Let It Snow... for Valentine’s Day and Beyond!

By Naomi Leverett

Two weeks of snow meant three days out of class! The campus was first covered with a blanket of snow on Tuesday, Feb. 12, and as it continued to fall, officials close campus around 9:30 a.m. Eventually Sayre was buried with six inches, according to the official weather service. With the snow melting a little and refreezing overnight, it made the roads very icy on Wednesday morning. But the snow and icy roads didn’t keep the staff and students from enjoying the Valentine Ham-

burger Fry, sponsored by SGA. Ron Kistler and Nancy Sanders, SGA advisors, carted all the groceries across the snow and ice to the Lit Pit, and soon the smell of grilled burgers filled Mackey Hall.

The SGA also sold edible arrangements for Valentine’s Day. They earned a profit of $200. The med-tech students sold chocolate-covered straw-

berries and heart shaped rice Krispy treats—both lucrative and delicious!

Then on Sunday, Feb. 24, the Blizzard of 2013 blew in 7-10 inches, closing classes both Monday and Tuesday. Wednes-
day, the travel was sketchy in places, but the sun was bright!

Weather Hotline Stays 3225

By Elizabeth Underwood

With SWOSU’s new telephone system, the hotline number changed, but after experiencing this batch of winter weather, it has been decided to go back to the 580-774-3225 number. Announcements will be on the website, radio, TV, SWOSU’s Facebook and Twitter (#swosu) accounts, & the SWOSU emergency alert system.

Enroll now for Summer and Fall!

Registrar Terry Billey stated, “Schedules are no longer printed since they were obsolete before we even got them back from the printers. We now use the online version of the schedule, like Weatherford has been doing for a few years.” The link to the on-line version is as follows: https://host2.swosu.edu/cc3_scripts/cc_server.exe

Hurry! Enroll before your favorite classes fill.
Michael Brinkley is one of six SWOSU students who will be presenting a research poster on Oklahoma Research Day. Brinkley is a former Sayre student, currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree on the Weatherford campus. He still works for instructor Earl Bales and is often seen tweaking computers or installing programs around here.

Brinkley’s project will be on “clustering,” using several, perhaps 18, computers to do the work of a super computer, to render objects much faster than normal.

This year’s Oklahoma Research Day will be held March 8, 2013 at the Wellness Center on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. Now in its 14th year, Oklahoma Research Day is a premier annual event celebrating student and faculty research, creative, and scholarly activities. The event has grown in numbers and in stature with contributions from all of Oklahoma’s institutions of higher education, including many collaborative contributions from national and international academic and research institutions.

Attendance at the annual event has surpassed 1,200 students, faculty, and guests. Students benefit from working with faculty who are regularly involved in research and scholarly activity. Highly motivated students, like Michael, are encouraged to collaborate on a research project during their junior or senior years. Students are encouraged to use the research or books from Amazon or a bookstore.

Each set of questions is worth 10 points. Students can e-mail these questions as an attachment or print them out and turn them in to their Language Arts instructor.

Not all classes allow students to do this for extra credit. Ask your instructor before joining.

If you have any further questions, you may contact Judy Haught in Mackey Hall or any other Language Arts instructor on campus.

Michael Brinkley will represent us on Oklahoma Research Day.
The BCM Director Enjoys His Ministry

By Kaley Riley

The director of the SWOSU @ Sayre BCM is Benny Locklar. He is married to Crystal and they have a 1 year old son named Malachi. Benny is hoping to be able to provide a safe place for students to come hang out and visit, and to provide spiritual guidance and encouragement.

When you are feeling overwhelmed, just drop by the BCM for a quiet place to study and relax. Benny says his duties are to “be a minister on the campus to both students and faculty.” He has been a Youth Minister for 12 years and when the job for BCM Director opened up, he decided he would take it.

The BCM has Noondays on Wednesday’s from 11:30 to 1, where students can go to get a free meal. The meals are provided by area churches. The building is also open daily and they provide free drinks and snacks. You can also go there to use their free WIFI. They also have a television, ping pong table, and for those of you who like to play piano, there’s one of those too. Next time you need a quiet place to study or just to hang out with friends, visit the BCM.

The BCM is located on the Northeast corner of the campus, north of the Library.

Editorial: When Children Suffer

At the beginning of this month, we were all sick with worry over a 6-year-old boy who was being held in an underground bunker by a mad man, and we grieved over the murder of the bus driver who tried to prevent the boy’s kidnapping. It brought a jolt of disgust because we haven’t even healed from news of 20 children and 6 adults gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14.

