The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

By Brittany Shears

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee took place in the Centennial Theatre this past weekend. The musical was a hit with a cast of unforgettable characters and a hardworking crew. Director Tito Aznar held up to his word when he said that the play was “cutting edge, new and different.”

The “Spelling Bee” is about six kids going through the awkwardness of middle school and the family, friends and adults that fuel their everyday life, especially their desire to win the spelling bee. An upbeat Rona Lisa Peretti (Sara Jane Richter) loves everything spelling bee and serves as the spelling bee host along with a disgruntled Douglas Panch (Tito Aznar). There to help the students is the “comfort counselor” (Mitch Mahoney) who consoles the dismissed competitors. Contestants include Boy Scout Chip Tolentino (Michael Ask), all American Logainne Schwatzman Grubenierre (Emily Dye), imaginative Leaf Coneybear (Alexander Anderson), competitive William Barfée (Josiah Royse), orderly Marcy Park (Angelena Reed) and shy Olive Ostrovsky (Theresa Brott).

Throughout the spelling bee the audience gets an individual glimpse into the lives of the kids, such as Marcy’s overloaded work schedule, Chip’s “unfortunate erection”, and William’s self doubt. There are also special appearances by Logainne’s over competitive gay dads Carl Grubenierre (Alexander Anderson) and Dan Schwartz (Michael Ask), Jesus (Michael Ask), Olive’s inattentive parents (Sara Jane Richter and Jacob Whiteley), Leaf’s less than supportive parents and sister (Emily Dye, Josiah Royse and Angelena Reed) and some surprising contestants pulled from the audience.

Meier Claims SWOSU All-Around

By Jordan Muncy

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University rodeo teams made their way to Weatherford, Oklahoma this past weekend for the fifth of six spring rodeos in the Central Plains Region 2010 season. It was a windy weekend at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, but it could not stop the Aggie talent from pushing through. The men’s team walked away with a huge, much needed victory, a full 145 points ahead of the second place team, Connors State University. The team win came with much help from the rodeo’s all around cowboy, L. D. Meier. Meier, originally from Limon, Colorado, kicked off his weekend by posting the fastest time in the long round of tie-down roping, leaving him in the top spot headed into the short round. When the last calf had left the chute, Meier walked away with second place behind Western Oklahoma State College’s Brodie Poppino, just one tenth of a second away from the title. In the bull riding, Meier headed into the short round in a respectable third position, but managed to ride his final bull well enough to post the highest marked ride of the entire rodeo, leaving him first in the average. Seth Hardwick has become a familiar name in the bareback riding short rounds. Hardwick posted the highest score of the weekend with an 83 marked ride in the long round, leaving him way ahead going into the championship round. In the end, Hardwick was named the winner, and awarded a beautiful buckle. Hardwick and Meier may be found wearing their championship buckles around campus, but they have another teammate who has one, too. Troy Crowser also walked away with a championship buckle. Crowser won the saddle bronc riding with a combined score of 154 points. The bucking horses were young and wild; in fact, they were so hard to ride that just two cowboys managed to ride both their long round and short round horses — Crowser, along with teammate Whit Peterson, the Wyoming freshman, who took second place. Justin Hegwer qualified for the short round, but had some tough luck in the short round on a wild horse. Also qualifying for the short round was Tyrel Oullette in the tie-down roping. After posting two solid, consistent runs, Oullette landed a fifth place overall finish, earning points toward the team title. Before Weatherford’s rodeo, the Aggie men were leading the regional team standings by 195 points. The points earned this past weekend will greatly help the team hold on to their top position, and hopes of qualifying for the College National Finals Rodeo in June. The women’s team saw four back for the short round. Callie Schafer managed to rope both of her breakaway calves fast enough for a fourth place finish overall, even after borrowing a horse in the short round after her horse came up lame. In the barrel racing, three of the ten cowgirls to compete in Saturday night’s short round were Aggies. Whitney Knippling qualified for her second short round in a row in the barrel racing after a top ten finish at OPSU’s college rodeo last weekend. Chaney Latham posted a beautiful, smooth run in the long round, but hit a barrel in the short round, still finishing in the top ten. Jordan Muncy, the third Aggie on the barrel racing roster, posted the fastest time of the rodeo with a 16.82 in the short round, giving her a second place finish overall. Muncy also qualified in the goat tying, where she finished in the top ten. Just one rodeo separates the Aggies from the College National Finals Rodeo set for June 13-19 in Casper, Wyoming. Cowboys and cowgirls gear up to give one final shot at qualifying for the rodeo they work towards all year. The team will travel to Hays, Kansas, for the final regular season rodeo this weekend. Go Aggies!
Net Neutrality and You

