

The WatchDawg

April Calendar

3rd National find a Rainbow Day

9th BCM hamburger cookout @ Patterson Field house at noon. Free!!



13th-19th National Library Week

15th Tax Deadline

19th-25th Week of the Ocean

22nd Miss Southwestern Pageant Organizational Meeting @ Student Union - Weatherford



25th Last Day to Drop a Class

27th Smell the Spring Day

By May 9 — Donate any of your used books that aren't being bought back and receive a tax-free donation slip for \$50 per book. See Holy Hernandez for more details. 928-5527-x153.



Campus shows appreciation for school counselors

Eleven counselors from ten area high schools recently attended the 1st Annual Counselors Appreciation Day at the SWOSU-Sayre campus.

"We wanted to show area counselors how much we appreciate their efforts on behalf of their students," said Dr. Jim James, Dean of the Sayre campus. "They deserve a lot of credit for helping high school students make the transition to college, and this was our way of saying, 'Thank you.'"

The day's events began with registration, which gave the counselors an opportunity to mingle with SWOSU-Sayre faculty and staff while enjoying coffee and donuts.

Then the counselors learned about SWOSU-Sayre's four Allied Health Programs.

Next the counselors met with SWOSU staff and discussed registration, enrollment and financial aid matters. The group was scheduled to meet with Computer Science Instructor Debbie Carpenter, but the other meetings went overtime, so Mrs. Carpenter sent an e-mail presentation.

The day ended with a meal

held at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry building across the street from the campus.

Sherry Nutley of Elk City High School won a \$300 scholarship for an Elk City senior to use this summer or fall at SWOSU-Sayre. Mrs. Nutley also won a flat screen TV.

Dr. James also wanted to remind high school students and their parents that next year's seniors who've made minimum ACT scores may take SWOSU-Sayre classes tuition-free, beginning this summer.

"Eligible seniors may take two classes per semester during the summer, fall and spring of their senior year, meaning they could earn up to eighteen hours tuition-free before graduating from high school," James said. "Students who take full advantage of this would begin college full-time as freshmen, yet become sophomores after their first semester."

Enrollment is underway for the summer and fall. For information, call the Registrar at (580) 928-5533.



Counselors attending were (back row, from left) Ladonna Jones, Erick; Beckey Combs, Mangum; Sandra Wright, Merritt; Sherri Teeter, Canute. Middle row: Angela Caler, Cordell; Lynn Walker, Hammon; Lori Dixon, Burns Flat; Sherry Nutley, Elk City; Dr. James, SWOSU. Front row: Karen Gracey, Sweetwater; Shannon Hill, Sayre; Cheri Lou Gastineua, Burns Flat. Photo by Tom Warren

Tornado Season is Here! Get Prepared!

By Candise Warren

Central Oklahomans awoke Monday morning to property damage and power outages as tornado season arrived! It is time to think about how to prepare for the possibility of one in Western Oklahoma. If a tornado touched down in YOUR

area, would YOU know what to do?

According to the American Red Cross; "With winds swirling at 200 miles an hour, a tornado can destroy just about anything in its path." The steps that the American Red Cross suggests that you follow to

"prevent, prepare for, and respond to" an emergency are to "get informed, make a plan, build a kit, maintain your plan and kit, and get involved."

Get informed by contacting your local American Red Cross, or Emergency Man-

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Blood Drive Test Results can be seen

By Tom Warren

The blood drive sponsored by the Oklahoma Blood Institute was held successfully on March 12 here on the Sayre campus.

There were 64 donors who signed up but only 52 of them actually qualified to donate blood.

According to SWOSU coordinator Chris Stufflebean, most of those who weren't able to donate either had low iron or hypertension.

"If donors want to find out test results on their blood, they should contact OBI," Stufflebean added.

To contact them, you simply go to the web site at www.obl.org.

You may use your donor I.D. number or your social security and date of birth to get that information. You may also contact them by calling 1-800-375-8778, ext.5667 or ext.5638.

Remember, by donating blood, you can save a life.