In the days that followed, we have cried, prayed, questioned God, and discussed guns and ammunition designed for maximum damage, but we don’t have any real answers to the mind-boggling questions that haunt us. I read a column by William Wright, a published author and columnist for the Cleveland Daily Banner, and I was impressed. He explains so well the question that teachers and preachers and leaders often fail to answer: WHY? He has had nearly 50,000 hits on his online article. See if you don’t appreciate some of his comments, too.

He describes how emotionally disturbed he was that the “unimaginable had happened in what some had called ‘the safest place in America.’” Then he quoted Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy at a news conference: “Evil visited this community today.” So far it has been impossible to understand a motive behind this kind of cruel bloodshed. Many feel no reason will ever be good enough to explain this shocking attack on innocent lives.” He points out that “While these reports are a stark reminder that we live in the most dangerous era of human history, they also confirm the accuracy of the Bible’s description of what life would be like in what it calls ‘The Last Days,’ at 2 Timothy 3:1-5.”

In those verses, it was foretold that people would live in “terrible times” when people would be “brutal,” according to the New International Version. The King James Version of 2 Timothy 3:3 says people would be “fierce, despisers of those that are good,” and in 13 that evil men “will grow worse and worse.” Does that fit the description of what we are seeing on an unprecedented scale? We blame video games, gun control, and mental illness, but is it something bigger than that? If, as Malloy stated, ‘Evil visited this community,’ there has to be a source of evil.

“If God is the source of goodness, who is the source of evil?” asks the columnist. “At Revelation 12:12, God’s Word foretold, ‘How terrible for the earth and the sea! For the Devil has come down to you, and he is filled with rage, because he knows that he has only a little time left.’ — Good News Translation. To dismiss this wicked spirit in the equation of brutal violence against innocent children, would be to ignore scriptural reasoning,” Wright says. The Devil’s pattern of evil is recorded for us in the Bible when evil visited another community—when King Herod gave orders to put to death all the boys of Bethlehem and its districts who were 2 years of age and younger. Those mothers and fathers wept just like the ones in Connecticut—and Columbine, Virginia Tech, and the list goes on. At John 8:44 Jesus told the false religious leaders who would eventually murder him: “Your father is the devil. You are his children, and you want to do what your father wants. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has never stood for the truth, because there’s no truth in him.” — Common English Bible. Now we have an answer for who and why.

Wright adds, “For those who look for answers when nothing else makes sense, God’s Word has been a real source of comfort.” It explains Satan is at the root of most of our troubles.

Wright says when we acknowledge the existence of Satan, we realize the need for God in our lives. It hurts my heart when people say, “It was their time to go” or God took the little children.” No! In Jesus’ day, a tower fell and some people accidentally died. Others questioned if it was God’s work, and Jesus asked them if those people were more righteous or less righteous than anybody else. No, they weren’t. So accidents sometimes happen that are not the direct will of God. No, it wasn’t their time; they were only children! And no, God isn’t a murderer; our own imperfections are often to blame, or “time and chance” (Eccl. 9:11). So what hope is there? Wright explains, “At Psalms 37:10-11, we are told that very soon and ‘the wicked one will be no more,’ but ‘the meek ones themselves will possess the earth and they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.’ — New World Translation. At that time, death will be no more, according to Revelation 21:4. Almighty God will undo all the pain that innocent men, women and children have suffered, directly or indirectly, due to Satan’s evil influence. I John 3:8 says, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” — New International Version. Not only his works, but Romans 16:20 says, “the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.” — New King James Version. Wright concludes, “We can be assured that the One who sees all things will make His people whole again, happy again and prosperous forever in a new heaven and new earth where righteousness is to dwell.” So while we wait for that day of comfort, we can take notice of the behavior of others and notify someone in authority if one makes threats and purchases a gun or amps up practicing with a gun. We can STOP falsely “comforting” others by saying “It was God’s will.” Blame Satan instead! Tell them God will make it right and reverse the works of the Devil—even resurrecting the dead. As surely as Satan is a murderer, God is a life-giver. I hope this brings comfort to those who ask why, as it certainly did for me.

By Terry Ford.
A Class You’ll Actually Show Up For?

