hall and Alexander.

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SWOSU Listed on “Military Friendly” List

By Kylie Franklin

GI Jobs, which published the list of military friendly jobs, has just published a list of 2010 military friendly schools. Southwestern Oklahoma State University, both Sayre and Weatherford campuses, were included on this list. This list consists of the top 15 percent of universities, colleges, and trade schools that do more of their part to recruit veterans. Last May, GI Jobs polled 7,000 colleges across America. According to FoxBusiness.com, “Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Committee (AAC).”

In order for SWOSU to make the military friendly schools list, it would have to make a large effort to recruit and maintain military and veteran students. SWOSU would also have to offer additional benefits to student veterans such as “on campus veteran programs, credit for service, military spouse programs, and more” (FoxBusiness.com). One school, San Diego University, went as far to change a fraternity house into one exclusively for veterans.

A strong desire for colleges to recruit veterans intensified with the passing for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill’s passing brought with it tens of billions of dollars in tuition money. The Bill was signed into effect July 2008 by the Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008. The Post-9/11 GI Bill expands educational benefits to service men and women who served on active duty before September 11, 2001. According to the Official Website of the Department of Veterans Services, “the maximum basic benefit provides the following:

*Cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher learning in the state you are attending.

*Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to the E-5 (Sergeant) with dependents, in the same zip code as the school;

*Yearly books and supplies stipend up to $1,000 per year.

*Maximum basic benefits can be achieved after 36 months active duty. Applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill start May 1, 2009. The application form is available online at http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1990-ARE.pdf

SWOSU should be commended for making such a high honor. Congratulations to both Sayre, and Weatherford campuses.

Computer Club, continued from page one

(Continued from page 1)

programming error messages, such as “syntax error: robbie !=20; compile error: robbie can’t program; user error; Robbie” and more. The white cake “textbook” on bottom read: “JAVA Game Programming for Dummies,” with “Dummies” crossed out and replaced by “Robbys.”

Robby loved the cake, and everyone thought it couldn’t have been more perfect for him, according to sponsor Deborah Carpenter. “Robby was beaming from ear to ear,” she said.

In their regular meeting, club members practiced remoting a computer from another computer using a program called VNC. Present were Brandon Raleigh, Lendell Jones, Robby Sanchez, and Pete Gragg.
By Kylie Franklin

John Hays, president of Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, plans to retire at the end of January. Hays, who has served as president of his alma mater since 2001, has worked a total of 30 years at SWOSU, having served as assistant manager, comptroller, assistant to the president, vice president for administration and executive vice president for administration.

Hays is a 1969 accounting graduate of SWOSU.

Many of the students here in Sayre may not have had an occasion to meet the president of the university. If not, it’s a shame.

Dr. Hays grew up in the Willow area and attended school beside the mountains of scenic Granite, Oklahoma. A man of humble beginnings, he was never one to put on airs, even after receiving the highest degree that can be conferred upon earth, and rising to the highest position among his peers that is possible.

People always speak of him as a down-to-earth guy. A lady that graduated from high school with Dr. Hays found herself having a brief reunion with her former classmate at the K-Mart in Clinton. Since she hadn’t seen him in years, she inquired as to what John had been doing since graduation. He told her he had a pretty good job over there at the college in Weatherford.

“Well, that’s terrific, John,” the lady stated, and they visited a while more before parting. Imagine her surprise when she opened up the newspaper the next day, and the headline read, “John Hays Named President of SWOSU.”

That is a true story, and it describes the boss’s unassuming humor. Dr. Jim James, Dean of the College of Associate and Applied Programs here in Sayre and a Mangum native, had this to say: “Dr. Hays has been great to work with as President of SWOSU. I certainly appreciate him giving me the opportunity to come back closer to home and serve Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Incidentally, on a personal note, I would be willing to guess Dr. Hays and I remember three things in common from growing up: 1. the capital of Greer County, 2. the Temple Movie Theatre and 3. admission to the ‘motion picture show’ was a dime.”

Dr. James concluded, “My wife Peggy and I would like to extend our best wishes to Dr. Hays upon his retirement.”

By Jessica Egner

Have you noticed the term “Halloween” it is being replaced by the politically correct “Fall Festival”? What makes this date so spooky?

Since Halloween is so historic in our culture, as well as others, what makes it so scary to believers and to non-believers?

Halloween’s main origins came from the Celts and their festival of Samhain. Over 2,000 years ago, November 1 was celebrated as New Year’s festival—the day that marked the end of the harvest, thus beginning the dark, cold winter ahead. Winter was associated with death in their culture, so they believed the boundaries between the living and the dead became blurred that day. The Celts celebrated Samhain on October 31 by wearing costumes of animal heads and skins.

In A.D. 43 when the Romans conquered the majority of the Celts, they combined two of their own Hallovmas traditions. Feralia, the later part of October was observed as a day to remember the dead. They always brought the Symbol of Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees.

Dr. Kathryn Egner, Parapsychologist, stated, “Pomona, the goddess of fruit, is where the tradition of bobbing for apples at parties came from.”

The history of Halloween explains a lot of today’s traditions which we celebrate but to which we give little thought as to the origins. Not everyone celebrates the traditions of Halloween. For Mrs. Peggie Beck, a devoted Jehovah’s Witness, Halloween is not for Christians. “I do not celebrate Halloween for Biblical reasons. The Bible instructs us to not celebrate anything with false ideals.”

However, Dr. Egner reasoned, “Halloween does not celebrate Pomona anymore, which was a Roman tradition. Halloween should represent a celebration for the changing of the seasons, a transition from the crisp fall to the quite winter.”

In A.D. 1000 the church would make November 2 All Souls’ Day, to honor the dead. Though history does present us with three variations of the holiday celebrated differently, all are related to death and the end of October. We have the Eve of Saints, All Saints’, and the All Souls’, which were all called Hallowmas. Whether your Hallowmas traditions revolve around history, family, or religion, it all comes down to personal choice on whether or not to follow preset traditions or make your own traditions.