By Robert Ward, SWOSU student and veteran

The day was in late winter, a day of desert sun creeping through the dusty sky and a brisk wind carrying the aroma of death through the Iraqi air. I was fresh out of boot camp—nine months to be exact. I knew from the time I awoke that it was going to be one hell of a day. All of a sudden, my Sergeant yelled at me.

“Ward, get your s*#! together and mount up!”

“Roger that, Sarge! Moving out!”

I knew from the sound of his voice that all hell had broken out. So, I threw on my gear; Kevlar helmet and flak vest, and packed my assault bag full of ammo.

Hurry it up, P.F.C. Ward!”

“Moving, First Sergeant!”

I rushed to the mission briefing area. The First Sergeant began briefing my mission...
**Student Art on Display**

By Matt Dyson

The display case in Mackey Hall has changed again. Student art is now on display.

The SWOSU Art Department from Weatherford was gracious enough to loan a number of pieces to us. Sayre students, Tim Racadio and Chris Hooks were kind enough to travel there to pick up the art pieces and take a look around the school.

Anyone interested in a degree in art should pick up some of the pamphlets available beside the case.

Of course, the department has such a vast amount of art that it would be impossible to see them all here, but if you would like to see what students have on display, head over to the SWOSU Art Department. They offer a wide range of types of art in their three-dimensional studio.

The center piece in the display is from a local artist, Scotland Ford, who is studying at SWOSU.

Mrs. Ford wants to keep changing this display so that the campus can see several pieces of culture and art here locally.

So keep looking in; you never know when it will change again.

---

**Vet “Expecting” on Veteran’s Day**

Daddy-to-be Joseph Hough may enjoy new baby daughter on Nov. 11th.

One of our veterans got an early gift for Veteran’s Day. Joseph Hough, who is a SWOSU student on the GI Bill, was originally expecting a bundle of joy to be delivered on November 11th, but she arrived Saturday, shortly before our news deadline!

Joseph and his wife, Dena (Mackey), and daughter, Lexi, are welcoming blue-eyed, brown-haired Joey Rae, who weighed 7 pounds, 8.5 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.

Joseph joined the Army in 2002 and spent two years in Iraq, before being injured and hospitalized for three months. Joseph had noticed a young soldier sitting in one of the most dangerous spots in the truck, so he told the kid to move up, giving up his safer seat up front to the young boy. Suddenly he heard an explosion that left his ears ringing in silence, he felt his back and a sticky wetness told him he had taken shrapnel. He was rushed to a hospital where he eventually recovered. He finished his tour in 2008. He doesn’t think it was fate or destiny that he took a bullet for the other kid. He just takes it all in with a sense of humor—and that’s just how he takes marriage and fatherhood!

New Baby Hough may be wearing red, white and blue as she comes home from the hospital, but it won’t be a flag she is swaddled in—rather a Superman blanket. Joseph is a big fan of the all-American hero. But like they say, who needs Superman when your daddy is a real hero?
Med Tech has a ball on Vegas trip!

What happened in Vegas, almost stayed in Vegas, but we finally got the pictures and the story. The SWOSU Medical Laboratory Technicians attended a National AMT Convention this summer in Las Vegas!

Those receiving national awards included the MLT advisor, Roxann Clifton, for “Tech of the Year,” and two of her students: Lauren Tatum for 3rd place in Writing, and Charissa Isch with “Student of the Year.”

Many seminars were attended. Lauren Tatum especially enjoyed “Laughter is the Best Medicine.”

The Sayre techs met a lot of interesting students from all over the U. S. and the world. “The people from the Caribbean could really dance!” Lauren added.

After the seminars, the conventioners enjoyed shopping, swimming, eating out, and a banquet and awards ceremony.

Lauren Tatum, Alicia Houston, Roxann Clifton, Charissa Isch, and Marlena Johnson at the National AMT Banquet and Awards Ceremony.

Lauren Tatum dances in the street with two Michael Jackson impersonators on the Vegas strip!
By Tim Racadio

Thirty students were chosen from among the over 400 students at SWPOSU-Sayre to be named to the prestigious list of Who’s Who Among American College Students.

