Snow makes commute difficult for Sayre Campus

By Josi Eeds

Snow and fog have made commuting to school difficult this week, and classes were even canceled on Monday. Sayre was estimated to have gotten five inches of snow.

Ms. Holly Hernandez, business instructor, stated it took an hour and a half to drive from Clinton on Tuesday because the visibility was so low. Student, Rebecca Clahan, lives in a rural area near Burns Flat. Her uncle had to dig her car out of the driveway with a tractor, but she still could not get in and out of the four inches of slush.

Timed W.A.R.P. invites high school students to write

By Josi Eeds

Thursday, March 8, has been slated for the 12th annual Timed W.A.R.P.

W.A.R.P stands for Writing and Research Project. It is a writing competition for high school juniors. The students compete for a SWOSU scholarship and get feedback on their writing and research skills. Combined with the many student activities is a workshop for English teachers. The visiting teachers can earn faculty development points while learning about using blogs in the classroom. This year’s theme is “All About Books.”

The Timed W.A.R.P. contest is a campus-wide effort. All employees participate in making the event a success. Judy Haught supervises the whole affair, contacting the participating schools and coordinating the event. Dean Sherron Manning will present the welcome. Students will

(Continued on page 5)
Panorama Event: The Art of the Drum

By Rick Duran

Come join in the excitement March 1st when traditional Japanese Taiko drumming explodes with innovative choreography, athletic bodies, and contemporary costumes.

The Art of the Drum has sold out millions of shows worldwide. Don’t miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity to see the show live at SWOSU in Weatherford.

Pre-purchased tickets for SWOSU students, Faculty/Staff and Emeriti with a valid I.D. are only $5. All others who choose to pre-purchase tickets will pay $10. All tickets at the door will be $20, so try to get them early if possible and save some money.

Tickets are available in the SWOSU Business Office. Tickets can also be purchased with a credit card by calling (580)-774-3091.

The Art of the Drum event will be held in the Auditorium of the Fine Arts Center located on the Weatherford Campus. The performance will begin at 7:30 PM and continue until 9:30 PM.

For more information, contact Brian Adler by phone at (580)-774-3063, or by email at this address: brian.adler@swosu.edu

Sign-Up For SWOSU Weather Alert

By Kaci Taylor

Those who sign up for the free Emergency Notification System will receive a text message whenever classes are canceled. If you have not already signed up for it, perhaps you should.

Sign up today at www.swosu.edu/resources/alert.asp or click on the “SWOSU Alert” logo under “Current Students” at the Sayre website.

This service also notifies you of any potential campus emergency, such as a homeland security threat via SMS text message. The service is free, but you may be charged a normal text fee by your carrier, depending on your cell phone plan.

You will need to have your cell phone with you when you go on-line to sign up. Also, you will need to know your SWOSU user name to make your account. This is your Dawgtag, which is your first and last initials and your six digit student ID number.

One option is to add a family member’s cell phone number to the emergency alert system, so have that ready if you choose.

Of course, you can also call the campus weather hotline at 774-3225 and select option 4. It’s a good idea to save this number to your cell, because you know you don’t want to have to look it up on some cold, snowy, wintry morning when you’re wondering if you can just stay in bed!
Students can purchase drinks from the Bulldog Café, as the doors have opened, but the full food menu will not be available until February 27th, “if all goes well,” states a hopeful Sherron Manning, interim dean.

A delay in the reopening of the café occurred when the person hired for assistant manager was unable to fulfill her duties. However, a second person has been hired and is planning to start Monday, Feb. 20th. That person is Kimberly Spillers of Elk City.

The Café manager Tammi Stewart, of Sayre, has been re-working the menu and re-pricing. She is working on getting new equipment, re-arranging, and cleaning.

“I’m sure students will notice some changes when they come in,” stated Manning.

Drinks are available now, and soon some quick items like donuts, muffins, yogurt, and fruit will be added to the Café’s full grill menu.

See Ron Kistler if you are available for work-study and can assist in food service.

