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PIONEER

Aquatic center closes shop for renovations

After 15 years of service, much-needed changes to be made

By Caroline Ting, Editor & Jennifer Thorley, NWI Student

Swimmers and divers planning to use OKCCC's Olympic-sized pool will have to find another location for the next several weeks while the 15-year-old pool undergoes much-needed renovations.

The OKCCC Board of Regents approved the spending of \$241,413.94 to fix the pool and awarded the contract to RenoSys Corp. during the regular Committee of the Whole meeting Sept. 13.

The contractor will replace the existing bulkhead with a fiberglass version, resurface the swimming pool and replace the existing gutter lip on the diving well, according to the board meeting agenda.

A bulkhead is a moveable piece of equipment for swimmers to use during swim competition to lengthen or shorten the lanes, said Traci Wheeler, Recreation and Community Services director.

The pool has already closed.

Before the contractor arrives on campus, the college has to get the pool ready, said Chris Snow, Physical Plant assistant director.

"The lap pool has a volume of 660,000 gallons of water," Snow said. "So we have to remove the amount of the water and have the surface dry..."

Pumping out the water takes 24 to 36 hours, Snow said, but having a totally dry surface will take five working days.

The initial preparation is taking a little longer because the pool could literally float to the surface if the water is drained too quickly. That's because the college rests upon a very shallow water table, Snow said. However, he said, that won't be an issue.

"Our aquatic facility has ground water pumps around the swimming pool, which pumps that ground water away from the swimming pool itself, ...keeping the pressure on the shell of the pool at a minimum," Snow said.

See "Swim," page 8



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Horsing around: OKCCC Physics Professor Debra Burris spends quality time with friends Buddy and Quest, horses that live at Medicine Creek Ranch in Norman. Burris, who has been riding horses for a number of years, boards her horses there. When she isn't teaching, Burris is involved in a couple of projects that work to help mistreated horses. (See full story on page 7.)

Oct. 8 marks voter registration deadline

By Christiana Kostura
Staff Writer

Oct. 8 is the last day to sign up for the chance to help pick the country's next president, and to be a part of the crowd who helps decide if Oklahoma will have a lottery and to define marriage in the state's constitution.

It's the last day to register to vote in the upcoming Nov. 2 election.

It's important to vote, said student Shannon Reimche. "You have to vote to get what you want," she said. "That's what you do."

This year, many issues on Oklahoma's Nov. 2 ballot may affect OKCCC students.

A copy of those issues is listed at the Oklahoma State Election Board's website at www.state.ok.us/~elections/.

Members of OKCCC's political clubs, the Young Democrats and College Republicans, agree that registering to vote is especially important for college students.

"Our future depends on it," said James Williamson of the Young Democrats. "The election is going to affect students a lot."

College Republicans sponsor Ralph DeCardenas agrees.

"Voting is a constitutional right," DeCardenas said. "If students don't exercise their right to vote, no one else is going to do it for them."

To vote in Oklahoma, people must be at least 18 on or before the date of the election. Voters also must be U.S. citizens and Oklahoma residents.

Some situations could disqualify a citizen from registering to vote, at least for a certain time period.

For example, those convicted of a felony may register to vote only after a period of time equal to the original judgment and sentence has expired, the Oklahoma State Election Board's website states.

Those incapable of making decisions also may be disqualified.

Those who are already registered may want to check to make certain they haven't been dropped or overlooked for some reason, said Doug Sanderson, Oklahoma County Election Board secretary.

"Don't wait for Oct. 8 to find out if you've been purged from the roll."

Sanderson said when a registered voter does

See "Vote," page 9

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Time to end tobacco habit

One day, if the tobacco industry finally goes out of business, the whole world should have a celebration. Until then, it will take a great deal of effort to stop cigarette production.

In New York, the federal appeals court is apparently considering a "once-and-for-all" tobacco lawsuit that could "set the stage for the largest verdict ever against the tobacco industry," according to the New York Times.

Judge Jack B. Weinstein, of the U.S. District Court, said in the article that, instead of evaluating claims for compensation, he plans to assess punitive damages in a national trial over which he will preside.

Anti-smoking supporters would love Weinstein's eagerness to bring tobacco companies to a national trial, as well as his idea of not allowing the companies to get away with paying money for killing people.

