By Chris Trent

Sometimes you have to climb mountains to get an education—literally.

“I wish they would hurry up,” is the unanimous comment heard on campus.

“Looks like a Chris Christie Catastrophe,” said Mrs. Renee Bagzis.

I know that everyone has noticed the road construction going on right down the middle of our dear campus.

It has affected us all in ways; from being late for class due to flat tires to crossing the dusty roads and mounds of dirt shuffling from class to class.

While the construction is being done by Tom Hudson Paving Co. out of Edmond, OK, it is a city funded project.

The job will take around 60-90 days, according to City Mgr. Guy Hilton, because they are widening the road and adding sidewalks on Watts Ave. The project also calls for an overlay on Iowa St. that runs on the North side of the SWOSU campus.
To Literary Club and Beyond . . . *Ender’s Game* wins tiebreaker!

**By DeShawna Smyth**

For the last week now, in the classrooms of Mrs. Judy Haught and Mrs. Terry Ford, students have been asked to pick two books on the list provided for the Literary Club.

The list was a collection of books compiled by me and Mrs. Haught. There were 18 titles on that list, and all of them were widely different. It might have seemed a hard task, just to pick two books, but 74 students cast their votes. As I sat tallying up those votes, I noticed that the vote was becoming a race between *A Bend in the Road* by Nicholas Sparks and *Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card. In the end it was a tie, 13:13! The decision was too hard for either me or Mrs. Haught to make, so I wrote the title of each book onto a piece of paper, and kindly asked Dianna Mosburg, the library assistant, to draw the winner. *Ender’s Game* it was!

Come join Judy Haught in the Lit Pit starting Wednesday, February 5th at 1 p.m. Students who join Literary Club can choose whether they will meet at 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. on Wednesdays. Students who are in Mrs. Haught’s or Mrs. Ford’s classes will receive bonus points for joining.

Video Killed the Radio Star?—No show this season.

**By Dylan Scott**

The SWOSU Theatre program hosts an event each semester. These events range from historical plays to musicals. This semester, they chose to perform the “1940’s Radio Show”; however, it had to be canceled.

Due to the lack of participants, the theatre program was forced to cancel the musical. Corianne Fairchild says, “It is unfortunate that the musical was cancelled. It was a very fun and up-tempo musical that was full of humor.”

This musical would have been performed as a live radio show consisting of the top songs from the 1940’s. Auditions took place January 12, 2014, with singing auditions at 3 o’clock in the afternoon, while the script reading was at 7 o’clock.

This musical was planned to take place at the Hilltop Theatre later in the semester. The theatre students will get another chance to host another event later in the semester.

**SWOSU’s Rival Rangers Going Down in New Gym**

**By Dylan Scott**

Since 1957, the SWOSU Bulldogs have been creating memories in the Rankin Williams Fieldhouse.

The Bulldogs have won a plethora of games in this gym. However, on Saturday January 25, 2014, the Bulldogs will take on their rivals, the Northwestern Rangers, in the grand opening of the Pioneer Cellular Event Center! The Pioneer Cellular Event Center will provide nearly twice as much seating as the Rankin Williams Fieldhouse, topping out at around 4000 seats!

Come on out and cheer on our SWOSU Bulldogs to victory as we start a new chapter in our athletics program in the Pioneer Cellular Event Center.
Budgeting College for Dummies

By Abbey White

How thrifty are you with your money and budget? The spring semester has begun, and just like every other semester, work hours get cut and expenses expand! College is a big chunk of money out of your pocket whether it be tuition, fees, books, access codes, food, and even gas for those who have to travel to attend.

Each semester you can find new ways to cut back. Everyone loves to save money, especially college students with costly expenses on small budgets. Who couldn’t use a couple extra bucks in their pocket, instead of giving it out?

The average student will waste thousands of dollars during college, according to ecampustours.com. Are you included in those statistics? If so, there is no need to be! There are numerous easy ways to cut back on your budget and put a little money back in your pocket this time around!

After enrollment, seeing your statement of your student account is never easy. Tuition and fees alone average around $2,000 a semester for a full-time student. When considering your payment options, you could possibly be missing out on a few. Have you considered what your campus can offer for you on your tuition and fees?

Sayre SWOSU offers a variety of options on their web page under financial aid. They pay out $30 million in student financial aid to over 70% of our student body. It is designed to supplement your contribution to the cost of education. You can easily create a package that will meet your needs. Some of the different forms of aid available are

- Stafford Student Loans
- Tuition Aid Grants
- Federal Work Study

SWOSU also offers scholarships based on Academics, Athletics, as well as a variety of other categories. They also offer a link on their page to other scholarships at UCanGo2.org.

