The community came together with students here on the SWOSU campus to destroy a perfectly good car on Friday, and raised $176 for the Student Government.

The vehicle, a 1991 Oldsmobile Cutlass, was donated by Pick-A-Part in Elk City and delivered by R&L Keys, also of Elk City.

Participants put on their safety glasses, provided by TLC Rentals, Inc., in Canute and axed this "beautiful" car. Ty, owner and operator of the Smokin' Rib Wagon, came out and donated 10% of his proceeds to SGA. Another option was to buy hot dogs for $1 each or if a person paid the $1 a minute to smash on the car, then he/she received two free hot dogs, which were donated by Bar-S Foods of Elk City and the buns were donated by Puckett's in Sayre.

Chad Roper, disc jockey for 101.7 The Zoo, came out and broadcast his morning show live from our new administration building, which helped get the word out! The $176 will be used by SGA to fund other projects for students. SGA member Jon Mauldin expressed thanks to all the people who made this possible.

By DeShawna Smyth

The color palate for the new student lounge will be fun!
Midterm Study Tips

By Lacy Pryor

“Try popping a peppermint in your mouth next time you have a study session.”

Ready for midterms? Now if you're anything like me, all you wanted to do is reach over and hit the snooze button.

This semester is so hectic, it's a little difficult to carry over all that motivation from the fall to spring semester.

I know studying isn't the most exciting thing in the world. I'm not afraid to say that I've thrown a tantrum or two because getting me to study is like trying to get a two-year-old to take a nap willingly.

After many years of this, I finally turned to my dear friend Google to help me out with some tips to stay focused.

Here are a few that I came across that surprisingly work for me.

Snacks

Before sitting down for a study session, gather up some snacks and a tasty drink to keep near you. It's proven that the more senses you're using at once, the easier it is for you to focus on whatever subject you're tackling this week.

Also, try popping a peppermint in your mouth next time you have a study session. My 5th grade teacher always said that peppermint helps concentration, and she was a saint.

Shower

Are you having trouble memorizing? You just can't get it to stick? Try writing down the material that needs memorizing and put it inside a large Ziploc bag and tape it to the inside of the shower. I know I probably shouldn't have to specify, but make sure you tape it up BEFORE you turn on the shower. Trust me, I just saved someone somewhere a lot of time by throwing in that little side note.

It sounds crazy, but think about it. When taking a shower, it's much easier to relax and when you feel relaxed; it makes it much easier for your brain to soak up all of that information. This one works especially well when studying the same thing many days in a row.

Music

I know, I know, this is probably the oldest trick in the book, but one of the best in my opinion. Now don't get me wrong, but there is some music out there that will probably hurt you more than help you if being played while trying to study. For instance, if I were to throw on some Justin Timberlake during a study session, next thing you know I'd be singing "Bye, Bye, Bye" and putting on a magical concert for myself. Obviously this ends up hurting me more than helping me because being able to sing NSYNC flawlessly will not get me through college.

Listening to classical music while studying has been proven time and time again to help you retain information and also helps you to recall information if also listened to during the test. If classical isn't your thing, you may try music without lyrics to see if it helps.

I hope these tips help you as much as they do me. Always remember, time management is key, and always allow yourself to have some fun, because you deserve it! Good luck to everyone this semester, and may the odds forever be in your favor.
History of St. Paddy’s Day

By Melissa Meyers

When you think of St. Patrick’s Day, what usually comes to mind? Shamrocks, wearing green, the luck of the Irish, leprechauns? These are the things that a lot of people think of. Have you ever stopped and wondered how the day actually originated?

St. Patrick’s Day is named after a patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. It is celebrated on March 17 because that is the day he died. Saint Patrick was born in the fourth century, in Britain, which was part of the Roman Empire. So technically, he wasn’t even Irish!

When he was a teenager, he was kidnapped, and held captive by the Irish for six years. During that time he became very fond of the Irish spirit. Once he was finally able to escape and return back to his family, he vowed to go back to Ireland again someday. He was able to return several years later as a Bishop. He wanted to spread the Christian religion to the pagans. St. Patrick baptized new Christians, established monasteries, churches, and schools for thirty years.

St. Patrick’s Day started being celebrated in Ireland in the ninth and tenth centuries. It finally became an official public holiday in 1903. The first St. Patrick’s Day parade, held in Dublin Ireland, was in 1931. In 1996, the first Saint Patrick’s Day Festival was held. Over the next few years it grew from being a one day celebration, to three days, then in the year 2000, it became a four-day event. Finally in 2009, it increased into a five-day celebration.

