SAYRE’S 43-YEAR-OLD MYSTERY FINALLY UNRAVELING!

By Dalton Kirtley

From local newspapers all the way to CNN and Anderson Cooper 360, the news of finding two cars and the remain of six persons entombed at Foss Lake sent shockwaves throughout the nation. The driver’s license of Jimmy Williams of Sayre was found in the ‘69 Chevy Camaro that police have been searching for since November 20, 1970, when he and two acquaintances disappeared seemingly into thin air. Mike Bagzis, husband of math instructor Renee Bagzis, worked for the Sheriff’s Office and worked on the cold case. He told The WatchDawg that he didn’t rule out the possibility of foul play, but believed that more than likely an accident had occurred.

Students had this to say:

“I am not from here, but I was working at the grocery store when I was told about the mystery. When I was at Puckett’s working, we had Channel 4 News reporters show up.” – Allisa Davis

“The Sayre Mystery . . . I think was a murder! There is absolutely no way that the same number of people were in both cars and both cars just happened to be right beside each other. That is too coincidental.” – Jessica Abner

“There was foul play. If they ‘wrecked,’ surely one out of the six people could escape from the car.” – Hannah Holloway

(Continued on page 5)

Why the Buzz on a Cold Case?

By Terry Ford

If you are from Sayre, the story of Jimmy Williams feels like it’s your story. If you went to school with him, you remember his face, that shock of long hair, brown with blonde highlights, his cowboy boots, that blue ‘69 Chevy Camaro cruising past the skating rink.

(Continued on page 2)
Why the Buzz, cont’d

(Continued from page 1)

If you were older, you remember his parents, their home, how they suffered silently, waiting by the phone as the clock ticked into weeks, months, years; and how you hugged your own child tighter at night when you were haunted by thoughts of “What would I do if that were me?” You remember the small town gossip, as everyone put in their two cents.

If you were younger, you went to school with one of Jimmy’s younger siblings, Rick, Gary, or Sherri. You heard them talk about their brother, not all the time, but on occasions, always wondering, wondering: *Wish we’d had Amber Alerts back in 1970. We should put Jimmy’s disappearance on that new show Unsolved Mysteries. Wonder if Jimmy will show up for Mother’s funeral.*

The passing of another decade meant that you went to school with Jimmy’s nieces and nephews, and they talked about it, late at night on a dark road riding past the cemetery: “*Hey, have y’all ever heard about those three kids who went missing?*” The old timers had speculated, conjectured, and hypothesized about what could have happened, where the kids would be found, if they could ever be found, or whodunit.

Even if you didn’t attend Sayre High, you read the re-occurring story in the paper, either when resurrected by the editor or when family made a public appeal for information or held a vigil in remembrance.

So it isn’t surprising really that everywhere you went last week, someone would say, “Hey, what year did you graduate?” and you knew what was coming. They wanted to talk about Jimmy’s story—the lore, the legend, his memory—and the empty space his disappearance had left in their lives. It was either a literal empty space in the chair he sat in at the dinner table or in a desk he had occupied next to you in class, or it was the lonely empty space that ached in your heart, when you, as a fellow human being, contemplated the possibility of someone you love vanishing into thin air—without a trace.

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Lit Fest Presents Distinguished Speakers

By: Kaley Riley

SWOSU’s Literary Festival is coming up and will be hosting several events including guest speakers. Please check out this exciting line-up of important folks!

**Mr. Bob Burke** has written more historical non-fiction books, totaling 118, than anyone else in history! Burke is also publishing a book that local SWOSU students had a hand in writing in Mrs. Terry Ford’s English classes.

Burke was born in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. He and his wife, Chimene, reside in Oklahoma City, where he practices law and writes books.

Burke graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma and a law degree from Oklahoma City University.

He was director of what is now the Department of Commerce in the administration of Governor David Boren and managed Boren’s first campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1978. He is also a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

**Dr. Jerry Nye** is a retired English professor from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He was a faculty member for 32 years, serving as Director of Freshman English for 11 years and chairman of the Language Arts Department for 21 years. During his years at Southwestern, he taught a wide range of courses in Literature, methods of teaching English, and adolescent literature. He conducted numerous workshops for English teachers. He has presented more than 300 book reviews for libraries, civic organizations, book clubs, and senior citizens groups. He is also the author of *Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First 100 years, a history of the University*. For the past 13 years, he has written a weekly column, “Matchbook Memories,” for The Lindsay News. The columns are primarily nostalgic reminiscences of the years that have past.