The honorees are listed in the graphic at left.

The criteria for choosing students includes a 3.10 Grade Point Average or higher, and students must be eligible to graduate next May. A list of all students meeting those requirements is given to faculty members, who then vote on scholarship, leadership, participation, and merit.

The National Who's Who program has been honoring campus leaders for seven decades. Those named to the award are also eligible for one of three 2010 National Scholarships of $5,000, $3,000, or $2,000, selected randomly from among American colleges.

The Who’s Who organization is proud to award outstanding scholastic performances.

At the SWOSU library . . .

Enjoy “An Evening of Oklahoma Poetry”

“An Evening of Oklahoma Poetry” will be a presentation by Jim Barnes at the SWOSU Conference Center at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 18, 2010.

This presentation is free and open to the public and sponsored by the SWOSU Libraries.

Jim Weaver McKown Barnes, the 2009-2010 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate, will be reading his poetry and sharing personal stories. Barnes has given readings of his work at many college campuses, both nationally and internationally. Jim, of Choctaw and Welsh ancestry, was born and grew up in Summerfield, Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Humanities Council has been recognized for his accomplishments in the field of poetry. Barnes has published several works of poetry and one major work of non-fiction prose, *On Native Ground: Memoirs and Impressions*. A book signing will be held immediately following the evening event.

Oklahoma Poet Laureate Jim Weaver McKown Barnes
Mystery Brings Romance to Date

SGA member Dandi Clark got more than she bargained for when she agreed to participate in the Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction.

Dandi’s secret bidder upped the bid from $20 to $100, and signed the bid “Anonymous.” He also had a teddy bear and balloon delivered to her at school. “When I saw the teddy bear and balloon, I assumed my parents did it and went home and thanked them, but they swore they didn’t know what I was talking about,” said Dandi, who added, “and my dad got really agitated because he wanted to know who ‘bought’ me!” You see, Dandi’s folks are pretty strict, and this will be her first date!

Then, to deepen the mystery, one week later, Anonymous had the florist deliver the money to the Financial Aid Office, along with a note signed by Anonymous, which read, “You are worth a lot more!”

Then last Friday, Dandi’s favorite flower—a pink Gerbera daisy—was delivered to the campus, along with a card that gave the time and location of the prospective date.

“Whoever Anonymous is, I would like to thank them for the care that they have shown me,” said Dandi, “especially since this semester has been kind of rough.” Dandi feels that Anonymous has blessed her life with this simple act of kindness.

Everyone’s life should have a little mystery—and even better, a little kindness. The WatchDawg staff hopes the mystery date turns out to be a daisy of a date!

Sports Update by James Racadio

The football officials, responsible for the rules that we all see every weekend, need to be dealt with.

I know they are trying to protect the players. I can understand that. But Tony Romo is not going to be critically injured by someone’s hand grazing his helmet, and Carson Palmer is not going to be out for the season by tripping over Ray Lewis. The most he’ll get is a scraped knee. Although, scraped knees are rather painful, they’re not life threatening.

I can live with the penalties if the players could do a few things for us fans. QUARTERBACKS! Grow some juevos. Take a hit without crying. RECEIVERS! You know the risk of jumping for a ball in the middle of the field. If you don’t want the safety to light you up, then don’t jump. Fake a strained hammy, and hobble to the sideline, because if you don’t want to get hit in football, that is where you belong. And finally, DEFENDERS! Don’t be scared to hit. Who cares if you get fined? What is $75,000 anyway? That is pocket change to some. All it takes for you to be able to deliver that hit we all love to see is for you to go back to peewee football where you first learned how to wrap up. I guess what I am trying to say is I am glad the officials running football aren’t running other sports as well, like MMA. They would probably try to outlaw punching with a closed fist. Or kicking someone with any part of your leg. Or using your arms or hands to secure either a limb or the neck of your opponent. That’s right. Take all of that away, and you got yourself a good ole cat fight. Those can get pretty vicious, though, once the hair pulling starts. But no hair pulling.