Although the day isn’t an official holiday in the United States, it is still celebrated nationwide. In the U.S., the holiday was first celebrated in Boston in 1737. The first parade in the States was held by New York in 1766. The parades were held so the British communities could celebrate their Irish heritage. In 1991, the US Congress declared March to be Irish-American Heritage month.

Over the years St. Patrick’s Day has been a day to be celebrated by the Irish and non-Irish. There are quite a few symbols of St. Patty’s Day that have evolved. The shamrock is linked to this day because it is said that St. Patrick used the three leaves to teach the trinity. Irish music, leprechauns, and drinking beer are associated with this day because of the Irish heritage. A couple things that are linked to St. Patrick’s Day are lucky four-leaf clovers and the color green; however, the shamrock used by Patrick was a 3-leaf clover, and another fact most people are unaware of is that the first color associated with this day wasn’t green, it was blue! However, over the years the color green and St. Patrick’s Day have become intertwined. Green ribbons and shamrocks were known to have been worn as early as the 17th century.

The tradition of wearing green to prevent getting pinched is only an American tradition. It supposedly began in the 1700’s, with the belief that if you were wearing green you would be invisible to leprechauns. The purpose of pinching was to warn you about them.

Now that you know a little more about the history of this celebration, make sure to wear your green and greet folks with “Top of the mornin’ to ya!”

It’s St. Paddy’s Day, not “Patty” because Patrick, and the nickname Paddy, is derived from the Irish “Padraig,” so there is the source of the “double d.”
Meet These Dawgs

Student and Mom, Jayln Koch

By Jade Watson

Going to college is challenging for anyone, but more for some. I had the privilege of interviewing Jayln Koch recently, and she knows all too well the challenges.

Jayln Koch graduated from Washington High School. She has been married for 4 1/2 years to husband Levi Koch, and together they have a 3-year-old daughter and will be having another child in May.

In addition to her family duties, Jayln is also attending college. I asked Jayln what she was going to college to be and she said, "I was raised around the medical field and feel like I can make a difference as a nurse."

When I ask her what keeps her going she said, "My parents and my husband are a huge encouragement and definitely where I get my inspiration to keep going."

Jalyn says, "Going to school, working and being a mommy is hard, but not impossible. If I can do it, I believe anyone can. You just have to decide if it is something you want, then you can find a way to make it happen."

From interviewing Jayln, I know she will develop into a strong, dedicated, and very determined nurse.

Get to Know Faculty Member Mrs. Renae Bagzis

By: Abbey White

You go to your classes every week with the same instructor for a whole semester. You may even attend multiple classes with the same instructor. Can you really say you know your instructor? More than likely the answer is no. Here is your chance to get to know one of your instructors a little more personally! This instructor, you may have had in a computer course, math course or beginning this spring semester, Macroeconomics. Meet Mrs. Renae Bagzis.

Mrs. Bagzis born July 12th, in Cheyenne, OK to Ron Payne and Neva Pyatt. Her father is retired Doctor of English at Oklahoma State University and her mother is semi-retired and works for paragon communications as an accountant specialist. She was raised as the middle child, with an older brother and a younger sister. She also has younger twin siblings, a brother and a sister.

She graduated from high school in Cheyenne class of 1984, and continued to attend Weatherford SWOSU until she graduated in 2012 with her Masters in Science Management with an emphasis in accounting.

Something she wishes someone would have told her about college before she began is, "Be sure and get your life in order before you get married. Make sure you have your education and your career under your belt before moving on to the next step."

"Be sure and get your life in order before you get married. Make sure you have your education and your career under your belt before moving on to the next step."

Above: Renae at age 10. At right: Renae with her husband Mike

(Continued on page 6)
Timed W.A.R.P.

By DeShawna Smyth

Can you imagine having to write a 3-5 page research paper with a minimum of 3 sources, in just 3 hours?

Well, last Tuesday, February 25, 2014, that is just what 11th graders had to do.

The Sayre campus hosted Timed W.A.R.P. (Timed Writing and Research Project). The theme for this year was “History for Today and Tomorrow,” showcasing American history from 1900 to today. A total of 38 students from 6 area high schools (Canute, Elk City, Erick, Granite, Mangum, and Merritt) came out to compete for three scholarships in the amounts of $600, $500, and $400.

Students arrived at 8:30 a.m. in McMahan Library to register with April Miller and Dianna Mosburg, and have a little breakfast while Judy Haught tortured their teachers with a small trivia test over History in Literature.