Dr. Nye was recently appointed by Governor Mary Fallen to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority. He was recently appointed by President Randy Beutler to serve on the Southwestern Museum Board. In his 39 years of teaching, Dr. Nye served in several capacities such as high school boys and girls basketball coach, junior college men’s baseball coach, junior college women’s basketball coach, high school and junior college English teacher, and high school principal. Dr. Nye is a Korean War Veteran, served as a bulldozer operator in the Corps of Engineers. He also worked as a floor director at KTEN-TV in Ada and an oil field worker.

Dr. Nye holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from East Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma, a Master of Arts degree from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. His wife, Juanita, is a retired educator. His son, Dr. Vance Nye, is an attorney in Enid, Oklahoma. His other son, Dr. Chad Nye, is an assistant Professor of Broadcast Journalism at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. He has three grandchildren—Christopher, Laurie Beth, and Walker.

Another distinguished speaker is **Ms. Jan Davis**. She is the Administrative Archivist for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and is also a member of the Oklahoma Cultural Heritage Trust Planning Council.

(Continued on page 4)
Step up to the Mic

By Abbey White

Do you write poetry, sing, or play guitar? If you have the talent, here is your chance to perform! An "Open Mic Night" will be held October 9th at Gallery@112 downtown on Main Street in Sayre.

As one of the events in the SWOSU Literary Festival that is taking place all day on October 9th, this event has been scheduled for 5 p.m. that evening. Everyone is welcome to step up to the mic and share.

In addition to the usual crowd of local poets and artists, the students in Mrs. Terry Ford’s two sections of Introduction to Public Speaking are being asked to speak publically at the Open Mic Night. They may read a favorite poem, read a poem of their own, perform a soliloquy, act, or do just about anything they wish, according to Mrs. Ford, as long as they step up to the mic.

“The Forum is open, so I expect to see an interesting variety of public performances,” stated Ford.

Open Mic Night

“Noteworthy Inspirations” features your writing

By Shelby Duran

Some of SWOSU’s very own student writers will be speaking at this year’s Literary Festival, and their writings have been published in an anthology.

The Panel Discussion will be held on October 9, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in Mackey Hall 135. The Moderator will be Dr. Jerry Nye.

The students will address questions about their writing. Some of their poetry, essays and/or photography are being featured in the 2013 Anthology of Student Writing, named “Noteworthy Inspirations.” It will be distributed during the Literary Festival (featuring the theme “Noteworthy Oklahomans”) free for the first 50 students.

The 74-page publication contains the works of English composition classes from spring, summer, and fall semesters of 2013. The beautiful colored photos are all works of our SWOSU students.

The anthologies cover photos to this year was taken by student Sandra Pena, as shown below.

The inspiration for the theme is Western Oklahoma. Sponsors include Language Arts instructors Judy Haught and Terry Ford. The book was designed and compiled by two Sayre students, Rebecca Dobbs (photograph at bottom left) and DeShawna Smyth (upper right).
Win $25 with your ART!

The Rivers Edge Arts Society is sponsoring an open art exhibit for high school and college students in conjunction with the SWOSU-Sayre Literary Festival which takes place Wednesday, October 9.

The art show will be held in the Gallery@112 from October 1 until October 12, 2013. Students may show all types of media, including photography, pen/pencil/pastel, oils, acrylics, watercolor, sculpture or mixed media. The artwork must have been completed since October 2012 and be ready to hang (matted, framed, etc) on art panels.

A Best of Show cash award of $25 will be presented, with ribbons awarded for the best work in each medium.

Judging will be done by selected members of the Rivers Edge Arts Society.

(Continued from page 2)

She works with the permanent records of the state government which are housed at the Department in the State Archives. She also works with the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, one of the sponsors of the Archives Month poster.

Oklahoma is home to more than 500 libraries, archives, and museums that hold amazingly historical collections of information about our great state’s past. The annual Images of Oklahoma poster is designed to highlight the unique nature of those collections and to draw attention to the wealth of information resources that surround us.

This presentation will include a discussion of some of the digital resources about Oklahoma provided by these institutions.

Davis has a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science and a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma; as well as a Certified Archivist and Certifies Records Manager. She has proudly dedicated twelve years with the Department of Libraries as an Archivist/Records Management Specialist. Davis’s primary activities include managing the State Archives and State Records Center and is currently in the process of digitalizing all the records.