At left, Lyn Crahan gets evaluated.

Below, first victim

Bill Akins. Photos by Tom Warren



Tuition Increases Expected for 2009

By Jina Brown

Available funds for Fiscal Year 2009 will be significantly lower than that of the 2008 fiscal year. Terry Peach, secretary of agriculture and member of the board of regents, said the Board certified \$130 million less than last year. How the Governor and Legislature will deal with requests for increases (especially from transportation, corrections, and hu-

man services) will determine how much ultimately comes to higher Ed.

This picture may not be that bad since there was quite a chunk allocated in one-time money that if not annualized, could be used to cover the deficit. Another saving grace may be the removal of various exemptions. Hope for the best; but prepare for the worst.

Microsoft Programs On Sale —Special Price for Students

By Nicole Smith

A promotion by Microsoft provides a steal of a deal for college students. All eligible university students are entitled to make a purchase from the promotion site at www.microsoft.com/education/ultimatesteal.mspx. The deal is only \$59.00 for all nine of the following Microsoft applications: Access 2007, Accounting Express 2007, Excel 2007, InfoPath

2007, Groove 2007, One-Note Outlook 2007 with Business Contact Manager, PowerPoint 2007, Publisher 2007, and Word 2007.

You must hold a valid email address at a U.S. educational institution ending in .edu (for example, smithx@student.swosu.edu) and you must be actively enrolled with at least a 0.5 course load.

You must provide proof of enrollment status (i.e. stu-

dent I.D. card) upon request by Microsoft. You may be contacted by Microsoft or an appointed vendor to verify that you are a current student. If you are unable to provide proof of enrollment, you will be required to pay the full retail price of Office Ultimate 2007 (approximately \$679.00.)

The "Ultimate Steal Promotion" is set to end on April 30, 2008.



Microsoft is offering nine programs for only \$59.00.

Let's Not Be So Trashy

By Jina Brown

Litter is commonly found near stop lights or intersections. The next time you are stopped at a traffic light, look around and notice all of the garbage that has been so carelessly tossed out of car windows.

These are places that we slow down, which help us to be cautious in not making a mess in our car. Please stop and think about who will be there, if anybody, to pick up that cup or soda bottle after it leaves your car window. Beverage containers account for 40 to 60 percent of total volume in landfills since the 1980s. The most lit-

tered item is the cigarette butt, at 4.5 billion pieces per year. Why are there so many right around trash cans and ash trays here on campus? How much effort would it take to throw a butt away properly?

Another place litter can be found is in the front yard of nearly every proud Republican or Democrat displaying their choice for the next President. I'm not saying that it is a bad thing to be political, but these signs should be secured and discarded after elections.

Littering is also a habit that we unconsciously pass on to our children—if they don't see us do it,

they will know it is not alright to carelessly toss trash. Litter is not only displeasing to the eye but also a hazard to the many wildlife creatures that live in our rural area. Studies show that the accumulation of litter gives permission to litter, so my suggestion is that we all get out there, especially with the increasingly warmer weather, and pick up some of that litter. Maybe if we all pitch in and dedicate only an hour or so to picking up litter on one of our beautiful spring afternoons, we can make the environment cleaner for our future.



Are You Whipped or Are You Mojo'd?

By Amanda Chase
(contributing writer)

"Hey, man, we should go to this killer party I have been hearing about all day."

"I can't, man. You know that. My girlfriend would get so mad."

"Oh, is that because you are 'whipped?'"

This conversation sounds so familiar. We hear it almost every day in the hall. It is just one guy telling another guy he is *whipped* because he cares about upsetting his girlfriend.

According to the [Merriam-Webster](#) online dictionary, "whipped" has several meanings. The first meaning is to "take, pull snatch, jerk, or otherwise move very quickly and forcefully." Meaning number two is to "strike with a slender lithe implement" (such as a lash or cord) especially as a punishment. Those meanings do not seem to go along with what teenagers now refer to as being "whipped." So why is

such a rude term used for an unselfish act?