If you can’t find what you need online, you can stop by Ron Kistler or Nancy Sanders offices Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are always welcoming and very helpful when it comes to finances with college!

Once you’re enrolled and you have your schedule, it’s time to purchase your books. Books can get expensive, depending on how many classes you take and what courses you are in. Don’t waste money on brand new books; used or rented text books are not “unreadable.” Renting your text books, purchasing them used, or even in a digital form can save you more than 50% on some of them. Those kind of savings can really loosen up a tight budget!

Slugbooks.com is a website I personally recommend to EVERY new student or even current students who still tend to overspend on their books. It compares all major websites for you and gives you the options to buy new, used, and even rent.

After the semester is over you can use that same site to sell them as well. You never get what you paid for them, but selling them back or to another student will at least get you something besides just a stack of dust collectors.

If you don’t live in Sayre, then you might think that packing or buying a lunch might be your only option since going home isn’t one of them. Think again! Another option you should consider are the free lunches offered to students. There are two groups that offer free lunches to students on campus.

- Area Methodist Churches serve lunch in the Lit Pit in Mackey Hall every Monday.
- The BCM offers lunch every Wednesday in the building across the street, North of Mackey Hall.

Eating out can get expensive. Take advantage of these wonderful meals to help ease your hunger and budget pains! Remember, breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so keep your fridge stocked with quick and easy breakfast options. Eating breakfast at home will cut out costly and time consuming trips through the drive-thru.

Do you pay monthly fees for Wi-Fi and a gym membership? Well you don’t have to! There is free Wi-Fi offered on campus. Swosu-Sayre also offers a gym, totally free to currently enrolled students. Cutting out these two expenses alone can save you around $100 a month.

Your student ID is like a small pot of gold. Since you already paid a pretty penny in tuition to get it, you might as well use it. Many places in the area offer student discounts, so always check for them before you make a purchase. Also, check with your insurance company about “Good Student” discounts. Nationwide and other insurance carriers offer discounts to drivers who are under 24, with a GPA of 3.0 or above.

If you live out of town, driving is unavoidable. However, spending all that money on gas can be more affordable than you think. If you know someone who drives from the same town as you, why not carpool? Splitting the gas price with someone else will benefit you both. Besides, who doesn’t enjoy company on a long drive?

College can be financially rough, but with some of these strategies you can smooth it out a little. So give it a try, and see which ones work for you. Challenge yourself to see just how much you can save. Then, when you do get to have a break from papers, classes, and work you just might have enough for a little fun! A penny saved is a penny earned. Give your bank account a break and with all the savings, give yourself a break as well!
Tips to Take the “Pro” Out of Procrastinator

By Melissa Myers

So your week is going pretty good right? Then, you go to class and your teacher announces, “This assignment will be due at the end of the week” or even worse, “Test next Tuesday.” If you are like the majority of college students, chances are you procrastinate on doing academic work, especially tests. You may be a “pro” at procrastination!

There are some students that do try to get things done sooner rather than later, and Allison Gilliland falls in this spectrum. When asked if she tries to get her assignments and studying done quickly or tends to put them off she said, “I try to get my assignments done as soon as I can. I never know what may happen later on in the week. It is also a lot less stressful knowing all of my assignments are completed. Plus, I have more time perfecting them instead of waiting until the last minute and having to rush. “

It is definitely a lot better to not put off doing academic work, I think we all know that. However, thinking this and actually doing it are two different things. Hopefully I can help you by recommending some of the tips I am planning on trying.

It’s always best to make sure you have the right material to study. If your professor recommends taking notes during class then you should definitely do so.

Tip #1
You should find a quiet place. (This usually helps me a lot, I can’t seem to concentrate or understand what I’m reading if I have background noise or other distractions.)

Tip #2
Social media and technology devices can be a huge distraction, so you might consider turning them off, or at the very least, putting them as far away as you can. I think most everyone who has studied for a test has realized how (Continued on page 7)

Write On the Way to a Better Future!

