Welcome, Spring! Come On In.

By Kylie Franklin

Spring break is that time of year to get away from work and school. Most students go to the beach or at least get away from Oklahoma, because for the most part, it feels as if there is not really that much to do here. However, there are a few different, odd, and spooky things to do right here at home.

There is dining at the Haunted Gymnasium, located in Avard, Oklahoma, where five different paranormal teams have come to explore the old school. Each team has the same conclusion: This place is haunted!!

What could be better than eating lunch and being spooked by unexplained things at the same time?

If hanging out and lunching with ghosts isn't really your thing, then maybe hanging out with animals is.

Located in Broken Arrow is

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Parents Welcome Tonight... Campus holds Financial Aid Help Session

If you're struggling to complete financial aid paperwork for your college-bound student, help is on the way.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre's Office of Student Financial Services will help you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Tuesday, March 9th from 5:30-8:30 P.M. in Room 119 of the Alexander Building on the SWOSU-Sayre campus.

SWOSU-Sayre Student Financial Services Director Ron Kistler, and his assistant, Nancy Sanders, will help parents and students complete their application and answer any questions about financial aid for college.

“We will actually help

(Continued on page 7)
**TIME TO FILL OUT YOUR FAFSA**

By Aaron Fultz

Don’t forget to fill out the FAFSA! For all students who need financial aide, now is the time to fill out the FAFSA.

If you are pell-grant eligible, it is to your advantage to fill it out now, according to Ron Kistler of the Sayre Financial Aid Office.

There are two grants, the OTAG and the SEOG grants, that are worth approximately $1300.00 and are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Therefore, the sooner you get your FAFSA completed, the greater opportunity you have in receiving these grants.

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**Attention Qualified 2010 Graduates!!!**

By: Marlena Johnson

If you are eligible for graduation of this year 2010, then you need to fill out an application for graduation.

It takes only about two minutes to fill out your personal information. If you have already filled out the application for graduation and turned it into the Registrar's Office SAB101 to Kim Seymour, then you are in the clear.

If you do not turn in your application by Wednesday, March 10, 2010, then you will not qualify to graduate.

“"If the students do not turn their graduation applications to me by next Wednesday, then they will not graduate," stated Kim Seymour. She said she is ordering the diplomas now. So hurry and turn your applications in NOW! Do not delay! Graduation is May 7, 2010.

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved a tuition and mandatory fee increase at Southwestern to help provide partial funding for the new multipurpose event center. It is supposed to raise $7 million for the new event center. It would be nice if they would do something for the Sayre campus. The students at Sayre pay fees, but we have not had anything done to help our campus. The Capps building has termites. I think they should do something about that. The Weatherford campus has an auditorium for things such as graduation. Sayre students have to borrow the elementary auditorium for their graduation ceremony. They have already built a black box theater, remodeled their student union, they have a new wellness center, and remodeled their computer lab which they took some of our funding to do. This makes me wonder when they are going to look at us.

-Dee Dee Owens
This summer, pell grant awards will be available to students that have earned 24 hours or will earn 25 hours after they have completed summer school, according to Ron Kistler, of the Financial Aid Office.

If students were pell-grant eligible for the fall or spring semester in 09-10, they can apply for a pell grant award after they have enrolled for summer school.

In summer school, students are considered full time if they take up to 12 hours. This is only for financial aid purposes. Most students do not take a full load in the summer, but can still be eligible for a portion of the pell grant. An example of this is if a student in fall or spring was full time and received the full pell grant of $2675.00, then took 6 hours in the summer, they would be eligible for half that amount (or $1337.50).

This is a new program and will start this summer and continue yearly, Kistler said.

Honoring Ronald Duffield

By: Marlena Johnson

As a tribute to the late Ronnie Duffield, the faculty made a motion at the February 25, 2010 faculty meeting to name room 313 in the Conner Building, “The Ronald Duffield Lecture Hall.” The motion is now being considered by the Dean.

“I believe this is a wonderful proposal that the SWOSU Faculty has decided on. Renaming room 313 would be a great way to represent the service and dedication Mr. Duffield showed in teaching and to Southwestern Oklahoma State University,” stated a former student of Duffield’s.

He is missed tremendously by his former students, faculty, staff, friends, and family.