By Brittany Shears

If you are a college student like me, you may not always be on top of the latest news, like net neutrality. What is net neutrality and how does it affect you? Net neutrality is an idea proposed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to regulate broadband in order to ensure that all consumers receive equal service. Doesn’t sound too bad, so why did a federal court rule against the FCC and net neutrality last Tuesday in favor of the Comcast Corporation? The case was brought to court by two opposing forces, the FCC and the Comcast Corporation. The FCC pushed net neutrality with the defense that it was to keep broadband providers from discriminating against certain services, providers, software, websites, etc. that they endorse. However corporations such as Comcast, AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. do not agree. They argued that after putting the time and money into their networks that they had the right to sell premium packages and control how much space certain applications take up on their networks. The US Court ruled against FCC on the basis of whether or not the FCC really had the authority to regulate broadband. The trick being that if net neutrality passed FCC may also be able to regulate other parts of the internet, putting limits on what is put out there. With this ruling the internet will remain untouched and the same as it as always been. Right now there are no laws regulating the internet and in the light of this ruling it seems as if there will not be any anytime soon.

Both sides have legitimate reasons for where they stand and why, leaving no clear line on who’s right and who’s wrong. No one knows what would have happened had net neutrality passed, but the FCC says that have not given up. The big question now is where and when will the FCC bring it back up and what will the changes, if any, be?

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Sudoku

Ryan’s Movie Corner: Clash Of The Titans

By Ryan Bramblett

I’ll just come out and say what everyone is thinking. Hollywood is out of original ideas. It seems like every movie made these days is a) the sequel to last year’s big blockbuster hit b) a cheap knock-off of some other movie or c) a remake of some “classic” movie. Clash of the Titans falls into category c). Both the original and the new movies tell the story of Perseus, a young demigod (half human/half god) caught in the middle of a struggle between the gods of Olympus.

Those of you who saw the 1981 original probably remember how bad it was. The acting was bad, the special effects were absolutely terrible, and the story butchered the Greek myths on which it was based. That movie had one major advantage over the new version. At least that movie was enjoyable. You didn’t feel guilty laughing at how bad it was. 2010’s Clash of the Titans on the other hand is bad, but not in a good way. Gone is the heroic, if not overly bright, Perseus of old. Instead, meet the new Perseus. Rather than trying to help his father Zeus, he spends most of his time talking about how unfair the gods are for threatening to destroy Argos. The citizens of Argos, by the way, had spent the first several minutes of their screen time talking about how they had spent their time destroying temples and statues to the gods. It doesn’t get any easier to like Perseus as the movie progresses. As the movie goes on we learn that he is not only whiny, but also arrogant, selfish, and still not overly bright.

The only improvement to the original is the special effects. The hilariously bad stop motion animation of the original has been replaced by the latest and blandest computer-generated images. Sadly, all the special effects in the world are not enough to make this movie, which was a wreck in the first place, good. In the end, Clash of the Titans was not worth the remake.
Commencement Cometh

The 2010 OPSU Commencement Exercises loom on the horizon. Rehearsal for commencement will occur at 5:00 p.m. in the Oscar Williams Field House gymnasium on Friday, May 14. At this rehearsal, students will learn about the senior line-up and entry, complete exit OPSU documents, and walk through the receiving line. Rehearsals usually last from 60 to 90 minutes depending on the cooperation of the graduates. Commencement itself occurs at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 15 in the Oscar Williams Field House. Seniors should arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. and proceed immediately to the location of their entry line-up. The ceremony itself may last 90 minutes during which time approximately 200 graduates will receive their diploma covers. Dr. Glen Johnson, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

Commencement is a time of celebration, but it must be tempered with dignity, an important element of the ceremony. Commencement is the outward recognition of a graduate's academic accomplishment and is to be shared with family members and friends of the seniors and of OPSU. Students should understand that this very public event has a two-fold purpose: first to honor graduates and second to honor OPSU. Therefore, students should remember that commencement is a solemn and dignified event and that celebrations should occur only outside the gym after commencement ends. Academic regalia is worn at all commencement exercises, and its roots purpose: first to honor graduates and second to honor OPSU. Therefore, students should remember that commencement is a solemn and dignified event and that celebrations should occur only outside the gym after commencement ends. Academic regalia is worn at all commencement exercises, and its roots

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National Library Week April 11-17

April 11 -17 each year, National Library Week is a time to celebrate the contributions of libraries to communities nationwide. Our library helps our community thrive,” says C. Eryl Schmidt, Library Director. “At our library, students, faculty and staff come together to do research with the assistance of a trained professional, receive instruction to locate, identify and access library resources, work on collaborative assignments, and study.”

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