Students were then ushered to Mrs. Ford’s classroom in Mackey Hall to watch five short videos over the invention of the Browning Camera, the Hindenburg disaster, the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, the Moon landing, and the Tiananmen Square shootings. Students were then separated into two computer labs run by Renae Bagzis and Bill D’Alessandro, and given topics to work for two hours on their research papers while their teachers and college students attended a workshop given by Jan Davis, archivist with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

During lunch, the students answered their own trivia questions and played bingo for SWOSU swag while eating pizza, courtesy of Flying J, and cookies from the Picket Fence. Afterward, the students had just one more hour to finalize their paper.

The winners had to be chosen by tie breaker, Landry Brewer. First place, with a scholarship of $600, was awarded to Elk City Junior, Justice Villa, with her paper entitled “Pointless Protest.” Second place, with a scholarship of $500, was awarded to Merritt Junior, Destry Pollard, with her paper entitled “Atomic Energy Can Be Used for Peaceful Purposes.” Finally, third place, with a scholarship of $400, was awarded to Erick Junior, Makenzie Kelly, with her paper entitled “Privacy or Security.”

Bulldog Ballers . . . Leaving with Pride

The SWOSU Bulldogs went out with a bite in their bark. On Tuesday, February 25th, the bulldogs shut out Southern Nazarene University’s basketball teams. The Pioneer Events Center was packed at the beginning of the each game, where the seniors were honored and received a framed photo while being escorted by their family. The women ran down SNU with a final score of 66 to 101. Senior Michelle Fisher set a personal season record with 31 points. The men kept up a suspenseful game battling a close first half with SNU. By the second half the bulldogs left SNU in the dust. There were several powerful blocks and outstanding three-point shots made by the men. The men dominated SNU with a final score of 58 to 73.

The bulldog seniors left the Pioneer Center with their heads held high and their Bulldog pride higher. Congratulations to the Dawgs, who finished the season knowing your school is behind you!
Mrs. Bagzis; continued from pg. 4

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make straight A’s in college, so she knows what some of her students are going through. She met her husband in February of 1998 through a friend at Elk City. Her three children are Mark, 28, who is married and lives in Oklahoma City; daughter Tisha, 27, is married, has a baby boy and one stepson, and lives in Coalgate, OK; the youngest, Kyle, 14, is a freshman at Cheyenne and loves basketball.

Mrs. Bagzis’ biggest accomplishment is a toss up between her children and her education. She said both were a struggle, took years to accomplish, and have given her tremendous satisfaction.

Mrs. Bagzis has also had a lot of work experience. She had her first job at the age of 5. She and her 8-year-old brother sold fruit cakes on the corner in Cheyenne to earn Christmas money. When she was 12, she opened a firework stand that she operated six years. During high school and in the years following, Renae has had several different jobs. She has worked in retail sales, home health, and teaching, both at the high school and college level.

In her spare time, Renae loves to take pictures, sew, bake, can different foods, garden, and host-cookouts.

As an accomplished seamstress, she has made prom dresses for her daughter, costumes for all of her kids, curtains, and everyday clothing for herself.

She loves taking pictures of the sunsets, sunrises, and lightening, being an avid photographer. She loves to shoot guns as well. Her talents include singing, playing the piano, sewing, baking and decorating cakes! She laughs and says her favorite food to eat is “anything my husband cooks.”

Something most people don’t know about her is that she is a really nice person, as well as a deep thinker. Therefore, she may sometimes look mad or upset, but in reality she is just in deep thought. As she put it, “Don’t judge a book by its cover; open the book and read the first chapter before making a judgment.”

Her biggest pet peeve is the same person, having yet another excuse for doing or not doing something. If you didn’t do it yet, she would rather you just say you didn’t do it yet, not say it was someone or something else’s fault!

Now you know more about one of the many great instructors you will have throughout college at the SWOSU campus! Take the time to stop and say hi to Mrs. Bagzis!

Movie Review: Grudge Match

By Alexis Brown

I do not go to the movies often, but the other day we got a wild hair and decided to go. When we got there, we did not know what to watch. Our choices were either Grudge Match or Anchorman 2. We finally made a decision and went with Grudge Match. I was not too excited because it just did not sound like my kind of movie. It is about these two boxers that in their prime were at a tie in fighting each other; they both had lost only one match and it was to each other. The fighters were called Razor Sharp and Billy the Kid. Thirty years after they had retired, they are brought out of retirement to fight one last fight. Let us all hope they can survive . . .