By Dalton Kirtley

Ever wished for a class that is not offered at Sayre? A survey of students revealed that many of us have! So listen up, Dean or Registrar: This is our wish list!

#1. Cooking/culinary arts. Of course, the number one desired college class would involve food.

#2. Concealed Weapons/ Gun-Smithing courses. If you’re going to pack heat, you need to know how to fix it.

#3. Special Effects Makeup. Everyone wants to be beautiful. For some it comes naturally; this class is for the other 80%.

#4. Photography. Believe it or not, some people like taking pictures. Sayre used to offer this, but now that you just hold up your phone and click, I wouldn’t think a class would be necessary.

#5. Agriculture/Horticulture. Farmers’ town; farmers’ class. Bonus points for cleaning dead flowers out of the atrium . . . .

#6. Bowling. Sounds like a good excuse to get out of classwork to me! But hey, we have a bowling alley downtown.

#7. Dancing. Not only is it a good source of exercise, but also an excellent way to pick up women!

#8. Ropes Course. Everyone needs to know how to tie knots. Just kidding. Isn’t this for folks with trust issues? Or who just like falling backwards into the hands of total strangers?

#9. Arts Program. It appears that when people enroll in a course with “Art” in the title, they want finger paints, oils, and pastels, not worksheets and text books.

#10. Sign language. Apparently a few of our students are outraged at the though of discontinuing this course. They are waving frantically, but saying nothing. But guess what? The Sayre campus still offers this every fall at night.

#11. “The Science of Harry Potter.” Jarrod Manning said he would enjoy a class called this. Sadly, he is the only one. Perhaps Mrs. Ford could talk him into “Star Wars Mythology and Philosophy,” because she’s the only one who wants that one.
Meet Cancer Survivor Jolene Bales

By Rachel Ryan

Jolene Bales works on the campus, at the bookstore. The wigs are gone; so are the head-scarves. Her hair has grown back nicely. Jolene is a cancer survivor.

She is happily married to husband Gene, and she has a son named Kevin, and daughter-in-law Kristen, and another son named Steven, and daughter-in-law Erin.

She is one happy grandmother for grand-daughter Aniston.

Jolene attends the First Baptist church in Sayre. Before working on campus, she ran the bowling alley in Sayre for 18 years. She was ready for something new, so she sold it. Then she heard about the job opening at the SWOSU Follet bookstore. She loves the hours and working with books. She had a history with books—she had been a librarian at the Sayre Public Library and loved it.

Jolene found out that she had cancer a year ago at the end of this month. She had gone to have a CT Scan for a swollen lymph node, so they did a biopsy. A week later, she was told she had Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. She was considered a Stage 4 and 38% of her bone marrow was affected.

“I was shocked,” said Jolene, “but it was just a number, not a death sentence.” She knew then that she was not going to just take it lying down, she was going to fight! Jolene’s family was scared, like any family would be, but she reassured them, and they were strong for her. Jolene was quick to say she had an amazing support group and it really helped her.

“You don’t really realize who your true friends and family are until something like this happens to you; it’s true,” she said. She had good examples to look to—two aunts and two uncles who had cancer, and one special student. This student was attending college, was a single mother, and was fighting breast cancer.

“She was always happy and didn’ let it get her down,” said Jolene. “She inspired me to stay positive.”

Jolene’s first treatment was April 18, 2012. She had chemo on a Friday, she recalls. She took six treatments altogether, yet the chemo never made her sick. She continued to work at the bookstore, but was often weak. She was called the day before school started in August and told she was clear of the cancer. She has had two CT Scans and everything looks great.

Jolene is thankful to God for the trial and for healing her. She also believes attitude is everything.

“Don’t take what the doctors say. Fight it!” she advises others. “Don’t dwell on it; take it a day at a time.”

I hope this story of a courageous woman of faith inspired you like it has me.

C.A.B. Sells Pink T-shirts for Cancer Fund Raiser

By Rachel Ryan

Several SWOSU organizations in Weatherford are asking the question: Are you tough enough to wear pink?

Over the next few months, the Collegiate Activities Boards (CAB) is selling hot pink t-shirts for $10 to raise funds and awareness for cancer research. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society Relay for life event later this Spring, and CAB has an ACTion packed calendar of benefit events.

ACT 1 is the Wrangle the Rangers Pink Out of Saturday, February 28, at Rankin Williams Fieldhouse. When the SWOSU basketball teams take on NWOSU, all fans are asked to wear pink. Any student fans with the official Tough Enough t-shirts will be eligible to win an ipad at halftime of the men’s game.