And to end, I would like to list a few aspects of the NCAA Football season I have found rather exceptional: Brandon Weeden, Kendall Hunter, Justin Blackmon. That is all.
there by small arms fire, roadside bombs, R.P.G. fire, and mortar rounds!

“We’re the closest to them, men; they’re taking casualties. Let’s get there; keep your heads down and eyes peeled.”

We didn’t know what devastation was already at hand. We didn’t know it was a blood bath.

As my platoon and I got closer, my senses were raised; eyes pulsing seeing ahead, adrenaline pumping, and hearing heightened. As I reached the city, I could see the evidence of a gruesome battle—bodies of enemy and foe covered in a pool of blood and charcoaled flesh.

BOOM! A roadside bomb exploded on the right side of my Hummer, and knocked me off the vehicle onto the war-worn road. I jumped up and hopped back to my position on the gunner’s spot, cocked my M240B machine gun, and loaded my M249 squad automatic machine gun that rested beside the station. Bodies were everywhere; within a foot of my face and begged and pleaded with me to please help the wounded child.

“Mow him down; that’s an order!”

I aimed with a sorrowful face; sweat and tears rolling down, and pulled the trigger. I killed the little boy.

The impact of the bullets pushed and glued his bloody body to the cracked, aged wall of the building behind him.

“It was either you or him,” my sergeant said, and added, “It gets easier over time.”

“What gets easier?”

“Killing.”

This would not be the only child killed this day. As we drove closer to where the battle initiated, the sounds of battle grew silent. All of a sudden, “Incoming!” exclaimed the gunner behind me.

A suicide bomber drove a five-hundred-pound car bomb into an Iraqi police station. Seconds later it exploded. It brought hell down upon anyone near the massive explosion. The bomb’s explosion was enough to blow up the school and a child care facility beside the station. Bodies were everywhere; within a foot of one another—like a massive graveyard of unburied corpses. I was in shock. The battle was over, but the nightmare had not ended.

As I watched and stood guard, people started collecting bodies and body parts. There was so much hatred, pain, and confusion. I even watched a few of my fellow comrades take pictures in humor over the situation. I was full of rage and despair because these people’s pain was someone else’s amusement. I felt saddened and worthless as I watched some of our good men try to save some of these people. Then a woman approached me holding a child, still screaming from fatal wounds, and she begged me in broken English, “Mister, please help.”

I looked at her and the wounded child—guts and intestines hanging out—as blood splattered all over my uniform. I grabbed the child, trying to administer first-aid, but nothing was working. So, I burst into tears and yelled, “Medic!”

“I can’t do anything,” the medic said, “We’re being ordered to get back. We’re getting chased out of the city by angry citizens.”

I looked at him with a hopeless, bloody, tear-soaked face and begged and pleaded with him to please help the child. Unfortunately, he couldn’t do it.

As we drove off to return to base, I watched in sorrow, the mother in mourning. No American soldiers were killed that day. One-hundred-one Iraqi citizens died this day; 53 children, 25 women, and 23 Iraqi police officers were murdered.

To this day, I wonder: If I could have saved that one innocent child, would I be redeemed from taking the other child’s life? Would this nightmare be gone from my thoughts and dreams? I’ll never know. Consequently, I’ll always relive this never-ending nightmare.

Retired Specialist Robert Ward

Robert Ward is retired from the United States Army. He served from 2001 to 2003. He was also part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Robert now resides in Elk City with his wife and three children. He attends SWOSU at Sayre to get a degree in Criminal Justice.

Robert was medically retired from the military, and like so many veterans, he suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He has seen several of his Army buddies refuse treatment, and several have committed suicide. Robert is a strong advocate for treatment, having compiled research and presented speeches to his classmates on it. He has successfully dealt with his symptoms for the last decade, proving Robert is a hero off the battlefield, as well as on.

For more information on dealing with PTSD, go to va.gov or MedicineNet.com.
**Acoustic Guitar Legends to Perform**

Acclaimed acoustic guitarists Edgar Cruz and Antsy McClain will perform a humorous, high-energy concert as part of their 5-day Oklahoma tour.

It will be held in the SWOSU Student Center Ballroom in Weatherford at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14. It is free and open to the public.