You won’t begrudge the time spend watching Robert de Niro and Sly Stallone in intense training.
Rules for Spring Break

By Taylor Scott

With Spring Break just around the corner, there are a few things to remember. First and foremost, the body you have now is what you are taking on vacation. Don’t starve it, strain your body, or start dieting to try and cut weight quickly. Weight loss does not work like that. Second, hydrate your body! 

Once vacation starts, schedules get busy, and so much fun is going on that people forget to eat good meals and hydrate. Third, if you are going to a different state or a popular beach, follow the rules. You don’t have to miss out on any fun, just obey the public laws and remember that you are in foreign territory.

Fourth, have a PIC, or Partner in Crime. Before your trip begins, pick your PIC, someone who will watch your back while you watch his or hers.

Fifth and finally, enjoy your break! Don’t stress over time and planning. You don’t want to regret anything this Spring Break. Go out and do something crazy and new, but stay smart.

Travel Ideas for Spring Break

By Shelby Baker

There are three breaks within each school year that students look forward to the most. These breaks include Christmas Break, Spring Break, and Summer Break. Spring Break is just right around the corner.

SWOSU students will observe Spring Break beginning on Friday, March 14th at 5:00 P.M. Classes will resume on Monday March 24th at 8:00 A.M.

Although most students like to go out and have fun, some see it as an opportunity to work and make more money, which is admirable.

But, if you can afford it, then it is time to kick the winter goodbye and set off to the beach with friends this annual migration. Can’t decide where to take a trip to? Listed below are the top 12 places to visit and relax during this Spring Break tradition.

1. Las Vegas
2. Bahamas
3. Dominican Republic
4. Miami
5. Puerto Vallarta
6. Daytona Beach
7. South Padre Island
8. Panama City Beach
9. Jamaica
10. Cancun
Tips for College Life

By Kathryn Taylor Skelton

Starting college as a freshman can be both an exciting and frightening time for anyone. Dealing with the overwhelming feelings, hectic schedule, and the extra workload can cause added stress. To ensure that you have a fun and successful college experience you might find these tips helpful.

- Maintain a College Budget: Parents and students are aware of the education costs. However, hidden costs do arise. Keeping a record of all expenditures will help students remain aware of extracurricular spending.

- Fight the Freshman Fifteen: For many students, college is the first time they have been responsible for their own meals. Students who want to fight the extra weight should consider counting calories, joining a gym, or even taking an exercise class.

- Become Involved in Student Life: Freshman who are worried about making friends on campus might consider joining clubs on campus or a fraternity or sorority. These organizations would be beneficial in helping to become involved and helping to meet new people.

- Finding the Best Deals on Textbooks: Education is a major expense. "The average American student spends between $700 - $1,000 per year on textbooks according to a U.S Department of Education Study." Therefore it’s important to find the best deals available in every way possible. Renting textbooks is more economical than buying. In turn you then aren’t stuck with a book afterwards. Another good idea is to buy textbooks from previous students in the class who have bought and kept their book. Mrs. Ford gave a piece of advice to all students “you should never open your wrapped books/DVD/CD-ROM packages until the class has officially started and you know the class will make, because opened packages are non-refundable. The enrollment for SWOSU at Sayre last semester was down 12%, and classes are supposed to have 11 students to make a class, so after the first week of school, many classes did not make and were cancelled. Students couldn’t return and get their money back if the packages were already opened.”

- Use technology to manage college life: There are a lot of obligations and events on a college student’s plate and it can become overwhelming to manage. Technology has made available for students to more easily organize their daily activities through new mobile apps available on both Apple and Android devices.

- Dealing with a bad grade in college: Receiving a bad grade can be frustrating, but it can also be a learning experience. Students who have questions about their grade should set up a meeting with the professor, which can be beneficial in numerous ways: the student learns from the experience and the professor gets to know the student. Know that if you need help someone whether it is another student or a professor is always available to help you.

College life can be stressful and overwhelming at times, but hopefully following these tips it can also make it enjoyable and successful as well!
Hey, Feckless Gombeens, 
Have a Good Auld Green Time in Nearby Shamrock This Year!

By Chris Trent

Last year on March 14th – the 83rd Texas House Legislature passed HCR83, officially designating the Shamrock St. Patrick’s Day Celebration as the official St. Patrick’s Day Celebration for the State of Texas.

This year of 2014 marks the 68th Shamrock St. Patrick’s Day Celebration and it is sure to be our best, bigger and better than ever!

We’ve got Andy Hendrickson headlining the Opening Banquet for this year’s festivities on March 14th!