SWOSU is very honored to have long-time educator Ms. Patti Macumber at this event. Macumber will teach a workshop, as well as present some of her own works. The dramatic monologue she performed at last year’s open mic night brought many in the audience to tears. She taught at Sayre High School as the Advanced Placement English teacher and led award-winning choirs in the vocal music program. She also coached drama class and had many students return from State competitions as Champions. After retiring from Sayre, she continued her career by becoming a principal in the Texas school system. She has always been active in many, many community projects, from the Miss Sayre Pageant to Gallery@112. She often performs in Sayre’s community theatre, as well as Elk City’s Red Carpet Community Theatre.

So, try to take some time out of your day to listen to these guest speakers!
By Rowdy Cloud

New York Times Best-Selling Author, Ted DeKker does it again.

He loves them because they are beautiful. He kills them because he loves them.

In his 2010 thriller, *The Bride Collector*, a virtuoso killer is carving a path of death across the west, intent on killing only the most beautiful women, all in the name of love. He has claimed six victims and slipped through the FBI’s fingers, each time leaving behind a hand written note and a bridal veil.

Special agent Brad Raines has hunted the Bride Collector from crime scene to crime scene, but each time finds himself one step behind. Desperate for help, Raines turns to the Center for Wellness and Intelligence, a private home for gifted, mentally-ill residents. There, he finds help in an unlikely group of four who eagerly agree to help him solve the case.

Raines is quickly drawn to an unlikely young woman named Paradise who struggles with psychosis. As they grow closer, he begins to see the world through her eyes. Together they enter the killer’s deadly game and begin to close in. But like Paradise, the Bride Collector is supremely gifted and he has a distinct advantage: This is his game.

Now Paradise will be pushed beyond her limits. She will learn what it means to be beautiful and what it means to love, really love. Full of surprising wit and hair-raising twists that will keep you riveted to the end, *The Bride Collector* will haunt you with a new way of looking at beauty, love and the world in which you live. *(This information is taken from the cover of the book.)*

Ted DeKker’s astounding writing method and skill is enough to pull any one deep into any one of his books. He has written numerous books in numerous genres. His talents for imagery, suspense, and ability to get inside the human heart and mind are extraordinary. I personally give it two thumbs up. *The Bride Collector* makes a great book to add to your personal library.

Unraveled Mystery, Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

“What would you do if your loved ones just came up missing and they never found them? Waiting would drive me nuts.” —Virginia Delk

“I was shocked . . . they were either murdered or they might have just rolled off the boat ramp and into the lake . . .” —Megan Hoevet

“I don’t think that the people in the cars just went missing. I think that they were murdered.”— Chris Arganbright

“I felt that it was strange how two different accidents happened in the same spot, and that there was no significant damage to the vehicles.” —Nicole Galindo

“It’s hard to tell if there was foul play involved in these two wrecks. People want to believe that it was an accident, but after 40 years of being under water, it is going to be hard to tell. All this new technology just might shed some light on this mystery.” -- John Lewis

“I feel like it was just an accident. Maybe they were drinking or just not paying attention and having fun. It does seem like a coincidence that they went missing eighteen months apart and have been found right next to each other.” —Robin Chavez

“It’s hard for me to hear about it, as I raised three teens myself. I can’t for a second say I understand the parents’ pain, but I do hope this brings some peace to those family members that are still living.” —Brenda Lee Harris

“Whatever it was that happened, I hope they figure it out. Just the not knowing what happened—I feel for whatever family had to deal with that type of pain.”—Chelsea Coffey
The Wedding

Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013
Volume 9, issue 2
By: Clifton Keahey

The wedding is about an engaged couple traveling to the future bride’s parents’ home. The father tries his best to save all the money so they can have the wedding in their backyard in Muskogee. They hire an Elvis impersonator who thinks he is really Elvis to perform at the reception and a Russian funeral home beautician to do the make-up. The ceremony gets rained out, which causes the ceremony to be moved inside to the basement. If the Russian beautician and the groom’s grandfather can stop wrestling over the last can of Vienna Sausage, left over from rehearsal dinner . . . For the rest of the story, be sure to attend one of the two performances.

The cast: Heart of Western Oklahoma Homeschoolers

Cody Milner—Reydon  Lily Dowdy—Elk City
Kelsey Brewer—Elk City  Daniel Thompson—Elk City
Dylan Brewer—Elk City  Joshua Thompson—Elk City
Paden Dowdy—Elk City  Mahala Spillers—Elk City
Destiney Bailey—Sayre  Darla Kilhoffer—Burns Flat

Mr. Swartwood realizes that this has interfered with conducting classes, and thanks everyone for their patience and caring during this time of family crisis. He is staying in contact with his classes through D2L and e-mail, as well as being present when he can.

“We really appreciate all the prayers,” he stated, adding that those who are concerned can stay up-to-date on the progress at www.caringbridge.org.