Ronnie Duffield was born on September 25, 1950, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. A war veteran, he owned his business called Duffield Power Line Construction for 12 years until he had an accident that made him become handicapped. His title of being handicapped did not stop him from eventually going back to school where he attended at SWOSU. He received his Masters in Social Science and pursued his vision into reality as an Instructor for the last 25 years at SWOSU - Sayre campus. He died on December 20, 2009 due to severe complications of the flu. He is survived by his wife Alice, daughter Jonnetta, and stepson Charlie Merida.
Seth Tate Wins Writers Contest

Christopher Seth Tate, a sophomore student in Mrs. Ford's English Comp. II course, has just been announced a winner of the annual writing contest of the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English. Tate's essay won in the category of Personal Narrative. Tate will win a free copy of the anthology containing his essay and will be a guest at the OCTE spring conference and luncheon.

His winning essay is reprinted below:

A Mother's Love
I studied every inch of my sword for the slightest imperfection. Satisfied, I eased it into the scabbard and snapped it into place with a quick flick of my wrist. Contemplating my decision, I scrutinized the fine details of my dress blue uniform.

I was a Marine Corps recruiter in Owensboro, Kentucky, at the time. The travelling Vietnam Wall was in town, and I had decided to attend the opening ceremony that evening. It was mid-summer in the Ohio River valley, and the weather was perfect for an outdoor event. The sweet smell of honeysuckle embraced the warm summer air. I was apprehensive about being in uniform on such an occasion. I stalled in my car as people congregated at the park entrance. My nervousness compounded as I fought the urge to leave. Convincing myself that a U.S. Marine is the most powerful force on earth, I opened the door and proceeded to the entrance.

The crowd, resembling sand in an hour glass, trickled through the narrow entrance. The crowd's awareness of me intensified as I closed the distance.

(Continued on page 12)

Kudos

Deborah Carpenter. Debbie Carpenter, Computer instructor at Sayre, recently went to a technology convention held in the Cowboy Stadium. Mrs. Carpenter got a sneak peak at Windows 7, coming out in June this year. She also got a preview of Microsoft Office 2010, also coming out in June. She was introduced to the hottest technologies coming out in 2010, most of which will be released soon. Mrs. Carpenter was excited about the “sky drive” and what that will be. You will be able to store your data on the internet, you can access your files. There were plenty of other interesting discoveries, and we are glad she had fun! Thank you for staying on top of the latest gadgets, Mrs. Carpenter!

Terry Ford. Language Arts instructor Terry Ford’s submission to the Oklahoma Writing Edition of Sugar Mule, an online journal, was chosen to be published. Entitled “My Life, My Lake,” her piece describes her childhood, teen, and then adult years around Lugart Lake (Quartz Mountain State Park). Mongrel Empire Press, in Partnership with Sugar Mule, is planning a print anthology of the Oklahoma Writing special issue and all accepted submissions (like our lovely Mrs. Ford’s!) will be published in print edition sometime this summer. Great job, Mrs. Ford!

Patsy Parker. While an instructor at Sayre, Patsy Parker researched an authored a paper entitled “Women Leaders in Higher Education” for her doctorate. The paper has recently been accepted for presentation at the American Institute for Higher Education’s Fourth International Conference. The conference will be held in scenic, historic Williamsburg, Virginia, on March 17-19, 2010. Parker is now the Chair of the Department of Accounting, Computer Science & Entrepreneurship at Weatherford. Congratulations, Dr. Parker, and have fun in Williamsburg!
SPRING BREAK’S TOP FIVE DESTINATIONS

By Michael Amberson

Looking for somewhere fun to go for Spring Break? Here is a list of the top five most popular places to go for spring break.

#1. Cancun, Mexico is the top choice for Spring Breakers with great scenery and a history of being a hot spot with everything from parachuting, jet-skiing, scuba-diving, and golf, as well as a hectic nightlife. Beware: If you do not get an all-inclusive deal, taking a trip to Cancun can be very expensive.

#2. Panama City, Florida, the second choice for Spring Breakers, is referred to as the “spring break capital of the world” due to a hundred thousand-plus college and high school students that arrive during March and April. If you love going to the beach, this is the perfect place for you to go, but it lacks the nightlife that most Spring Break areas are known for and has been referred to as “The Redneck Riviera” due to the southern culture.

#3. The Bahamas have similar activities as Panama City because it is fifty miles off the coast of Florida. Its water has a visibility of 200 feet which makes it easy to see the world’s third largest barrier reef. Snorkeling is amazing!

#4. North American Ski Resorts are a popular pick for people looking for something a little different. They offer wonderful scenery and a chance for their guests to participate in activities that they may not normally do in the area they live in, such as snowboarding, skiing, tubing, horse-drawn sleigh rides, ice skating, snowmobiling and more. Most feature a pub or two on the mountain, but only a few resort towns have a rocking nightlife, so check before you book.