It's about time those companies start taking some serious responsibilities other than throwing out a tiny fraction of their money and printing labels because they're required to warn smokers of the possible dangers their products may cause.

Many connections have been proven between diseases and cigarette smoking, but few smokers care to read or listen.

"I know, but..." is often a response when you are kindly lecturing a friend about what his or her lungs might look like a couple of decades down the road, if they don't quit smoking right now.

Nowadays smokers are required to smoke outside of a building or a restaurant. People walking past them still have to hold their breaths, so they don't inhale the cancer-causing toxins. Nonsmokers shouldn't have to compromise, because they choose to live a longer life.

There are plenty of reasons why people should quit smoking. If cigarette makers can end this huge health-damaging cycle by turning away from their business, it would force smokers to quit.

Motivational speaker Patrick Reynolds turned his back on the family cigarette brands Camel and Winston, which killed his father and eldest brother. All of the others in the business should think about following his decision.

Voters might want to think about voting to increase cigarette tax by four cents per cigarette in Oklahoma Nov. 2. The money would be spent in funding an important list of health initiatives, according to the Oklahoma State Election Board website.

Smokers should continue to motivate themselves to quit. Our environment, as well as their health and the public, would benefit.

To help smokers in Oklahoma get started on how to quit smoking, call the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline at 1-866-PITCH'EM or 1-866-748-2436. The hotline is funded by the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement.

—**Caroline Ting**
Editor

Smile, even on a bad day

To the editor:

What ever happened to pleasing the customer? Today I went to Sellers to eat lunch and asked if they had any chicken salad. The guy behind the counter said, "No, I just gave the last to the person ahead of you." He wasn't too friendly about it. Instead of saying, "No Ma'am. Would you like to wait while I make some more? Or, "May I help you with something else?" he just walked away.

The last few times I have gone to Sellers this guy was there. He doesn't smile, and he has a grumpy look on his face all the time.

Let me offer a few sugges-

tions: smile at your customers, and ask them how you may help them. Make the customers feel like you are excited to see them, and make them feel like you want their business. Look in a mirror and practice smiling or think of something that will make you smile. When you smile, it comes across in your voice and attitude. Try it sometime and see how it works.

Remember, you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar.

I realize that not everyone can have a good day. Sometimes it takes real effort to muster up a smile. Everyone has good days and bad

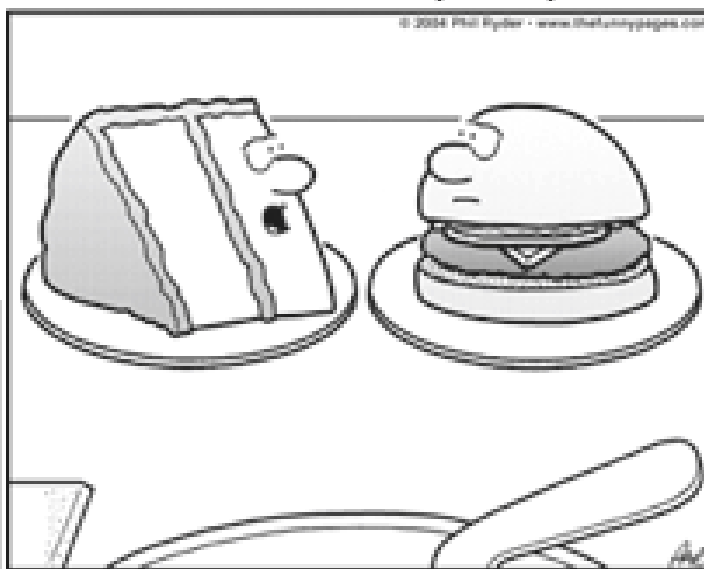
days, and I have had my share. But, if you work in the public eye, you have to force yourself to be pleasant.

So, try smiling and see how many people will smile back at you. Come on, I dare you to smile. I know you can. Show off those pearly white teeth.

—**LaWanda LaVarnway**
Photography Lab
Assistant

THE JOKE'S ON YOU

by Phil Ryder & YOU



"Don't sweet-talk me! I saw you holding the pickle and the lettuce!"