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**SWOSU Science Seminar Series begins**

By Rick Duran

The SWOSU Spring 2012 Science Seminar Series is taking place now at Weatherford.

Seminars will be followed by an informal dinner in the SWOSU Skyview room. Space is limited, so RSVP by emailing Dr. Holgado at the following: andrea.holgado@swosu.edu if you would like to attend.

The seminars are held in Weatherford at Room SCI 212 at 4 p.m. each of the following days:

**February 29th:**
“Genetic Dissection of the Brain”
*Bing Zhang Ph.D., Associate Professor, Zoology Department, University of Oklahoma, Norman*

**March 14th:**
“The Brain Awareness Week presents Lee and Mary Akin”
*Stories from a Professional Bull Rider, Biology Alumni, Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

**April 4th:**
“Hormonal and Alternative Male Reproductive Phenotypes” and “Applying to Biology Graduate Programs”
*Rosemary Knapp Ph.D., Associate Professor, Zoology Department, University of Oklahoma, Norman*

**April 18th:**
“PET (positron emission tomography) Biomarkers: Pipeline to Production”
*Becca Baugher Pharm.D., Nuclear Pharmacy Services, Cardinal Health*
Campus Improvements Continue

By Rebecca Clanahan

Classes are now in full swing toward Midterms, and by now, most of you have probably noticed that while we were home enjoying the Holidays with family and friends, there were Elves hard at work on campus.

Winter Break brought many new changes to the computer labs across campus.

The two computer labs and the Library in Mackey Hall got a complete makeover, including new carpet, fresh paint, and all new computers. The lab in the Capps Building was also updated with all new computers.

The campus received thirty new computers and two new laptops that are available for student use, as well as seven new Smartboards available for faculty use in classrooms that were not already equipped with one. All of the computers are Dell, with Windows 7, 64-bit operating system, Microsoft Office 2010 and Internet Explorer 9.

All of the 200 computers on campus are on a rotation that upgrades or replaces faculty or student computers every four years.

In addition to the new computers, the campus server was also updated. The new server has three TB of storage and three TB of back-up, which in English means that there is now tons and tons of storage. The new system has a disk-to-disk back-up system which allows the system to automatically back-up all files every night. The new system is able to back up the files in as little as one hour, whereas the old system would take up to fourteen hours.

A lot of work was involved in installing all of these new computers. Campus Network Administrator Earl Bales had plenty of help from fellow staff member Shirley Bound, Distance Learning Coordinator, and from work-study, Michael Brinkley.

The new computers in Mackey Hall complete the sleek new look in the lab with freshly painted walls and new carpet. Photo by Rebecca Clanahan

Sophomore Josi Eeds maneuvers through the new Microsoft Publisher 2010, as Newspaper sponsor Terry Ford looks on. Photo by Rebecca Clanahan
Campus begins Strategic Planning

Consultants from the Strategic Planning Penson group toured the Weatherford and Sayre campuses this week. They visited with faculty, staff, and students about their visions for the future of the college. Attending the student open meeting in Sayre were Britney Gramer, Alyssa Chaney, Bonnie Smith, Miranda Aranda, McKenzie King, and Alesix Greene.

“The university is embarking on a strategic plan of where we would like to go in five years,” stated Howard Cohen, consultant. The information gathered by the consultants is taken back to a planning council who gets a broad overview of the needs/wishes/dreams of the faculty, staff, students, and community.

“We ask for your wisdom, insights, and honesty,” Cohan stated. The process takes many months to establish goals, create task forces, and make outcome statements, Cohen explained. Another consultant, Sal Rinella, commented favorably on the Sayre campus: “A high percentage, something like 60%, of your students take some kind of distance ed class. That’s the college of the future, and you’re already there.” Rinella and Cohen recorded the thoughts and comments of all who attended the meetings, “getting a feel for the university and all its various parts.” They will take the ideas generated back to the Strategic Planning Council.

Timed W.A.R.P., continued from front
(Continued from page 1)

receive goody bags assembled by Ron Kistler.