By Elizabeth Varnell

Most students have a silent, internal groan when they hear their professor say the words “essay”, “research paper” or “writing assignment”. Let’s face it, in Western Oklahoma writing skills often do not rank as importantly as say, team sports or small town gossip. However, on January 21st, help became available. Over at our Weatherford campus, the Writing Center opened. The Writing Center is run by the generous and helpful Professor Landrum-Geyer and her team of student consultants. They devote their time and energy toward helping you with your papers, projects, and writing assignments. All you have to do is email them a copy of your paper or project and answer a few questions about it so they can better tailor their help toward you. What they want to know is this: What is the assignment for? What are the requirements of the assignment? And, mostly, what do you want the most help with on this assignment? If you can answer those few questions for them, they can help you the advice you need!

Believe me, these people are the best kind of people. They don’t just mark it with a red pen, they’ll explain why something is right and wrong to help you get it right next time. The easiest way to make use of their services is to shoot them an email at writingcenter@swosu.edu and give them a day or two to get back to you. Of course, you can always make the drive up there to talk to them face-to-face as well, in their cozy section of the Al Harris Library.

Their hours, including both email and face-to-face consultations, are as follows:

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So take the leap to ask for help, and you can be one step closer to being a better writer! More info can be found at http://www.swosu.edu/academics/writingcenter, on Facebook (look up S.W.O.S.U. Writing Center) or even Twitter (@swosuwrites).
Satan Running for a Position at the State Capitol?

By Kathryn Taylor Skelton

A group of Satanists from New York are working to have a statue of Satan erected at the Oklahoma state capitol. This monument will be designed to reflect the views of Satan worshipers in Oklahoma. If this group succeeds in their endeavor, the statue will be placed close to the Ten Commandments monument that already stands at the capitol.

After visiting with many college students about the monument, I found that all of their responses were similar. One student, a sophomore commuter from Canute stated, “Satanism isn’t even a mainstream religion. It’s the opposite of a religion.” Another student, a female freshman commented, “Oklahoma is part of the Bible Belt. That is absurd.”

Even though Western Oklahoma is a good distance from where this monument is to be placed, we are still watching what happens with great concern. I leave you with this question to ponder. If this Satanist monument makes it to the capitol, what is to say one similar to it won’t make its way into our small town and onto the front lawns of our courthouse?

“I have to wonder why we need the 10 Commandments in front of a government building,” said Mrs. Ford. “I’m a Christian, but I know that separation of church and state is vital; history has shown us that. Remember Bloody Mary? We shouldn’t raise one religion above another in the eyes of the law—in our hearts perhaps, but not the law.

What is fair for one, must be fair for all. The beautiful 10 Commandments monument could be placed on the campus of a private school or college or at a nearby church or synagogue.”
Family Ties: What's Happening on Our Sister Campus

New Year, New Inner You; Chi Alpha Ministries Can Help

By Taylor Scott
Weatherford campus

New Year’s resolutions have become attempts at societal conformation. “I’m going to lose some weight,” “change my hair color,” or “start wearing new clothes.” Why not make a resolution that defines the inner you, one that better who you are as a person and not as a societal gem? Why not, then, consider what Chi Alpha in Weatherford, Oklahoma has to offer.

Chi Alpha is one of the several on campus ministries that offer free lunches to students. After hearing about their program, I made my own resolution to better my inner self. I accompanied my classmate, Dalton Day, a regular at the free lunch on Thursdays.

Dalton is a typical college student, lives in the dorms, hangs out with his friends, but he holds a certain quality. Last year, I crossed paths with him quite often. He was always smiling or laughing and seemed to have circle of happiness around him. I would see him walking to classes and always spotted him on his way to Chi Alpha. Little did I know I would soon experience my own little bit of sunshine.

I attended lunch with Dalton, a few of his friends, and his current roommate, David Schoenhals. David was the person who talked Dalton into going to Chi Alpha. Dalton and David joined eight of their friends for their first time at the free lunch. Since that day, Dalton has made more friends, become closer with his current friends, and even joined some bible studies, which are offered on Tuesday nights at eight.

When I entered the building I witnessed multiple groups of people smiling and laughing in the same way Dalton always does. We sat with his friends, whom I had the pleasure of exchanging introductions and laughs. We enjoyed spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread. Dalton and his friend, Jeremy Quimby, were saying they couldn’t decide which food was the best. “The tacos are the best…actually everything maybe the best here,” they decided. I drew my own conclusion.

The atmosphere and fellowship at Chi Alpha quickly helped me get in touch with my inner self. I soon felt the same sense of happiness as Dalton and his friends did.

The Chi Alpha free lunches are located across from the Stewart Hall Women’s Dormitory and hosted between 11:50 and 1:00. It’s a busy lunch full of people ready to meet, great, and eat.