#5. London, UK offers a lot of attractions and several different areas to go shopping. London also has a very hot nightlife allowing their tourists a clubbing experience that is second to none.

Who says everything is bigger in Texas? Texans do, but they are wrong. Why not take an inexpensive road trip through Oklahoma and see some of the world’s largest things? Here are a few things that Oklahoma has that Texas does not: In Tulsa is the giant Liquid Life bottle, giant Praying Hands, and the Giant Oiler; in Edmond, a giant cross; in Big Cabin, a giant Indian chief; in Boise City, they have a big ol’ lifesized dinosaur. The world’s largest Peanut is located in Durant. In El Reno is where the giant two-sided man is located. In Pawnee is where the world’s largest Dick Tracy Mural is located; and finally, across the interstate in Vinita the world’s largest glass McDonald’s will serve you fries—and yes, you can supersize!

Cancun, Mexico, is the Number One vacation spot for Spring Break. However, this year many fear dangers from the drug Cartel, so be careful and stay in groups, experts say.

MAKE THIS ROAD TRIP THE BIGGEST EVER (AND CHEAPEST!)
**THE WOLFMAN**

Lawrence Talbot is a haunted nobleman lured back to his family estate after his brother vanishes. Reunited with his estranged father, Talbot sets out to find his brother's killer, and discovers a horrifying destiny for himself.

Lawrence Talbot's childhood ended the night his mother died. After he left the sleepy Victorian hamlet of Blackmoor, he spent decades recovering and trying to forget. But when his brother's fiancée, Gwen Conliffe, tracks him down to help find her missing love, Talbot returns home to join the search. He learns that something with brute strength and insatiable bloodlust has been killing the villagers, and that a suspicious Scotland Yard inspector named Aberline has come to investigate.

As he pieces together the gory puzzle, he hears of an ancient curse that turns the afflicted into werewolves when the moon is full. Now, if he has any chance at ending the slaughter and protecting the woman he has grown to love, Talbot must destroy the vicious creature in the woods surrounding Blackmoor. But as he hunts for the nightmarish beast, a simple man with a tortured past will uncover a primal side to himself, one he never imagined existed.

Rated R for violence.

I give it 3 out of 5 stars.

By Cindel Fish

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**COP OUT**

Two longtime NYPD partners on the trail of a stolen, rare, mint-condition baseball card find themselves up against a merciless, memorabilia-obsessed gangster. Jimmy, is the veteran detective whose missing collectible is his only hope to pay for his daughter's upcoming wedding, and Paul is his "partner-against-crime" whose preoccupation with his wife's alleged infidelity makes it hard for him to keep his eye on the ball.

Rated R for pervasive language including sexual references, violence and brief sexuality.

I give it only 3 of 5 stars.

By Cindel Fish
GAMER’S REVIEW: GAME HERO

By: Danny Trevino

In this week’s edition, we are reviewing MAG, made exclusively for the PlayStation 3. The graphics are everything you would expect in a MMO/FPS. There aren’t very many weapons to choose from, but what it is lacking in variety, it makes up for in weapon upgrades, so it has a few (RPG)esque qualities.

MAG, as the game is called, stands for Massive Action Game. This is no underlying reference—the whole game is brimming over with action-packed sequences. There is no real campaign in this game. It’s all online. So to play this, you must have internet service. You’ll first start off playing matches ranging from an eight-man squad to a thirty-two man platoon, all the way to a full blown 128-man army.

The maps are extremely expansive compared to its rivals, COD and Halo. This game excels only in the multiplayer aspect, and utterly overwhelms you with more enemies than your gun has bullets. But it’s not all bad. When shot down, you experience blood loss and have a small time frame to be saved by a fellow comrade in battle, in order to have another shot at your team’s victory. While this game is heavily strategy-based, you have to communicate with your faction to function correctly—without group interaction you can kiss your primary objective goodbye.

The whole game can be simply described as “Organized Chaos.”

“Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom,” said Thomas Jefferson. When routing an enemy, a foreboding thought enters your mind . . . Is this a trap? It probably is, so it’s best to keep your head on a swivel.

There are three factions you play as in the game: Valor (based on U.S Military), Raven (Special Ops) which are very professional, and S.E.V.R. (unprofessional untrained rebels.) It doesn’t really matter what team you choose, it’s how well you can communicate with your faction.