- Trudy McConnell • Averagetown, USA

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All letters must include
a name and a phone number
to be published.
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Questions?
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PIONEER

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. However, the PIONEER will withhold the name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity.

Letters to the editor can be delivered in person to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to 682-7568.

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@okccc.edu. A phone number for verification must be included.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: <http://pioneer.okccc.edu>.



Comments and Reviews

Choose a different leader as a start, writer says

To the editor:

I agree with Mr. Bryant's editorial in the Sept. 13 edition of the Pioneer, on the importance of voting wisely.

For me, Iraq is the most important aspect of this election, because I think it represents the future security of this nation and the world, while showing the facets of decision making for this administration concerning the direst of all policies — war.

The United States went to Iraq with the noblest of purposes: to spread democracy in the Middle East and to dispel Saddam Hussein.

When the occupation of Iraq began, we had around 70 percent of Iraqi support. Now, that number has plummeted to less than 5 percent. Imagine getting that number on a test.

The grim reality in Iraq is a result of this administration suffering from what psychologists would refer to as groupthink. This term basically means if you surround yourself with a bunch of people who all think the same way, you decrease your ability to make successful decisions, especially concerning complicated issues.

The clearest example of this dereliction concerns retired Gen. Anthony Zinni of U.S. Command, who from 1997 to 2000 was in charge of all U.S. troops in the Middle East. General Zinni was brought on by this administration to advise how to successfully oust Saddam, and in addition, how to achieve the

“Voting Kerry in is not a solution to the situation in Iraq by any means, but I think it could be a start.”

—John Dell
Psychology major

more difficult task of protecting the security of the Iraqi civilians in the aftermath of the war.

Zinni advised this administration to wage a successful war in Iraq, it would need up to 300,000 troops to dispose of Saddam and help secure the Iraqi's ability to run their own country in the model of democracy. We only sent about 180,000 troops. Needless to say, the war-ready Bush administration did not like what the general had to say and relieved him of his duties. Only now do we see the failure of this administration. I wonder if this administration sees its failure. If they do, they certainly do not admit it.

We hear so much from this president about supporting our troops. I think the real way to support our troops would be to make sure there are enough of them in combat to support each other and the people that are there to help.

Now, in the other corner, we have a man who, despite what the swift-boat mudslingers for character defamation have said, served his country honorably and was awarded by the United States of America for his service. No matter what you think about Mr. Kerry's service, the point is, he served.

This is more than this president can say when you take into account the recently-released records showing his National Guard Service, or should I say, lack thereof. What I find most important about Mr. Kerry is that after he did his duty in Vietnam, he came home and spoke about the error of the government in going to Vietnam. He spoke about the war crimes that some of the soldiers were committing, and he recognized the eminent failure of Vietnam.

Now, what person between these two could better help us deal with the current situation in Iraq? I should point out that John Kerry is by no means suggesting we just leave Iraq, but I am suggesting that he would be able to make better decisions concerning the war.

I would like to leave you with this. Voting Kerry in is not a solution to the situation in Iraq by any means, but I think it could be a start. Let's show the people of Iraq that democracy can work, not with a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, but with our ability to recognize a failed opportunity and replace it with an opportunity for success.

—John Dell
Psychology major

Around Campus with the President

Get involved!

Over the past 32 years I have watched a new group of students enter the front doors of OKCCC each fall semester. These students bring distinctive characteristics to the campus — new hopes, unique personalities, diverse backgrounds and special interests. But, they also have one thing in common — higher education.

When you attend a college with an enrollment of 12,000 students, there are others on campus who share your same interests. Whether it is the same field of study, special interest, religion, or your ethnic background, more than likely there is a club or organization that you can become involved in.

I want to encourage you to join one of the 32 student clubs and organizations here at the college. Already, 850 students are participating this semester.

Through active involvement in these organizations, you will have the opportunity to develop your leadership and communication skills, and network with fellow students and faculty and staff. These attributes are necessary in order for you to be successful in the workforce.

A recent survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers found that employers have a list of skills they look for in a potential employee, which include teamwork, motivation, communication and leadership. All of these attributes are developed through participation in a club or organization.

Participating in student organizations will give you the opportunity to meet and work with the college faculty and staff who sponsor these groups. They volunteer their time and resources to help students develop new skills.