My boyfriend has said that the reason his friends make fun of him and call him "whipped" is because he is, for use of better words, my little female dog.

I feel the reason I am called "whipped" is because I will drop anything to make my boyfriend happy. I am sure the other halves of the ones being referred to as "whipped" are offended by the term.

Why can't certain members of the opposite sex realize that there are still some people that do not like to do anything to disappoint their 'beaus'?

So referring to the first definition, let us compare it with the teenage meaning. Unless the *whipped* person someone is speaking to has any *bruises, whip lash, or brain damage*, then I don't think they have experienced any *pulling, snatching, or jerking*.

Referring to definition number two, *striking with a lash or a cord especially in punishment*, unless they

have whelps or scratches all over them, then I do not think they have experienced any whipping either.

So, since the definitions are nothing alike, then maybe people should start using a better word. I personally feel that the word should be *mojo'd*. First of all it sounds so much cooler.

I mean if Austin Powers became popular with the word *mojo'd*, then what is stopping us? It would not offend me as much to hear people say that I have my boyfriend *mojo'd* as much as it does to hear them say he is "*whipped*."

Secondly, the definition is by far a bit more nice. According, once again to the [Merriam-Webster](#) online dictionary, the word *mojo* means a *magic spell, hex, or charm*. I mean, how cool does that sound?

Plus, everyone would love to say that they have a *magical charm* over someone. When love has someone acting different, magic would be closer associated with it than, let's say, a

whip! (For some anyway!)

So what I am basically trying to say here is this: Why refer to someone being sweet and devoted to their other half as "whipped?"

Such an ugly term for an action from the heart! Why not use a term with more magic, so to speak, in it? *Mojo'd* should be the new *whipped*. There is no doubt in my mind! Who wouldn't want to be put under a romantic spell?

The writer takes exception to a word in our slang language.



"*Mojo'd* should be the new 'whipped,'" writes Amanda Chase.

R U ruining ur English Grammar with Txt?

By Sarah Stephens

There is a great debate raging between the younger generation and the older, more mature people. Do cell phones cause bad grammar and spelling?

The answer is . . . Well, now is there really an answer to a question like that? It really depends on the person.

Personally, I am one of the people committed to texting in full sentences. I refuse to abbreviate or speak like they do on the commercial OMG! LOL! And there are many other people that have that same commitment. In fact, I can say that I am a better speller, because I text.

(I can say that because when I use auto correct, I am constantly reminded of the words I commonly misspell. This repetitive reinforcement eventually teaches me to spell the word right the first time.)

Then, or course, there are some people that don't even try—they don't even

attempt to spell correctly or use real words or full sentences. And if the truth is told, they bother me. Generally these are the two sides when it comes to texting. So what do studies show?

Teachers are concerned with the outbreak of "text speak" showing up in their students writing. When students are daily communicating in a less than 160 characters limit, they have invented short cuts and almost never speak in complete sentences; the habit may be carrying into the academic world.

They use the abbreviated words to the point of where they forget how to spell the words. In a time of spell check and auto correct on computers even, students no longer have to know how to spell. But can we blame that on texting alone?

Studies say no. The City University of London has conducted a study of 11- and 12 year-olds that says

that there is no correlation between their spelling skills and the time that they spend texting.

Northwestern University has come to the conclusion that texting and internet actually encourage reading.

It is difficult to believe that we can blame one part of culture—like the cell phone—for English skills that have been declining since the 1970s.

The trend of lack of spelling and grammar skills is just the result of a computer-, media-, and anything but studying-driven society.

And while the older generation may be concerned about grammar skills, it is just a change of times. We have to accept the fact that the world is less concerned about writing skills and more about technology skills.

Communication is still a very important part of society; it is just done in a very different way!



Are texting abbreviations ruining our spelling and grammar? For many, the answer is "IDK" (I don't know).

Distractions and Driving . . . Commuters Beware!

By Kevin Williams

In a survey conducted by Virginia Tech and the National Transportation Safety Administration, distracted drivers make up 8% of all crashes; but what are considered distractions?