Bingo and a pool tournament will be overseen by Bill D’Alessandro and Chris Stufflebean, with prizes presented by Landry Brewer. April Miller provides a library presentation on crafts that can be made from old books, including purses! Dianna Mosburg registers guests, and assists Miller in pulling together the hospitality room. Several faculty and staff will serve as judges, and Terry Billey tabulates the final scores.

While the students are writing, Terry Ford will present to the teachers who attend. Her presentation will discuss books used by college instructors and expectations for incoming freshman. Holly Hernandez will offer continuing education points for teachers through her presentation on new websites for education. Dayna Coker will make certificates for teachers.

“We’d like to thank all of the teachers and students who come to the competition,” stated Judy Haught. ‘We know you have busy agendas, and we strive to make it a valuable experience for you.” She also expressed thanks to all the volunteers on campus who make the day a special one.
Hurry over! Career Fair is Tuesday, Feb. 21

Trying to pick a major? Interested in a job? Want to see what companies are hiring in your field? Then you need to attend Career Fair.

The SWOSU Career Fair 2012 on the Weatherford campus will be on Tuesday, February 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It will be held in the Student Union, in the center of campus, and will be in the Ballroom, which is upstairs.

You are encouraged to attend, and no matter what you are majoring in, there should be something there for you.

Bring your resume. As an added bonus, if you dress professionally, you can enter to win one of four $50 Chamber Bucks certificates.

The following is a list of employers seeking to hire at Career Fair 2012:

**American Fidelity Assurance** Business, Liberal Studies & Communication. www.afadvantage.com

**Cole & Reed, PC** Accounting www.coleandreedom.com

**Custer County DHS** All Majors www.okdhs.org

**Enterprise Rent A Car** Business & Communication www.go.enterprise.com

**Factor** Accounting, Business & Computer Science www.factor.com

**Family Video** Business & Management www.familyvideo.com

**Federal Bureau of Prisons** All Majors www.bop.gov

**Farmers Insurance** All Majors www.farmers.com

**Mary Kay** All Majors www.marykay.com

**Oklahoma Christian University** All Majors www.oc.edu/mba

**Oklahoma City Police Department** All Majors

**Oklahoma City University** All Majors www.okc.edu

**OK Department of Rehabilitation** Counseling & Social Work www.okdhrs.gov

**Parker University** Biology, Pre-health, Kinesiology www.parker.edu

**Rent-A-Car Business**

**Sherwin-Williams Company** Management, Marketing & Business Administration www.sherwin.com/mtp

**Summit Care** Physical & Occupational Therapy Assistants www.summitcare.net

**Sunbeam Family Services** Early Childhood Education & Family Studies www.sunbeamfamilyservices.org

**Texas Department of Public Safety** All Majors www.txdps.state.tx.us

**Washita Battlefield** All Majors http://nps.gov/waba

**Wheeler Brothers Grain Co.** Accounting & Computer Science

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SWOSU campus zombiefied by bronchitis plague...

Heads literally coughed off
Valentine fundraisers are sweet

By Allyssa Brandon

The Sayre campus was covered in red balloons and cute stuffed animals as students celebrated another Valentine’s Day.

The Med Tech group was again selling chocolate-covered strawberries and large Rice Crispy Treat hearts to help raise money for their trip to the American Medical Technologists Annual Convention. This year Sayre SWOSU students helped them raise a generous $1,200.00.

Amanda Low, Med Tech student, sold the most and was given $50.00 for her efforts.

Despite the best efforts of the SGA, their sales fell short this year. The weather prevented sales on Monday due to school being closed. Therefore, they were unable to make a profit from this fundraiser. (But look for SGA’s other projects in the future, including The Biggest Loser Contest.)

Students in Composition classes were asked to share the memories of their best or worst Valentine’s Day. While some were better than others, they all made for great stories.