Cruz and McClain have shared the stage numerous times, most recently to sold-out crowds in northern California and Oklahoma.

**McClain**’s live shows are a unique mix of masterful musicianship, a self-deprecating and wry blend of humor, and intelligent lyrics.

**Cruz** continues to be named Oklahoma’s Best Performing Artist/Acoustic Guitarist, who gives over 200 live performances a year, mesmerizing audiences throughout the U.S., Europe and South America with his artistry and passion.

The show, entitled “You Say Flamenco, I Say Flamingo,” is brought to campus as part of the SWOSU Libraries Showcase.

Don’t miss the legends in concert!

---

**Cultural Corner**

By Bianca Sanchez

Here is one more stop that our Newspaper Gathering and Spanish classes made while on the multicultural trip: The Oklahoma City Museum of Art. We saw a variety of art, from classical Venetian art and blown glass art to Mexican-American art.

The classic art is truly beautiful to look at such as *La Serenissima*: Eighteenth-century Venetian Art from North American collections. One of my personal favorites is the 1735 oil on canvas Giovanni Battista Tiepolo by Juno and Luna. For over a millennium, the Italian coastal state of the Most Serene Republic of Venice, or *La Serenissima*, flourished as a center for sea trade and the arts. It also became an important destination on the Grand Tour.

Venice’s impressive skylines and unique network of canals, palaces, and churches inspired artists, especially during the eighteenth century. Today, collections throughout North America hold many works from this prolific period.

**The Mexican-American art we saw was what attracted me the most because I am Mexican-American. It is an art that is real, colorful, and cultural. Mexican-American culture is what I grew up with so**

I can very well understand the artist and his art. There are some aspects more bold that don’t apply to my life, but for the most part, I understand. The paintings by Luis A. Jimenez were on display. Jimenez’s works fuse his interests in popular culture and social commentary with his identity as a Mexican-American. He explores diverse themes in his work, from death to the American Southwest to illegal immigration and border crossings—all while utilizing bold colors and a highly expressive style. Jimenez also captures the gritty realities of urban life and culture, capturing a world filled with prostitutes, low riders, and tattoos. This is the first exhibition of Jimenez’s work at the Museum. Hope you, too, can visit the Museum of Art someday soon.
(Continued from page 1)

Eleven area schools participated. All of the schools will receive a scholarship, to be given away by each school’s counselor. Gift bags were given to all, and 40 names were drawn to receive door prizes. The 100-foot long submarine sandwich was enjoyed by students, faculty and staff.

More than a dozen guest speakers presented the sessions and passed out free pencils, candy, business cards, and pamphlets.

Eleven area schools participated. All of the schools will receive a scholarship, to be given away by each school’s counselor. Gift bags were given to all, and 40 names were drawn to receive door prizes. The 100-foot long submarine sandwich was enjoyed by students, faculty and staff.

SWOSU students Ashley King and Lori Atteberry check out the presentation for Sayre’s newest degree: Hospitality, Restaurant, and Gaming Management.

The gymnasium was the site for the 100 feet of sandwiches, and also where door prizes were given to the visiting high school students in the stands.

Meet the Rest of the Staff

Dandi Ré Clark lives in a country area near Sayre that is known as “Paradise Lost.” In her “spare” time she enjoys catching rattlesnakes, observing people, writing poetry, cycling, and spending time with family and friends, including her black lab Rowdy. She is majoring in English Education, with an emphasis in creative writing. Dandi is a night child who spends most evenings and early mornings under the stars, and she loves rain, chocolate, snarklefuzzies from the land of Never Return (Ever), people who can think critically and carry on decent conversations, and snuggling with her best friend, Bear Necessity.

Robyn Hudson was born in Sayre, and has lived around here for most of her life. She has one son, Aidon Dewayne Pearson, who will be turning two in a couple of months. When she is not running after him or bound behind a register at United, she enjoys reading, drawing and listening to music. She is still undecided on a major, but is glad she made the decision to be here.

Zack White takes newspaper by arrangement. He was born and raised in Sayre. He graduated from Sayre High School in 2009. He is currently getting his basics here at SWOSU. After next semester he plans to either attend Weatherford or Texas A&M to get his degree in agricultural engineering.