According to the insurance information institute's website at <http://www.iii.org>, the top 5 distractions, in no particular

order, are the following: Music, Friends, Cell phones, Personal care and Food. Switching CDs, looking over and joking around with the friends around you, or doing your make-up while driving have been a major distraction in driving for many years. Cell phone use, however, has become more and more predominant in traffic accidents.

In the United States alone, over 254 million people subscribed to such wireless communication devices as cell phones as of February 2008, compared with approximately 4.3 million in 1990, according to the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association. This is up 249.7 MILLION in less than two decades!



Wireless distractions are up 249.7 million in less than two decades!

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Book Club has a New Pick

By Dillon Partain

The next book for book club will be *Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks. If you wish to join book club or to purchase a copy please contact Judy Haught. Several language art classes offer bonus points if you join book club or read the book and answer on-line questions.

Pros: *Dear John* is a light, easy read. The characters are likable, if not particularly complex. The novel is a quick read.

Cons: The love story is not very realistic. The characters are not very complex. The plot is predictable.

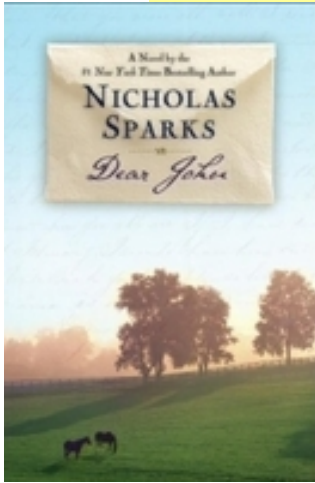
Dear John starts in the present day with John watch-

ing Savannah from afar and thinking about how much he loves her and why their relationship dissolved. He then takes the reader back in time and narrates the story of their love. There is, unfortunately, not much more to say about the book.

Dear John has a pretty formulaic plot. Although Sparks is one of the first to set the age old boy meets girl love story in the modern, post-9/11 world, he does not delve into how the war affects the characters or go very deep in this area. In *Dear John*, it could be any war keeping them

apart. This specific war is not important. The interactions between John and his father create a nice subplot, and the descriptions of North Carolina were interesting. Overall, *Dear John* can be described as light reading that is not too painful and may provide you with a few hours to escape, if nothing else, according to a review by Erin Collazo Miller from <about.com.>

To copy questions from Lit Club books, go to swosu.edu and click on the following links: Sayre, Current Students, Lit Club.



Clutter: An Interesting Look at Spring Cleaning . . .

By Jina Brown

Are you mired in mess? Is your desk or car a disaster zone? You may have fallen victim to what *Psychology Today* calls your "Inner Hoarder." But spring cleaning time is here.

Most of us need help separating "emotionally" from the possessions we no longer

need and that clutter our minds as well as our space. I suggest that you go through your mess quickly and make snap judgments—that first inclination is generally a good one.

Besides, if you dwell on it too long you'll probably find an irrational reason for keeping junk around. Addressing the

clutter during several short blocks of time can keep the task from becoming overwhelming. Small living spaces, plus piles of paperwork can add up quickly to chaos, especially for college students. Are your filing systems faulty?

The more accessible and attractive your files, the more

likely you are to use them. File notes and other important documents in less specific categories, this makes it easier to keep them orderly.

However, if messiness doesn't bother you, always know that "One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries."

Tornado Preparedness, *continued from page one*

ager (City or County) for information on the possible dangers in your area. Your Emergency Manager can be found by going to: www.fema.gov. Also, the Red Cross website, www.redcross.org, has a wealth of information about the different disasters that could occur in your area.

A plan is an integral part of being prepared for any disaster. Decide on an area in your

house that everyone should gather in during a tornado. A meeting place away from the home needs to be decided on in case of accidental separation. It is also recommended that someone that lives in another town be a contact in case of separation and difficulty in reaching the meeting place.

In order to build a kit, a list of what should be included in the kit at: www.redcross.org. It is also very important to maintain your plan and kit. Re-evaluate safe areas and meeting places

frequently, and doing disaster drills are very beneficial, especially for small children. The items in your disaster kit should be checked on a regular basis to insure items have not expired, batteries are charged, and radios are operational.