“My best Valentine’s Day so far would have to be last year. My son Jaron and I decided to go put a card on his dad’s truck for him to find when he got off work. When we got back home, I received a delivery of beautiful Tulips. When my husband got home, he also gave me the biggest heart of Dove Truffle chocolates. It was such a great day!”

-Miranda Aranda

“I remember when I was little, my mom and dad used to give me and my brother pink popcorn hearts. They were really big and delicious.”

-Anonymous

“I got a bear and flowers from someone anonymous, and to this day I still don’t know who gave them to me.”

-Name withheld.

“Bless my husband’s heart, he gives the worst gifts. He called me at work and sounded so excited. When he got there, he had all my kids come in and give me this pretty bag. It was a candle, and it stunk to high heaven... so I smiled and said thank you, and I told them that I really liked it. But truly I didn’t. The things we do for love.”

-Kristin Archer

“My worst Valentine’s Day was my freshman year of high school. My boyfriend wanted to make everything special, but there was one problem: I was in the hospital. I had gotten the flu, which turned into pneumonia. He had brought me candy, a bear, and jewelry. He couldn’t come to visit me, so he had my brother bring me the gifts. It was so embarrassing.”

-A freshman from Sayre

“My best Valentine’s Day was one year when my husband had Carnations delivered to me at my job.”

-Anonymous

“I love my boyfriend dearly, but when we first started dating, he wasn’t always the best at listening. I had previously told him a story about how I hated toe socks and didn’t have any for that reason. Well, all he heard was toe socks. So for Valentine’s Day, he bought me a Valentine’s pair of toe socks, and was so excited to give them to me because he had remembered how I loved them and didn’t have any. I did my best to smile and say thank you. I tried to wear them for a little bit to make him happy, but as soon as they were on, I ripped them right off. They’re still sitting in my drawer three years later.”

-Alyssa Brandon

“My best Valentine’s Day was back when I was in high school. I had been dating my girlfriend, now fiancée, for a while. My school was doing the super lame, “send a Crush soda to your crush.” I, of course, sent her one and on the tag wrote a quote from Romeo and Juliet, “The dice were loaded from the start.” Later, I bought her a dozen roses, we went to dinner, and watched a movie. It was a wonderful Valentine’s Day.”

-Anonymous freshman from Sayre

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Students Re-live Best and Worst Valentine’s Day

Continued from page 7

“Every year my kids and I would make a big deal about making sugar cookies. We had such a good time and would even mail them to loved ones who were not able to be with us. My son and his wife have moved away, but they have continued the tradition with their children and my great nieces and nephews. That brings joy to my heart!” – Paula Gloria

“When I was in middle school, my ex-boyfriend told me he was going to cook my breakfast and do a bunch of sweet things before class. I called him at 7 am and he kept ignoring my call, so I ended up thinking he forgot or decided not to do it. Ten minutes later, he knocked on my door, I opened it, and he is not there, but there were cut hearts leading me down the hall, and on each one was something he loved about me. They led me to him standing in the hallway with my favorite breakfast, and he was dressed in my favorite outfit of his.” – Alex Keyes

“My worst Valentine’s Day was my freshman year of high school. My boyfriend wanted to make everything special, but there was one problem...” – Anonymous

“Every year my kids and I would make a big deal about making sugar cookies. We had such a good time and would even mail them to loved ones who were not able to be with us. My son and his wife have moved away, but they have continued the tradition with their children and my great nieces and nephews. That brings joy to my heart!” – Paula Gloria

“Two years before I left my school in Springfield, my ex-boyfriend told me he was going to cook my breakfast and do a bunch of sweet things before class. I called him at 7 am and he kept ignoring my call, so I ended up thinking he forgot or decided not to do it. Ten minutes later, he knocked on my door, I opened it, and he is not there, but there were cut hearts leading me down the hall, and on each one was something he loved about me. They led me to him standing in the hallway with my favorite breakfast, and he was dressed in my favorite outfit of his.” – Alex Keyes

