

Puppy lover pitches pet policy

More than 20 colleges across the country have opened their doors and minds to the idea that students love to be around their pets. The University of Northern Colorado has a pet housing program for students who want to live with their pets. The University of Washington has apartment complexes on campus, with a deposit of only \$250 on their housing. Eckerd College allows students to live with their pets after their first semester, with even ducks among the animals allowed. At Lees McRae College, even the faculty and staff are encouraged to bring their pets on campus. Stephens College has had an open pet policy for over 10 years, even fostering pets from local shelters; this way the pets can have a long term family. The pet policy on Southwestern College's campus is, "No furry pets and all other pets must be approved through the director of residence life."

Southwestern College's broad policy is contradicting, due to the fact that faculty can bring their own pets to class. The only way

students may bring their dogs on campus is by claiming they are service dogs, even when they are not. These students claim to have anxiety or depression, and that the animals help cope with their mental instabilities. Riley Ingram, a sophomore majoring in elementary education, said, "Before attending SC, my dog Kara was not a serviced animal and was living at home with my parents." Recently, she decided that she wanted her dog to live on campus with her as a service dog. However, my experience was different. My dog was already serviced and certified to help with my anxiety. My dog, Chewie, and I stayed on campus in Sutton for the spring semester of 2017. Unfortunately, due to the complaints of my hall mates, I was under constant watch and ridicule for Chewie's barking during non-quiet hours. During the remainder of the semester I had numerous meetings with housing. Dan Falk and Sarah Hallinan were always present to these, and they at times seemed lost and uncertain on what

to do about Chewie's so called disruptive behavior because of such a broad animal policy.

After looking into what other colleges offer to their students, SC should have better animal policies available to their students. For such accommodation SC could have a dog day care in Pounds Lounge near the mailroom. It would be another opportunity for a work study program, and a good place to keep students' pets from disruptive behavior while away at class or even at work. The colleges mentioned earlier about their individual policies are some that we could possibly adopt. The policies I'd like for our school to inherit are: a \$250 deposit to their housing cost, instead of the mandatory \$100 deposit students pay now, the ability to have an animal live on campus after the students first semester, and an offered service dog training class that would count as an elective. There, students could teach their pets or shelter animals specific service trainings to match the person needing a service animal.

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Jose Chatham
Staff reporter



In order to get the school board's approval we would need to spread the word around campus by starting a petition for these new policies. Students willing to participate can sign and receive information on what students can expect if the policies were to be established.

The Jinx Tale would provide a great opportunity to get the message across the whole campus, due to the fact that everyone would get the email. It would have a much greater impact, because the article in the Jinx Tale would be well-informed ideas on the policies being brought up.

The policies of other college campuses are a great start to making a change on campus and the history of SC. These ideas are strong and well informed so that even the simplest minds can understand and act

on what they want, since everyone has a furry friend that they love to see every day. Here at SC we can make that happen. I feel that having these accommodations would decrease anxiety and depression levels of students. Pat Ross, professor of biology, brings his Labrador Retriever during test days to alleviate the stress of his demanding exams. During finals week Anjaih Clemons, director of campus life, orchestrates with the local dog shelter and has dogs brought to campus so that students can play with them and relieve test anxieties they may be dealing with. These policies can and will help the student life on campus, and make our historic and beautiful campus more unique. Letting future students know we are willing to change our ways and adopt new methods to accommodate the students here at Southwestern College.

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Bluegrass fans make Winfield groovy

All week I heard about how big Walnut Valley Festival would be, and to be honest I thought everyone was exaggerating. Driving down 9th St. I saw signs that read: "Welcome Bluegrass Fans," and stores selling tie-dye clothing apparel. When I saw all of the RVs, tents, and trailers, it reminded me of seeing all the passionate fans tailgating at a NASCAR race or a big sporting event.

McCloud, Okla. is roughly 20 to 30 minutes from Oklahoma City. Where I'm from, everyone is always excited this time of year. Why? Well, because the State Fair of Oklahoma comes to town. The fair is Sept. 14-24, in Oklahoma City. When I realized I couldn't attend the annual fair, I felt pretty bad. Then, my Creativity in the Arts instructor, informed us of the Walnut Valley Festival. So, I didn't feel as bad anymore, because I could still go to a fair (sort of).

During the festival, musicians

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Layne Phillips
Staff reporter



perform all types of bluegrass music. Before going to the festival, I wasn't a bluegrass fan, I still am not a bluegrass fan. It's not that I have anything against bluegrass, it just doesn't compare to Kendrick Lamar or Drake. While I was listening to the music I got the chance to listen to the Joshua Messick Trio and GASS. I also watched Kyle Tuttle from Memphis, Tenn., win The National Bluegrass Banjo Championship, which to no one's surprise didn't get the same attention as a National Championship football game, but still had a pretty decent crowd and was just as exciting.

Walking in, I got a whiff of the typical festival food smell, but what I was seeing wasn't a typical festival. There was colorful

clothing. If you were searching for a place to buy a guitar, a banjo or even a violin, you came to the right place. Walking through the festival, I saw some unique art. I saw a vendor selling "Pet Art", which is pet portraits painted with tie-dye colors. I almost bought one for my dorm. The festival was also full of all different varieties of food I hadn't seen before so I decided to give some a try. I felt like some dessert, so I tried "Deep Fried Oreos," and they were exactly what they sound like. The Oreo was breaded, as I bit into the Oreo, I realized it wasn't an Oreo at all, it was actually an off-brand version. Although it was disappointing that it wasn't an actual Oreo, it was still very tasty. I also had the chance to try the "Chocolate Covered Cheesecake on a Stick" which even though it wasn't as good as the "Deep Fried (off brand) Oreo," it was still pretty good.

Ever since I was a kid I have always loved lemonade. The City of

McCloud hosts the annual Blackberry Festival on Independence Day weekend. McCloud is known as "The Blackberry Capital of the World", and as weird as it sounds, my favorite thing at the festival is the lemonade. So as a challenge, I tried to find lemonade that was just as good or maybe even better. So I looked all around for lemonade and if I know anything about lemonade, I know that the best lemonade is ONLY at stands made specifically for lemonade. Any stand that sells food and lemonade, 9 times out of 10 doesn't have good lemonade. So I looked for just a lemonade stand. Oddly enough I found a big stand in the shape of a lemon, and it said "LEMONADE" in big green letters, which typically is a good sign. I approached the lemonade stand with confidence and asked the lady what kinds of lemonade she had. She said, "All kinds." I thought, oh wow, this is going to be a long list. She then said, "Cherry lemonade, cherry limeade, original lemonade, or

original limeade." Once again, another bad sign. This lemonade stand also sells limeade, but I was too deep, I couldn't back out now. I ordered the cherry lemonade and just as suspected, it didn't meet my standards. I guess there is no lemonade like hometown lemonade. I met some nice people and also had some weird experiences. Although it didn't compare to the Oklahoma State Fair or the Blackberry Festival in McCloud, I still had a good time. I learned about bluegrass, saw some really great art, and learned where to get the best Deep Fried "Oreo" Chocolate Sandwich Cookie. I found out why trailers have been parked on 9th street for weeks. The most important thing I learned from my experience at the festival is to never, and I mean never, trust a lemonade in the shape of lemon. Even though it seems like a good idea.

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