Tragedy Hits Close to Home

A fatal motor vehicle accident occurred 5 miles south of Cheyenne on Highway 283 on Sept 12th. Injured in the accident were the grandsons and daughter of SWOSU-Sayre’s math instructor, Bill Swartwood. The other vehicle involved was driven by Elva Garcia, who worked as an RN at Cheyenne. She died in the accident.

Mr. Swartwood stated, “My youngest grandson is in good condition with minor bruising. The older one, Stockton, has a brace around his upper torso to stabilize his spine because of compression fractures of the L4 and L5 vertebrae, breaks of his sternum, right knee, right leg, right angle, left elbow and three ribs. He is recuperating at our home in Elk City. Trauma surgeons will begin repairing my daughter’s right leg this week. She has already had extensive surgery on the left leg and we expect more surgery in the future.”

Mr. Brewer Pens Another Play

“The Wedding”

By: Clifton Keahey

The play will be performed in the Connor Building Room 313 at 12:00 p.m. and at 12:45 p.m. Erin Brewer is a drama teacher for the Heart of Western Oklahoma Homeschoolers. She will be directing the play for the Literary Festival.
The Freedom Tower, as it is being called, was completed in May and once again, a skyscraper dominates New York City’s skyline. At a staggering height of 1,776 feet, One World Trade Center (its official name) is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere and the fourth-tallest skyscraper in the world by pinnacle height. Its spire reaches a symbolic height of 1,776 feet (541 m) in reference to the year of the United States Declaration of Independence. It will house approx. 2.9 million square feet of office space as well. An April 2012 estimate put the project’s cost to the United States at approx. $3.9 billion. The newest technology has been used to make it the safest skyscraper ever built.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun Facts about College. By Todd Garrett

1. Typically, the worst paying majors are Social Work, Theology, Elementary Education, Music, Spanish, Horticulture, Education, Fine Arts, Hospitality/Tourism, and Drama.

2. In the United States, there is little difference between the terms “college” and “university.” However, the term “college” in other countries, such as Canada, refers to a junior college or trade college, where as a “university” is larger, more research focused, and usually contains multiple colleges.

3. The majors with the best pay include engineering, economics, and physics.

4. Harvard Stadium was the first reinforced concrete structure in the world

5. Famous college dropouts include Reggie Jackson, Steve Jobs, Ben Affleck, Woody Allen, Hans Christian Anderson, Dan Ackroyd, Kate Beckinsale, James Cameron, and Mark Zuckerberg (founder of Facebook).

6. Approximately 2.94 million U.S. students graduate from more than 27,000 high schools each year, meaning each college applicant is competing against 27,000 valedictorians, 27,000 salutatorians, 27,000 student government presidents, and 27,000 editors-in-chief.

7. Yale selects a freshman class of 1,300 from nearly 20,000 applications each year

8. The SAT was developed by Carl Brigham who, in the early twentieth century, felt that American education was declining due to racial mixing. The SAT was administered for the first time to high school students in 1926.

9. At Lincoln University in Oxford, Pennsylvania, students with a BMI (Body Mass Index) of 30 or higher are required to take a physical education class before they are allowed to graduate!

10. Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902), a British imperialist who established the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships (first awarded in 1904) contended that the British were the “first race in world.”

All facts via www.randomhistory.com

Remembering Sept. 11th

By Todd Garrett

The Freedom Tower, as it is being called, was completed in May and once again, a skyscraper dominates New York City’s skyline. At a staggering height of 1,776 feet, One World Trade Center (its official name) is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere and the fourth-tallest skyscraper in the world by pinnacle height. Its spire reaches a symbolic height of 1,776 feet (541 m) in reference to the year of the United States Declaration of Independence. It will house approx. 2.9 million square feet of office space as well. An April 2012 estimate put the project’s cost to the United States at approx. $3.9 billion. The newest technology has been used to make it the safest skyscraper ever built.
Lit Club Meets on Wednesdays

The Literary Club meets every Wednesday in the “Lit Pit” at 1 p.m.

The Lit Pit is in Mackey Hall by room 136.

The current book is Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn, a mystery about a man whose beautiful young wife disappears on the morning of their wedding anniversary.

Students that attend can earn ten extra credit points for each meeting and ten points for each set of discussion questions done, if their instructors participate.

Ms. Terry Ford, Ms. Judy Haight and Mr. Landry Brewer are some of the instructors who allow their students to participate and count the points toward their classes.

For students who can’t attend the meetings on Wednesday, there is an option to join on-line.