The game in its entirety gets a 4 out of 5.

FINANCIAL AID HELP SESSION TO BE HELD . . .

(Continued from page 1)

them complete the on-line FAFSA application in our computer lab on campus,” Kistler said.

The event is free and open to parents and students alike.

“Anyone who needs assistance completing the FAFSA is welcome to attend,” Kistler said.

Kistler also said that parents and students need to bring their completed 2009 income tax information or their W-2s, as well as their driver’s licenses.

For more information about the SWOSU-Sayre Financial Aid Night, call Ron Kistler or Nancy Sanders at (580) 928-5533, or stop by the SWOSU-Sayre campus at 409 E. Mississippi.

Get help filling out the FAFSA!
Sports Update  By James Racadio

The SWOSU Men’s basketball team won three of its last four games of the regular season. They downed East Central 94-88, Southeastern Ok 71-55, and Northeastern State 77-70. They lost to Texas A&M Commerce 59-65. They have been selected to participate in the Lone Star Conference Tournament.

The SWOSU baseball team has started their season off good with a 10-6 record. The SWOSU softball team’s record is even more impressive at 9-3.

In other sad news, UFC 110 was the sight of a fallen legend as Cain Velasquez, undefeated heavy-weight, landed the night ending right hook which dropped Antonio Nogueira at 2:20 of the first round. Wanderlei Silva did win his fight by decision, and Mirko Cro Cop won by doctor stoppage due to a cut at the end of the second round.

The 2010 winter Olympics is completed with the overall medal count going to USA with 37.

Canada reigned supreme with 14 gold medals, and USA topped in both silver and bronze with 15 and 13 respectively. Congratulations to all the athletes involved, except Canada’s Sidney Crosby, who hit the game-winning goal in overtime to beat USA in the gold medal hockey game.

PBL STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO NORMAN

“The top two students in each event will have the opportunity to go to Nashville, Tennessee.”

The students of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) will be traveling to Norman, Oklahoma for the state Leadership Conference on March 25th – March 27th.

PBL is the business organization that helps improve its members leadership and business skills.

Students do not have to be a business majors to be a part of PBL. This year, there are five students going to Norman to participate in the competitive events portion of the conference.

The top two students in each event will have the opportunity to go to Nashville, Tennessee to the national Leadership Conference and compete for the state of Oklahoma in the event in which they placed.

WELCOME, SPRING . . . CONT’D FROM PAGE 1

the Safari’s Exotic Animal Rescue, where you can interact with many different animals such as lions, tigers and bears (oh my!) and many more. There is even a cabin you can rent and be within listening range of the animals over night. Also, every first Friday of the month, you can pitch your tent and camp out with the animals. Can’t get much cooler than that!

Okay, so maybe you are more into the Medieval kind of things. In that case, there’s a place for you during spring break, as well! Located in Muskogee is The Castle. This is also the scene of the annual Oklahoma Renaissance Fair. The castle is open Monday through Friday.

Tulsa is home to many different actions, but one that really stands out is the Cave House. It has been around since the 1920s. Legends say the place was a speakeasy and many different people were involved, including Pretty Boy Floyd. There are also a few hidden rooms when in the cave which makes it a bit spooky. This cave as also been declared haunted—making it a pretty cool place to visit.

These Okie spots make beaches sound boring, don’t they?
Timed WARP Winners Named

By Lauren Tatum

The annual Timed Writing and Research Project (WARP) brought selected, highschool students to spend the day on campus.

The winning papers were as follows: 1st place and a $600 scholarship went to Camee Thomsom of Sayre, 2nd place and a $500 scholarship was awarded to Kyrie Helling of Merritt, and 3rd place was awarded to Creed Divis of Canute, along with a $400 scholarship. The schools participating came from Merritt, Erick, Canute, Elk City, and Sayre.

The students had to write a two-to-three page essay with documentation. At noon, they played games for prizes which included SWOSU shirts and lanyards. The games were held in the Bulldog Café, where the guests were treated to a free lunch.

Judy Haught, event coordinator, thanked all the teachers for bringing their best and brightest, and thanked the students for sharing their excellent opin-

Are You Watching The Amazing Race?

By Marlena Johnson

Former SWOSU rodeo team members Jet and Cord McCoy are a part of CBS’s reality series “The Amazing Race” that began airing Sunday, February 14, 2010.