I want to challenge each student to join one of the organizations and share your ideas and interests and take action. I look forward to seeing what each student club accomplishes this coming year.

—Dr. Bob Todd
OKCCC President

Please note: Students interested in the organizations and clubs on campus can contact Liz Largent, director of Student Life, at 682-7596.

Quote of the Week:

“The young have aspirations that never come to pass, the old have reminiscences of what never happened.”

—Saki

Have a question about OKCCC that you don't have the answer for?

Give us the question, and we will find the answer for you.

**editor@okccc.edu
682-1611, ext. 7409**

Parking lot dedication



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Oklahoma County Commissioner Jack Cornett and OKCCC Regent David Casper share a moment at the dedication of the college's new parking area in parking lot A Sept. 9. The commissioner's office assisted with the project which added almost 300 parking spaces to the campus.

Employee thankful for recognition

By Valerie Jobe
News Writing I Student

A behind-the-scenes employee in Human Resources was chosen as the Classified Employee of the Year. Kathy Bailey, Human Resources representative, began working for the college in December 1988, as a secretary for the college president.

Bailey is now responsible for taking care of the people who teach the students. She handles such things as leave-of-absence forms for staff members and answering the faculty's questions.

The award has let her know just how much she means to the people around her.

"This is such a kind thing for people to do," Bailey said of the co-workers who nominated her.

"I was so surprised. It was totally unexpected, and I'm very appreciative of what I have," Bailey said.

Linda Schulenberg, Human Resources representative,

"I was so surprised. [Winning the Classified Employee of the Year Award] was totally unexpected, and I'm very appreciative of what I have."

—Kathy Bailey
Human Resources Representative

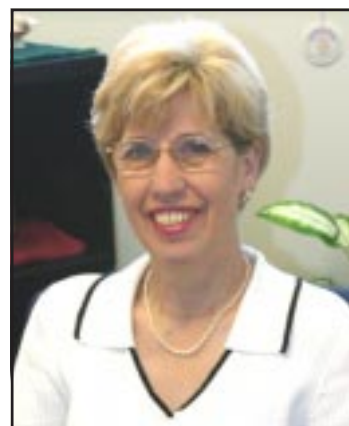


Photo by Ann Lushbough

Kathy Bailey

sources representative, has worked with Bailey for seven and a half years.

Schulenberg shares office responsibilities with Bailey, and they often share their workload with each other.

"Kathy really helps me out and she is a lot of fun to work with," Schulenberg said.

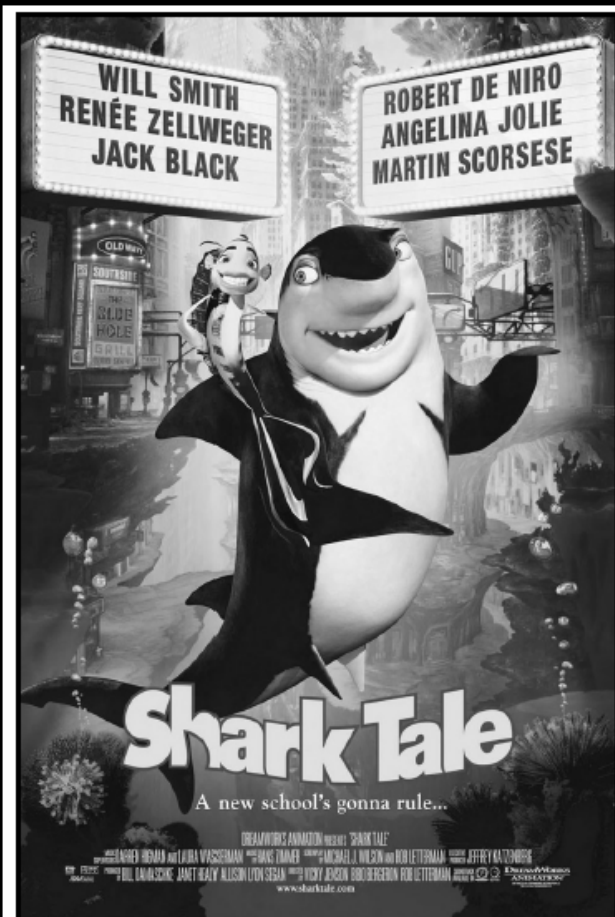
Bailey and Schulenberg also lead a committee that helps decorate offices and a tree during Christmas

time.