“When I was in middle school, my mom was a bus driver for the school, and my boyfriend rode her bus. For Valentine’s he gave me a necklace and a card, but when we got to his house he went to kiss me, I turned my head, and he got my cheek. I was hoping my mom did not see it, but let’s just say, I’m still hearing about it five years later!” – Anonymous

“Two years ago, I had one of the best Valentine’s days. My boyfriend and I had just started dating. The first gift he gave me was an empty snuff can. Of course, it was followed by a dozen roses. At this time, his 13-year-old daughter had no idea that her dad and I were dating. Her dad was at my house and started texting her and asked if she received anything for Valentine’s Day. She gave him an answer then asked him if he gave anything to anyone. He told her he gave a girl an empty snuff can. A couple hours later, I texted his daughter and asked her if she had received any valentines; then she asked me the same question. So, I told her I had received an empty snuff can! She waited a little bit, then asked me if I was dating her dad. I told her yes, and she replied, ‘ROCK ON!’” – Miranda Dawson

“Valentine’s Day is for the ones you love. Boyfriends and girlfriends must think Valentine’s is much more. Remember that just because you’re single, divorced, or alone, you really do have ones you love. People that always complain about being single or alone on Valentine’s Day just makes me sick! Valentine’s Day is so much more than that. So many people, hurt from becoming widowed, all reflect on this holiday. Cherish the ones you love every day; one day they might be gone. The year I cried and complained about being single on Valentine’s Day was the year I really lost the one I loved. It can change your point of view on everything.” – Jaci Alford

“As a child Valentine’s Day was always exciting because you’d get to go to school and hand out Valentine’s Day cards to your classmates. When you get older, it’s not as exciting because you really don’t receive any goodies such as chocolates and teddy bears. People look at Valentine’s Day as a day to show others they love them and care for them. When you are older, you can really see the meaning of Valentine’s Day when you have a significant other.” – Erica Lynch

“I don’t like Valentine’s Day. Not because of the sweethearts around every corner, but because of the real reason for the holiday. Greed. Valentine’s Day is simply a hoax to get into your wallet. Only on Valentine’s Day does a person have to pay two times the price for a crappy box of chocolates, or hundreds of dollars for a bundle of flowers you could have picked yourself. If Valentine’s Day was a real holiday, we would get the day off from school and work to spend more time with the ones we love instead of paying way too much for a bunch of useless crap to show your love!” – Anonymous

“A Valentine’s Day that I really liked was when I was in youth group at my church. We set up the fellowship hall and the parlor. We had the tables decorated really pretty, just like they would be if in a restaurant. In the parlor we had a table for about four people to sit, and had a nice Valentine’s dinner. We had nice meals set up for the couples and waited on them just like in a fancy restaurant. I think that this was a very special thing that we did as a community. It was a donation-only thing, so it was a nice meal without paying an arm and a leg for it.” – Kaley Riley
Distance education staff, as well as interested faculty from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, visited the CPDE offices February 7th for a tour and the opportunity to gather information on how to grow and improve the SWOSU eLearning program. Included in the faculty was Dayna Coker, math instructor at the Sayre campus. After a general overview presentation of eLearning operations at UCO, visitors and CPDE staff split into groups for more specialized discussions. Topics included instructional design, graphic design and content creation, student assessment, virtual worlds, as well as organizational structure and program funding.

“SWOSU has a great many decisions to make about their eLearning program and we are humbled that their team opted to visit the UCO Center for Professional and Distance Education’s eLearning program as part of their research,” stated a UCO press release.

“Friends started wanting unique cakes. So now we can make any special event cakes. I love making the specialty cakes. They are very time-consuming, more detailed, and difficult to carve.”

The contact for Custer Sweets is custersweets@gmail.com.

This student has traded the hot sand of the desert for the heat in the kitchen, and we wish her well in her sweet endeavors!
Nationalism Causes Downfall

By Madison Ford

Webster’s International Dictionary defines nationalism as “devotion and loyalty to one’s own nation; the desire for national advancement or independence; asserting the interests of one’s own nation.” To me, nationalism is an excessive sense of pride, one that usually leads to nowhere good. Nationalism is hazardous because it fosters arrogance which leads to a country’s downfall.