Now go make your own resolution; I’m glad I made mine.

Save the Birds with an Environmentally Clean Campus

By Shelby Baker
Weatherford campus

It is not uncommon to find previously chewed gum on sidewalks, road ways, and parking lots. However, the gum can be detrimental to our birds.

From up above as the birds are searching for their food, the gum that they have spotted looks like bread to them. The birds that eat the gum are unable to digest it correctly, which stops up their digestive tract and averts them from getting the food and water that they need instead to survive.

Here at SWOSU Sayre, we can prevent this by disposing of gum properly in designated trash cans. Not only does it help the birds, but it is also outwardly beneficial to our campus.
### By Alicia Crum

SWOSU would like to invite all eleventh-grade English and Social Studies classes to participate in the 15th annual Timed W.A.R. P. (Writing and Research Project) on Tuesday, February 25, 2014.

The theme is “History for Today and Tomorrow.” Student activities will include a research and writing competition, lunch, and entertainment.

Fun games will be going on throughout the day and chances to win prizes. In respect of the theme, the students will be shown short news clips of historic events, and the research and writing topics must pertain to the film.

Registration will be from 8:30-9:00 a.m. in Mackey Hall, and the contest will end at 2:00 p.m. The students will be given three hours to complete their essays. All students should bring their tablets or laptops with them. Essays submitted by the students will be evaluated, and scholarships will be awarded to the writers of the top essays.

The 1st place winners will receive a $600 scholarship to SWOSU, 2nd place is a $500 scholarship, and 3rd place is a $400 scholarship.

In addition, there will be a Teacher Workshop conducted by Oklahoma Department of Libraries archivist Jan Davis. Her presentation is entitled “37.6 Million and Still Growing: At your Fingertips, Library of Congress Primary Sources.”

For any enquires, please notify Judy Haught at 580-928-5533 ext. 159, or by e-mail at judy.haught@swosu.edu.

### By Jade Watson

Meet one of your classmates. Presley Thomas is 22 years old and is currently a senior at South Western Oklahoma State University in Sayre. She has an Associates in Science, with an emphasis in nursing. After graduation this year she will be continuing to the nursing program in SWOSU in Weatherford.

Presley is a ward clerk at the Sayre hospital in the ER, working three 12-hour night shifts a week.

Presley’s studying time is her down time at work, days off and weekends. School comes before anything for her. Presley feels really lucky that her boss lets her work around her school schedule and study at work.

### Tips

(Continued from page 4)

pulling an ‘all-nighter’ is a good idea. But studies actually show this is something that only hurts you. It is best to get a full-night sleep. When we get to a point of being too tired, the brain starts to shut down and we can’t soak in as much information.

**Tip #4**

Studying in groups may also be a great way to help some people. A few other ways include making flash cards, repeating what you need to memorize out loud, and drinking caffeine while studying. If you hunt around the Sayre and Elk City area, you can even find drinks formulated to help concentration.

These are all great tips, but in order for any of them to work, it has to first start with you. We must have self-determination and desire to excel. I realize that life is busy, but these are our grades we are talking about. I can promise you Facebook will still be there when you are done. These tactics may not all work for you, but it’s best to try them and see what works for you and what doesn’t, rather than not try them at all.
The Oklahoma Genealogical Society 2014 Family History Story Writing contest recently was announced. Membership to OGS is not required, and there is no fee, which is great for college students!

**Contest Rules:**
- Stories must be typed in a standard font, double-spaced on one-side of standard letter-size 8.5-by-11 in. paper. Entries must be less than 2,500 words, not including attached documents.
- Story title and page numbers must be shown in upper right corner of each page.
- The entry must include story title, approximate word count, author’s name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.
- Indicate that you have researched the events by citing sources as footnotes or endnotes, and attach copies of the documents.
- Family group sheets and pedigree charts should be included if pertinent.
- Stories MUST be original and unpublished at time of entry.
- Include a self-addressed stamped envelope so your manuscript and the judges’ comments can be returned to you.
- Submit entry form with four printed copies and one electronic copy on CD of your story by mail postmarked no later than Feb. 28th.
- A downloadable entry form and contest rules are available online at http://www.okgensoc.org/storywriting-contest.htm

For more information, go online to www.okgensoc.org. Terry Ford, English instructor at Sayre (SMH 101) will be happy to help you with proofreading before you send it in.

**You may contact Sharon Burns if you have any questions about the contest at sburns@opubco.com**