The TV series airs Sundays at 7:00 p.m. Both brothers, Jet and Cord, were outstanding team members during their days at SWOSU. Both earned their degrees from SWOSU in 2003. Jet is a four-time IPRA champion in saddle bronc riding and all-around. Cord is a bull rider on the professional Bull Riders tour and a five-time International Professional Rodeo Association champion in the all-around, saddle bronc, and bull riding. The brothers comprise one of 11 teams competing across five continents and eight countries on the show and competing for $1 Million.

Two former Bulldogs are in the race for $1 MILLION DOLLARS!

The Cowboys from Oklahoma took the lead over all other contestants on Episode 3 in Chile where roping helped them win a 10-day trip to Patagonia! Last week in Germany they dropped to 4th.

“I’ve never watched The Amazing Race before, but tuned in when I heard SWOSU students were on the show,” stated Mrs. Ford. “It was fun hearing them use Okie expressions such as ‘running like a scalded dog’ and so forth. It’s especially fun since they are beating the city slickers.”
HURRY! SEE GREASE TONIGHT!

By Becca Sims

Rydell is coming to college! It’s time to take a time warp back to 1959 to join Rydell’s students in their experiences of typical high school life: cars, love, and rock and roll.

Go to Weatherford’s campus to see Danny, Sandy, and the rest of the T-Birds and Pink Ladies. Their theatre is holding a production of the musical play Grease.

It will be held at the Hilltop Theatre every day until March 9th.

Each night there will be two showings at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. If you take your SWOSU I.D. you can get in free! Otherwise it is $5 for adults and $3 for children. Seating is limited so advance tickets/reservations are encouraged by calling the Hilltop Theatre Box Office at (580) 774-6046 on weekdays from 3-6 p.m.

If tickets are not picked up 15 minutes prior to the start of the show, they will be released for general sale or to those on a waiting list.

Hurry! See Grease tonight!

SWOSU GYM OPEN LATE—’TIL EIGHT

By Lauren Tatum

It’s 5 o’clock and you just got done typing your English term paper—just in time for a quick work out, but oh, no! It’s Wednesday and the campus is closing!

Well, you are in luck. The gym and work out room have different hours than the campus itself. Monday through Thursday the gym is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Friday the staff likes to take an early day with the hours being 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In case you have not been over there, there is a full weight room with everything including weight lifting machines to treadmills. The gym, with nice freshly redone wood flooring, is equipped with a volleyball net (you might have to put it up yourself, just ask for assistance) and several basketball goals with the balls kept in the weight room. If you get a ball, please remember to check it out. If you work out, also remember to re-rack your weights.

So if you want to lift weights, run on a treadmill or play basketball like a few of your fellow students, just go ahead and come on over.

By Lauren Tatum

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Matt Ehner of Grandfield as Vince Fontaine entertains Rydell High students in a scene from SWOSU’s production of Grease.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Eric Martin (right) sings “Beauty School Dropout” to Jordan York as Frenchy (left) during SWOSU’s production of Grease on the Weatherford campus.

Students Aaron Fultz, Lauren Tatum, Adam Brooks, Darrell Odel and Jeremy Nichols playing some ball.
A MOTHER’S LOVE,” continued from page 4

between us. My confidence grew as the crowd parted and made way for me. I was near the gate when a young lady quickly approached me.

“Sir, I have a favor to ask,” she announced.

“What is it?” I asked.

“I am a nurse for the elderly woman standing over there. She wanted me to ask if you would be willing to escort her to the memorial,” she explained.

“I would be honored,” I replied. I took the woman’s arm in mine and proceeded quietly toward the wall. My courage began to falter once more as I imagined the revelation that would soon unfold.

“My son was a Marine,” she responded. Tears began to drown my self-worth.

“He was killed in Vietnam,” she continued. My face began to tremble with emotion.

“Will you help me find his name on the wall?” she asked.

“I would be honored,” I gasped. “What is your son’s name?” I found her son’s name and knelt with her as she traced over it with paper and pencil. She then removed a small wrinkled paper bag from her purse.

“I was preparing to mail these things to him the morning that I received the news that he had been killed,” she explained. She placed the paper bag next to the wall beneath his name.

“You loved your son very much,” I added.

“More than you will ever know,” she replied. “I think about him every day.”

“I am sorry for your loss,” I said. Attempting to understand what she must have endured, I remained with her until the ceremony concluded. My emotions were unbearable as I hugged her and departed.

The playing of “Taps” concluded the ceremony. Eyes filled with tears, I drew my sword and saluted Old Glory. I humbly departed knowing one thing for certain. A mother’s love is the most powerful force on the face of the earth.