The gymnasium was the site for the 100 feet of sandwiches, and also where door prizes were given to the visiting high school students in the stands.
Romeo & Juliet Go Goth?

By Becca Sims

Shakespeare’s famous love tragedy Romeo and Juliet will be performed by SWOSU Players of the Department of Communication and Theatre.

Steve Strickler, the director, has added a modern world and a heavily gothic feel to the play. Opening words will tell this is a “pair of star crossed lovers” and that they will “take their life” ensuring their tragic fate. An evident twist in the play will be realized when fate is personified by the Apothecary.

“I am very excited to implement this into our production -- especially since the role is being played by my colleague Stephen Haynes, technical director/professor of design,” Strickler said. “Stephen brings a great amount of insight to the role, the production and to our rehearsal process.”

Some other exciting aspects of the production include original music and sound composed by student sound designer Eric Martin and new faculty member in the Department of Communication and Theatre, Dr. Matthew Ramsey. The fight sequences have been choreographed by Lloyd Caldwell, a professional fight choreographer.

Romeo and Juliet will be performed at the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre at 7:30 p.m. nightly on November 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and at 2 p.m. on November 14. Admission is free with a valid SWOSU I.D., $5 for adults and $3 for non-SWOSU students. Seating is extremely limited for the production; therefore, advance reservations are highly recommended. Reservations can be made at the box office on Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. or by calling (580) 774-6046.

Enroll Now in Something New

Enrollment for the Spring semester is currently underway. Choose early for the best selections!

One class that might be overlooked is golf. Beginning and Intermediate Golf are offered on Monday at 1 p.m. starting in the 2nd 9 weeks, when the weather is warm enough to begin outdoor play. See Mrs. Connell for more information.

Some new items on the classroom “menu” include Restaurant Management and Game Operation and Protection.

Introduction to Hotel, Restaurant and Gaming is offered on Tuesday nights.

Introduction to Public Speaking is offered at Elk City at night, so students east of campus won’t even have to travel on Monday night.

Mrs. Carpenter’s Integrated Software class is a more advanced version of the Computer information and Access class, offered on Monday nights here at Sayre. The course will utilize Microsoft Office Suites as well as Microsoft Accounting software for various projects that might be used in the workplace.

Poetry Corner

Sunrise
By: Dayna Hicks
Who am I to Behold
Such majesty?
Pinks and blues.
What beauty to see!
Bringing with it,
Things still untold.
Riddles to soon be unraveled;
Stories to be told and retold.
The teller grows older and wiser.
Someday looking back
With no surprise.
All stories began with a sunrise.
By Aaron Fultz

On October 29, the SGA had the annual Halloween party. This year’s event was different from past ones. Instead of having it in the gym as usual, the SGA members decided to go out on a limb and try something new.

They transformed the garage that is located behind Alexander building into a Haunted House.

The Haunted House drew a huge crowd, with some 130 people turning out for it, bringing in approximately $400.00 on Thursday night. Then many additional campus students attended all day Friday for free. The SGA served hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch to all whom showed up.

The annual student costume contest was also held, and 1st place was Robby Sanchez who was a taco, 2nd was Laci Stegall as E.T., 3rd was Sherry Strickland as a Witch, and 4th was Carrie Nelson as a Southern Bell.

This year the SGA thought it would be fun if the faculty and staff had a costume contest, too. The winner was Sherron Manning, an old lady whose dog was lost—and found if you look closely!

Jessica Steinke won the pumpkin carving contest.

1st - Robert “Taco” Sanchez won a PS3.

1st Place Winner was Robert Sanchez as a giant taco piñata!

Frying up the burgers!

J. C. working the House

Christian Fielding

1st - Robert “Taco” Sanchez won a PS3.

Lyndel, Robert, and Liz

R. Kistler and P. Hudson

Laci Stegall (E.T.) 2nd

Mrs. Manning (and dog?)

Bianca Sanchez

Sherry Strickland-3rd

Carrie Nelson 4th place

SWOSU-Sayre sophomore