Bailey's commemorative plaque is displayed proudly on a wall in her office.

In her spare time, Bailey said she enjoys sewing and playing the piano.

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IN THEATRES OCTOBER 1



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?

Read the Pioneer online: pioneer.okccc.edu

New equipment helps journalism program

Grant provides video production students state-of-the-art cameras

By Josh Bostic
News Writing I Student

OKCCC's broadcast journalism program has received top-of-the-line video equipment thanks to a grant provided by the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation.

"I'm really excited about this," said Video Production Professor Rick Allen Lippert, who has been teaching part-time at the college since fall 1997.

"This is the kind of thing a video guy lives for."

Five new Sony video cameras are ready for students to use in Lippert's video production class. Each camera kit includes: a video camera, a tripod, hand-held microphone, flip-out LCD screen, battery, charger and carrying bag. The total cost of all the cameras was \$16,000.

Lippert said these cameras are dependable and have had new features added to them to make

them durable and easier to use. Video production students will be allowed to check out video cameras for 24-hour periods.

Before now, the students used Panasonic cameras, which were fragile and almost disposable. Just two semesters after purchasing them, two of the cameras had already broken.

Lippert said one of the video class assignments would be for students to film someone associated with the college. This video biography will include filming someone on and off campus doing something of interest.

By spring, video students will have new editing equipment to complement the new cameras. Ten Apple Macintosh G5 computers with Final Cut Express editing software are being purchased at a total package cost of \$50,000. Also included is a 20-inch cinema display monitor, a Panasonic digital video tape deck, along with a 13-inch LCD video monitor.



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Video Lab Assistant Chad Pittman shows the new video cameras the program acquired through a grant from Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. The Sony cameras are a significant upgrade from the old cameras, said adjunct Video Production Professor Rick Allen Lippert. "This is the kind of thing a video guy lives for," Lippert said.

Lippert said, in a few years, he hopes the college also will have Internet news broadcasts.

The Video Production

class meets Monday afternoons.

"The class includes first-year college students all the way to retirees who just

want to learn more about video production," Lippert said.

For more information visit www.okccc.edu.

AH dean named professional employee of the year

By Valerie Jobe
News Writing I Student

Her colleagues praise the talents of Arts and Humanities Dean Susan VanSchuyver. She was named the Professional Employee of the Year at the college's Fall Convocation.

According to her coworkers, VanSchuyver's dedication and willingness to go the extra mile made her a candidate for the award.

VanSchuyver has worked for OKCCC since 1983, when she started as an adjunct professor.

Linda Robinett, Learning Skills professor, has been colleagues and friends with VanSchuyver since they met in 1983.



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Susan VanSchuyver

"She is such a natural leader and is able to handle all kinds of situations," Robinett said.

She said VanSchuyver has never crossed the sometimes-fine line between professional and friendly behavior.

Robinett said faculty

"Dr. Bob Todd started to narrow down candidates, and my heart started beating very fast. I think somewhere inside I knew."

—Susan VanSchuyver
Arts and Humanities Dean

members encouraged VanSchuyver to enter into the college's administrative ranks.

"We wanted her to apply for the position of dean when we didn't have one, probably before she had thought about it."

Another VanSchuyver fan is Modern Languages Professor Dianne Broyles.

"She is an excellent administrator," Broyles said. "This is a better place to work because of her."

VanSchuyver said she was thrilled by her nomination and even more excited

when she won.

"Dr. Bob Todd started to narrow down candidates, and my heart started beating very fast," she said. "I think somewhere inside I knew."

As for the plaque, VanSchuyver said, "I'm not quite sure where to hang it up yet."

VanSchuyver earned de-

grees from Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. She earned her master's while attending the University of Central Oklahoma.

VanSchuyver likes to write and has an interest in science fiction. She also adores felines. She shares her home with three cats.

Voice your opinion.
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Write the editor at
editor@okccc.edu

Bio students camp for grade



OKCCC student Natalie Machalinski poses with a skink (lizard) she caught during Bioblitz.