Nations throughout history have collapsed because of hubris and nationalism. One of the earliest examples of a nation being overthrown can be found in the Bible. The Babylonian empire was established as a world power by King Hammurabi in 1792 B.C.E. Babylon is viewed in the Bible as a symbol of excessive and absolute power. The Babylonians are known for many scientific discoveries that we still use today. Babylon was a flourishing nation; they were on top of the world and thought no one could change that. But on October 7, 540 B.C.E., Cyrus the Great of Persia diverted the Euphrates River into a canal, and drained the mote surrounding the Babylonian kingdom. Once the water was shallow enough, the Persians walked across and invaded the Babylonians. You might ask, “How did no one see the Persians coming?” The Babylonians were so sure they were on top, that they became careless and let their guard down and were actually having a drunken party the night of the invasion. This kind of reckless pride led to their downfall.

Another example is the overthrow of Benito Mussolini during World War II. Mussolini became Prime Minister of Italy in 1922 and held the title until 1943. He had an important role in the creation of Italian Fascism. Fascism is the idea using nationalism to get rid of all foreign influences that cause culture degeneration, and therefore unifying the nation. It usually supports politically based violence and territorial expansion. Mussolini was so driven by his nationalistic views that he led the Italian army into terrible battles they were unprepared to fight. He wanted to gain back all of Italy’s lost territory and get rid of anyone who didn’t support him. He was known for executing anyone who didn’t support him and his ideas; he even shot his own son-in-law. Support for Mussolini dropped immensely, so much that he endured four assassination attempts. His bad military decisions and extreme fascist views made him hated all over Italy. In 1945, some of his biggest opponents, the Italian anti-fascist partisans, kidnapped in and executed him. They then hung his body up in a public place to be stoned and spat upon. Even in death, his pride caused him to be disrespected.

These examples show us that nationalism does lead to the downfall of a nation. The Babylonian example shows that even if you are a well-developed and advanced nation, there may be a nation who is creeping up from underneath to take you down. This reminds me of the ever-present “Made in China” label on my clothing, my electronics, and etc. It’s interesting that we live in a country where everything is mass produced, yet we’re not the ones producing it. America is drunk on her power and throwing a party for her success, and she is ignoring the fact that her guard is down. When Babylon let its guard down, Persia literally walked into the city and overthrew it. Americans should not let their guard down, because it would be so embarrassing to be taken over by the way Babylon was.

Mussolini is another great example, because it shows that having a strong military and owning a lot of territory doesn’t always make you the strongest. While I do not think that America is a fascist country whatsoever, we sure do like to claim our territory. We’ve been using military power to claim territory since we came to America in the 1600’s and kicked out the Native Americans! Nationalism is very hazardous, and only right to invade any country we want, especially with a strong military to back us up. But America shouldn’t rely so heavily on her military, because it can so easily be taken out. When Italy’s army became weak, they could no longer protect their country. The country was invaded and parts of it were bombed, burned, and ransacked. Mussolini’s pride could not protect Italy. Instead his pride led Italy down a solemn path, and eventually led him to his own death. If America’s military were to become weak, what would we have left?

Americans often use nationalism as a shield; we think saying “America is drunk on her own power and throwing a party for her success . . .”

Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler in Munich, Germany, 1940.

“America is drunk on her power and throwing a party for her success . . .”

“Nationalism ... is like cheap alcohol. First it makes you drunk, then it makes you blind, then it kills you. --Dan Fried

Dictionary

Support for nationalism does lead to the downfall of a nation. The Babylonian example shows that even if you are a well-developed and advanced nation, there may be a nation who is creeping up from underneath to take you down. This reminds me of the ever-present “Made in China” label on my clothing, my electronics, and etc. It’s interesting that we live in a country where everything is mass produced, yet we’re not the ones producing it. America is drunk on her power and throwing a party for her success, and she is ignoring the fact that her guard is down. When Babylon let its guard down, Persia literally...