It is also very important to get involved when disaster strikes close to home. If it is your neighbor this time, next time it could be YOU, The American Red Cross is in need of volunteers to work when disaster strikes in your

community, and everyday. The American Red Cross would not exist if not for volunteers and monetary donors.

For more information on disasters or volunteering, please contact: Pattie Thompson, Director, or Dustin Compton, AmeriCorps Member, at (580) 225-2156 at: 916 S. Main Street in Elk City. The chapter covers Beckham, Custer, Roger Mills, and Washita counties in Western Oklahoma.

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Obviously, we have become more reliant on the use of cellular devices. Motorists who use cell phones while driving are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves, according to a study of drivers in Perth, Australia, conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

This study was also conducted by the California Highway Patrol and the exact statistics were shown. In June of 2006, University of Utah psychologists published a study showing that motorists who talk on handheld OR HANDS-FREE cellular phones are as impaired as drunken drivers.

Talking on the phone isn't necessarily the biggest problem, however. Text messag-

ing, or "texting" showed to be the biggest distraction among teenagers. In February of 2006, a 17-year-old male, lost control of his vehicle and struck and killed a cyclist.

After further investigation, it was shown the accident was a result of the driver texting while driving. He pled guilty to careless driving causing death and sentencing was thereafter.

A van driver was looking at his BlackBerry cell phone in December of 2006 on Interstate 5 near Seattle Washington, when he plowed into a car and caused a chain-reaction accident involving five vehicles, including a Community Transit bus and one car carrying a baby, according to www.seattlepi.com.

These are just a couple ac-

cidents that are due to cell-phone use. Because many of us commute to school several times a week, we must be aware of the dangers around us.

If we are traveling 65 miles per hour, we are roughly traveling 5,720 feet per minute. That is 95 feet per second. In other words, we are traveling the length of a football field every three seconds. Due to how fast we are traveling; because—don't lie—many of us travel faster than 65 miles per hour; we must be alert of the danger of operating a motor vehicle in the first place.

Many times, we get too comfortable and begin to be distracted by other things. Our main attention should be on the road ahead of us at all

times, because one little distraction can cause a serious accident which can result in severe injuries or fatalities.

Yes, even if we are just commuting from Elk City to Sayre.



Cell phone and texting are in the Top Five reasons why distracted drivers have a crash.

Movie Review: 10,000 B.C.

By Jeff Roland

The movie **10,000 B.C.** begins with an unknown tribe of nomadic hunters in a snowy mountain range.

This ancient people's food supply is no other than the prehistoric mastodon. At a young age, D'Leh (Steven Strait) must prove to be a man by not only hunting mastodon but saving his people from a mysterious tribe who enslave his people and his lady Evolet (Camille Belle).

He and a small band of their tribe led by Tic Tic (Cliff Curtis) must journey beyond the mountains to a world they have never seen to save their people. They encounter many trials and vicious creatures in order to fulfill their destiny.

D'Leh, a simple hunter, must transform into a warrior in order to fulfill his destiny

and save the love of his life. The film is old fashioned epic storytelling and narrated by storyteller Omar Shariff.

I think for anyone looking for a good movie with an easy understanding of the film's story will appreciate 10,000 B.C. It has many cool scenes including a mastodon hunt,

magical realism, wise men, omens, spirits, and mystical cultures of long ago. It's a simple movie where you root for the obvious good guys. **10,000 B.C.** is entertaining and fun, so if you're looking for a good movie give this one a try.



Free Hamburger Fry on April 9

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry is planning a free hamburger fry!

The feast, including drinks, chips, and a cookie, is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9th, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Instead of the regular



noon meal at the B C M, Director Josh Piddle and friends have decided to take the meal out of doors to enjoy the spring weather.

However, in case of

rain, it will be moved into the gym.

So follow your nose to the Patterson Fieldhouse around noon and get yourself a burger will all the trimmings.

Everyone is invited.