OKCCC students Fariha Sultana, above, and Zuzana Novakova, right, study the different species captured in the 24-hour survey.



Photos and Text by Anna Rodriguez

Small animals ran in fear for their lives at Okmulgee State Park last weekend even though no one aimed to hurt them.

Eleven students and two professors from OKCCC drove to Okmulgee to take part in the timed search of identifying as many plants and animals as possible in a 24-hour time period. The event ran from 3 p.m. Sept. 10 until 3 p.m. Sept. 11.

"It gives students a chance to get outdoors and get an appreciation of nature," said Tony Stancampiano, biology professor at OKCCC. "You get hands-on information that you can't get in a classroom."

Stancampiano offered his biology students extra credit if they participated. Hundreds of volunteers took part in the biological event at Okmulgee State Park.

OKCCC international student Zuzana Novakova, from Slovakia, said she loved the experience.

"I'm still not an outdoor girl," Novakova said, "but I learned how to make a tent, build a campfire, and had my first American S'mores."

Biology major Natalie Machalinski said she enjoys the outdoors and hopes to never work behind a desk.

"I didn't care much about the extra credit," she said. "It was so much fun crawling around in the woods, setting traps and turning over rocks, and I made so many professional contacts for the future."

She said the event is a wonderful opportunity for students who may have an interest in the field, but may not understand what biologists and zoologists do. The experience lets people see how interesting the work is, she said.

The annual event is an opportunity for scientists of different fields and the general public to join forces and gather valuable information about the environment. This year, 335 students, professors and sci-

"I'm still not an outdoor girl, but I learned how to make a tent, build a campfire and had my first American s'mores."

—Zuzana Novakova
International Student
from Slovakia

entists took part, along with an additional 320 elementary school children from the Okmulgee school district.

The 11 OKCCC students who attended this year's event were David Van Duyn, Gwen George, Joyce Harrison, Natalie Machalinski, Ashley Mullins, Zuzana Novakova, Vicki Ray, Starling Rhymes, John Schmitz, Allegra Snyder and Fariha Sultana accompanied by Professor Tony Stancampiano and Professor Julian Hilliard.

Organizers deemed Bioblitz 2004 a success. More than 550 plants and animals were identified including a bald eagle, a cricket frog and a Texas mouse.

"There are lots of species in your backyard," said Ian Butler, Information Technology analyst from the Oklahoma Biological Survey. "Many provide ecological services we take for granted,"

Other activities also were offered throughout the day including insect sweep nets for the public to catch and identify insects with help from the volunteers.

Bioblitz 2004 was hosted by the Oklahoma Biological Survey from the University of Oklahoma and other organizations including the Oklahoma City Zoo and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation. Event results and more information are available at www.biosurvey.ou.edu.

Oh, and the animals that were caught? Stancampiano said, at the end of the day, they were released back into their habitats unscathed.

Physics prof helps save horses from slaughter

By Ann Lushbough
Staff Writer

Rescuing horses is a top priority for Physics Professor Debra Burris.

She and a group of people work together to provide shelter and care for horses as an alternative to slaughter.

Medicine Creek in Norman, where Burris boards her horses, houses several rescued horses.

Some of the animals came from situations where they had been abused or neglected, Burris said.

Burris became involved with the ranch about a year ago. Ranch owner Sheila Taylor's philosophy matches Burris's own interest in saving horses.

About 30 horses live at Medicine Creek, including seven board horses.

Burris, 35, became involved with horses at the age of 10. At 15, she was thrown from her horse. Afraid for her safety, her parents forced her to stop riding.

Burris did not start riding again until she was 30.

For her this is a return to a childhood passion.

Taylor has been involved with horses her entire life, Burris said.

At Medicine Creek, in addition to training and helping horses, Taylor teaches several types of riding including Western, English dressage, halter and jumping.

Last March, Taylor introduced Burris to a retired thoroughbred racehorse named Patriot Persuader.

"When I first saw Patriot, I was grading some papers and he just walked over and grabbed a student's paper right out of my hand," Burris said.

"I told Sheila, I don't think I want him but after I rode him I just fell in love and I decided right then that I had to have him."



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Professor Debra Burris rides her horse Patriot.