Mrs. Ford’s Speech classes can earn bonus points by attending a multi-cultural event such as this one. See Canvas for details.

Tommy Gallagher Band will be opening for Stoney LaRue and The Aresenals on March 15th at our famous St. Patrick’s Day Dance.

In addition to this great entertainment, they have traditional favorites including the Annual Shamrock St. Patrick’s Day Parade, pageants, Donegal Contest, carnival, fun street vendors and free cartoons showing all day at the Texas Theatre.

Student Lounge, cont’d

(Continued from page 1)

gotten into this reporter. Simply this, these seemingly random and unrelated words are the colors for the new student lounge. The colors have been chosen. Painting should start anytime. Add in a nice comfy couch or two, some tables and lamps, and viola! A scholar’s lounge ready for study, relaxation, or dialogue. Rumor of a student lounge had been circulating for over a year, and this reporter for one is anxious to see it completed, and if the furniture is comfy enough, she may even be seen taking that nap.

Unfinished student lounge.
Across
3. Found at the end of a rainbow
7. White Irish Clover
10. Little people of Ireland
14. Color of day
15. Where the first Saint Patrick’s parade was
17. Driven out of Ireland
19. Leafy vegetable
22. Ireland
23. A yummy cereal of hearts, stars, horseshoes, clovers, blue moons, pots of gold, rainbows, and the red balloon

Down
1. Clover with one more leaf
2. Storytellers kiss this
4. You wish for people
5. Meat of day
6. This will happen if you don’t wear green on this holiday
7. Holiday named for him
8. Another fairy spelling
9. Irish accent
11. Famous Irish song
12. Smiling they steal hearts
13. Irish greeting
15. The original color of St. Patrick’s
16. Irish vegetable
18. St Patrick’s religion
20. Holiday month
21. Irish dance
Across
2. to refuse to deal with
3. fragments; bits
4. female spirit who wails
6. dark, sweet ale
8. small elf of Irish folklore
10. type of humorous poem
11. national symbol of Ireland
14. hearty meal

Down
1. Classic knockdown brawl
5. law of royal succession
7. strong dialectical accent
9. misleading nonsense
12. formidable club or stick
13. Patron Saint of Ireland
14. hearty meal
A Cloudy Horizon in the Ukraine

By Elizabeth Varnell

It has been about a week after the end of the Winter Olympics in Russia, but the country is still on everybody's mind. Russia has moved with over 6,000 troops in Crimea, effectively asserting their presence.

Why are they there? Russia is claiming to be there to protect the Russian minority group in Ukraine, albeit that was the same exact excuse they have used twice before to annex other countries. The Ukrainian government is attempting to sever ties with Russia.

In November 2013, the President of Ukraine, Yanukovych, was in charge of negotiating a loan due to a budget shortfall. He had been negotiating with both the European Union and Russia, but had cut off those negotiations with the European Union and chose to negotiate solely with Russia. Protest broke out, and Ukrainian citizens began to stake out Independence Square against dealing with Russia. Yanukovych outlawed protesting in response, and over time there were conflicts with the Ukrainian Police. The protesters became more outraged and violence broke out, spreading the protest. Despite the repeal of the law to make protesting illegal by Yanukovych, the protestors remained.

On February 18th, the police increased the violence and employed the use of snipers to kill protestors, raising the death toll significantly with reports of over a thousand injured. The protestors begin to shoot back, stealing equipment from the police. At this point, the European Union steps in and breaks a deal which will include early elections and an investigation into the killings at Independence Square. Yanukovych and other officials flee from Ukraine, and over the next few days the Ukrainian Parliament regains power. An interim President, Oleksandr Turchynov, is elected and an arrest warrant is issued for Yanukovych. A few days later, an army moved into the Crimea region and took control of the Sevastopol Airport.

However, there is a very important Russian naval base in Crimea. Russia is appearing to annex Crimea to keep their naval base. This goes against the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, however, which was signed by the UK, US, Russia, and Ukraine. The Budapest Memorandum basically states an agreement for Ukraine to give up its nuclear weapons, and therefore no longer be a threat to the world. In return, the US, UK, and Russia are not allowed to annex Ukraine, as it no longer poses a threat to world peace. If one of the members of the agreement breaks it, the others are obligated to defend Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin has stated that Russia does not intend on annexing Crimea, but has not backed down his presence.

Thus the future is cloudy for all involved.
Chad Roper, 101.7 The Zoo, about to make the first hole in this perfectly good, running, drivable car! Many students followed and enjoyed getting out any pent-up frustrations.