For more information about Lit Club, go to www.swosu.edu/sayre/orgs/lit-club.asp.

Prof Discovers New Bee!

A new species of native bee from Oklahoma was recently discovered by Dr. Victor H. Gonzalez Betancourt, an assistant professor and researcher in the Biology Department at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

The new bee, known from Ellis and Blaine counties, was named Anthidium michenerorum after the influential bee biologist Charles Duncan Michener and his wife Mary from the University of Kansas. The new Okie bee belongs to a group of solitary bees commonly known as “wool carder bees” because their cotton-like brood cells are made of plant hairs.

“Although most people think of bees merely as honey bees, in reality there are more than 20,000 bee species worldwide,” Betancourt said. “One-quarter of this diversity occurs in North America, particularly in the western United States.”

Like most bees, the new bee from Oklahoma does not live in colonies nor does it make honey. However, it plays an important role in the pollination of wild and cultivated plants. Betancourt said bees are the most important pollinators of plants on the planet and their greatest abundance and diversity is in warm-temperate and dry areas.

“The United States has almost twice the number of native bee species found in Brazil,” said Dr. Terry L. Griswold, a scientist at the USDA bee lab in Logan, Utah and coauthor of the research article published this summer in the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society.

Researchers have estimated that in North America alone bees are essential to the production of about 3 billion dollars worth of fruit each year. Thus, recent studies of populations and species declines worldwide have raised global environmental and economic concern.

“Bees are disappearing in front of our eyes, unfortunately, well before we can learn anything about them,” Betancourt said. “The bee fauna of the U.S. is relatively well known but identifying the majority of species is often difficult and sometimes impossible, even for specialists, because identification guides are outdated, many species are known from only a few samples, many are new to science, and many areas of the country are still poorly surveyed, including Oklahoma.”

Twenty other new bee species, 10 of them from North America, were also documented in the same article announcing the discovery of the Okie bee. As research continues, many other new species are expected to be discovered and documented.

“Next time you see a bee on a flower in your garden, you might be looking at a new bee species,” Betancourt said.
On Thursday, September 19, the Hematology I & Phlebotomy class traveled to Jackson County Memorial Hospital in Altus, Oklahoma to tour the lab. The students were able to see the wide array of testing that is now available and the instrumentation used for the testing. The tour was led by Sue McDowell, Chief Technologist, and graduate of the medical technology program at SWOSU at Sayre.

On Friday, Nov. 1, the MLT Club will be honored by the Oklahoma State Society of the American Medical Technologists state meeting will be held in CB 313. The MLT Club would like to announce that we will be having our annual Valentine’s Day fundraiser during the spring semester.

Also, we would like thank the Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses of Sayre for the generous monetary donation they made to the MLT Club.
By Erica Lynch

SWOSU student Cris Bankston, 24, was born with Cystic Fibrosis. His disease has progressed through the years, and he is in need of a double-lung transplant.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic progressive disease of the exocrine glands that causes thick, sticky mucus, mainly in the lungs and GI tract. Cris now suffers from chronic productive cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, and frequent lung infections.

He has spent many nights and days in the hospital throughout his life due to this disease.

He is currently undergoing the "work-up" process to become a candidate on the transplant list. He will be making at least two trips per month to Oklahoma City during this time to undergo different physical and psychological testing. Once he is accepted as a candidate, the surgery will be performed at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

The surgery procedure, hospitalization, and medications are very costly. Cris's insurance will only be covering the surgery procedure and some medications. He will be required to live within three miles of the hospital for 3-4 months after the procedure due to the need for close monitoring by surgeons for possible rejection and frequent blood work.

Cris will also be responsible for cost-of-living expenses such as rent, gas, groceries, and other expenses not covered by insurance. He will require a caretaker 24 hours a day during these months while undergoing the "work-up" process to become a candidate on the transplant list. He will be making at least 2 trips per month to Oklahoma City during this time to undergo different physical and psychological testing.

By Erica Lynch

On September 28th from 10 AM to 2 PM Team Bankston will be putting on a 5K called Run to Cure Cris, along with a Poker Run, Auction and Raffle held at Ackley Park in Elk City to aid in raising money for Cris Bankston’s double lung transplant.

There will be un for the whole family! Bring your kids, a space bounce will be available at the event!! Hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks will be served from 12-2.

For more information about the Benefit Event you can go to www.facebook.com/#!/teambankston.curecris.

Cris and his family would greatly appreciate any financial donations. A savings account has been set up at Great Plains National Bank in Elk City under the name of Team Bankston.

Above all, they would appreciate your thoughts and prayers.