ACT II comes Saturday, March 30, when the SWOSU GOLD Tough Enough Classic 5K begins at 9 a.m. at the SWOSU Clock Tower. The first 200 runners get free Tough Enough to Wear Pink t-shirts.

The final, ACT III, is Tough Enough Night at the SWOSU rodeo on Friday, April 12, when rodeo goers are invited to wear pink, along with cowboys and cowgirls.
By: Brisa Garza

With the Spring semester in full swing, here’s a list of epic adventures that allow you to get to know the campus and have fun while doing it.

1. **Take cheesy photos with the buffalo.**
   No, our mascot is NOT a buffalo. So why, you ask. Well, the city authorized the high school art class to dedicate the Bison to the town of Sayre, and we got the wild-est one. Can you find the other two in town?

2. **Attend an event at the Weatherford Campus!**
   Check out a jazz festival, art show, musical or theatrical production, or a frat party. Our sister campus has it all.

3. **Talk your whole class into skipping class and playing basketball in the gym!**
   Let your inner Thunder roar!

4. **Play volleyball at midnight!**
   Yes, we have a volleyball sand pit in the southwest corner of the campus.

5. **Help a bewildered new student find SMH 131!**
   It’s the “hidden classroom” that only upperclassmen know how to find.

6. **Eat in the Lit Pit.** Free food on Mondays!

7. **Play ping pong at the BCM.** Just do it like Forrest!
8. **Attend Lit Club**  
Argue over an antagonist! Moralize the theme! Meetings are Wednesdays at 1, and snacks are served, too.

9. **Study at the Gazebo**  
Its rustic charm will relax and rejuvenate.

10. **Take a walk around the walking track to relieve stress.**  
Where? It circles the volleyball pit and the gazebo.

11. **Clean and plant flowers in the atrium!**  
In Mackey Hall on Earth Day

12. **Buy a souvenir from the book store!**  
Lanyard anyone?

13. **Take a nap in the library—after all it’s quiet!**  
A sofa, TV, and headset await.
By Jaci Alford

Many students at SWOSU Sayre have children or are expecting. College is hard, and even harder if you are trying to raise a family.

Chelsi Jones, a sophomore at SWOSU Sayre, has three children. She finds it a challenge to balance school and time with her children and fiancé.

“I want my kids to know that I am going to school to better myself for them,” says Chelsi. She does most of her homework in between classes here at Sayre.

“I study while the kids are at school and daycare,” says Jones. “Sometimes studying is more important than housework. You have to let some things slide. I made a deal with my 8-year-old that if he will help keep the house clean this semester, we will take him to a Thunder game.”

Naomi Leverett is expecting a baby boy June 25. Naomi is going to have plenty of help from her family so that she can still finish college. She thinks that being away from her baby while at school will be the hardest part.

Alyssa Duenas takes care of her 6-year-old sister, and she finds it helpful to study together. “We sit down together at the kitchen table and do our homework,” says Duenas. That way, the little one gets to imitate the older sibling and learn good study habits, too.

College and raising a child can be a challenge, but doing it at the same time is the hardest. Talk to other students who have been there and ask what tips they can offer for surviving parenthood, work and school.

“Harlem Shake” dance shuffles up SWOSU students

By Jaci Alford

The flash mob craze continues to bring impromptu dancing to malls, restaurants and other public places. The newest video/dancing craze is the “Harlem Shake,” a YouTube sensation. One unidentified person begins to dance, then at a certain point in the song, the crowd joins in and does as the Spanish lyrics suggest—they go crazy, shaking the upper torso and shoulders.

The song “Harlem Shake” is by Baauer. See the Bulldog Mascot leading Weatherford students on YouTube.

There’s talk of a Sayre version involving overalls, chickens, and pitchforks. See Dalton Kirtley to plan it.

Buy BBQ, Help Boys Soccer!

By Elizabeth Underwood

Ms. Holly Hernandez, instructor, moonlights as the sponsor of the 04 Fusion Boys Soccer team! She is holding a fundraiser selling baby back pork ribs, fully cooked, for $20 per slab. They are ready to heat and eat or store in the fridge or freezer! Orders will be taken until March 3. The team will deliver the orders. For any additional information, contact Holly Hernandez at (580) 309-0798 or e-mail at holly.hernandez@swosu.edu.