Patriot suffered a leg injury right after Burris bought him so she couldn't ride him for the first three weeks.

So, instead, she spent time with her new charge, grooming and walking him so he would get used to her and learn that he belonged to her.

Now, Burris competes in dressage with Patriot on a monthly basis.

Dressage is a style of riding based on a series of movements used in battle where the rider must learn to command the horse using the legs and seat.

Burris, a native of Atkins, Ark., earned her bachelor's degree in physics from Arkansas Tech Uni-

versity in Russellville, Ark.

She earned her master's degree in physics and a doctorate in astrophysics from the University of Oklahoma.

While at Arkansas Tech University, Burris worked in the physics lab.

There, she decided that she wanted to teach, thus launching her career as a professor.

Burris has taught at OKCCC since 1998.

Burris owns 170 acres in Atkins, Ark.

She said as soon as she gets situated there she will adopt as many horses as she can afford to feed.

Photographer Ann Lushbough can be reached at PioneerPhotog@okccc.edu.

Day of horsing around to benefit rescue mission

By Ann Lushbough
Staff Writer

The Tiny Timbers Equine Rescue is a non-profit, privately-funded organization located in Pea Ridge, Ark. Their mission is to save as many equine — such as horses, mules and miniatures — as they can from abuse, neglect or slaughter.

Physics Professor Debra Burris has been involved in the rescue for the past year.

"This is a lifestyle for me and it matters," she said.

"It is so important to not waste a life. These horses are living things and I think it's very important to save as many... as we can."

Owned and operated by Maureen Scuorzo and her family, Tiny Timbers has been in business since November 1988. They now have more than 70 equine residents, most of which are not rideable because of past abuse or medical problems.

The organization is privately funded. Whatever supplies and money they do not receive in donations they pay for out of their own family income.

Some of the animals can be adopted and some can be sponsored.

In order to qualify for adoption Scuorzo said, "The person has to be able to handle the horse. I try to match the horse with the person."

Scuorzo said she only adopts, and never sells, her horses. This way, she said, she can keep track of them.

Tiny Timbers retains part ownership of the equines that are adopted out so if the adopted home doesn't work out, they can get the horse back.

The sponsored horses re-

"This is a lifestyle for me and it matters. It is so important to not waste a life. These horses are living things and I think it's very important to save as many... as we can."

**—Debra Burris
OKCCC Physics
Professor**

main at Tiny Timbers and are supplied with food, shelter and love as well as any medical needs that they have.

There will be a benefit for Tiny Timbers Rescue on Oct. 2 at 9 a.m. at Medicine Creek Ranch in Norman.

There will be a full-day show with classes, and games and activities.

A concession stand will be set up and a donation box will be available. There also will be a silent auction and door prizes.

The rescue is in need of gently used tack, including hay, buckets, blankets, grooming and vet supplies, and halters. They also could use new and used equipment and donations of money.

Tiny Timbers uses an average of 40 round bales and 30 square bales of hay per month along with 6000 pounds of grain.

"This will be a day of fun and it is for a great cause," Burris said.

For more information on Tiny Timbers rescue, go to www.tinytimbersrescue.org

For more information on Medicine Creek Ranch, go to www.mcrtrainingcenter.com.

Photographer Ann Lushbough can be reached at PioneerPhotog@okccc.edu.

Grad named faculty employee of the year

**By Valerie Jobe
News Writing I Student**

One of OKCCC's own graduates was named Faculty Employee of the Year this fall.

Administrative Office Technology Professor Lisa Adkins began her career at OKCCC in May 1982 as secretary to the division of business. She was 18.

Adkins now teaches classes focused on developing skills needed in administration and business such as beginning and intermediate Microsoft Word, records management, Microsoft Access, and administrative office procedures.

Paula Belcher, secretary to the Executive Director of Enrollment Management, had Adkins as a professor.

"Lisa is very thorough, and I definitely earned every grade I ever received in her class," Belcher said.

She said Adkins has a lot of patience for students who make mistakes. Belcher said she once filled a trash can with paper trying to do an assignment.

"She was still willing to help me," Belcher said.

She said she has the utmost respect for Adkins as a teacher, co-worker, mother and friend. Belcher was at the hospital when Adkins' second child was born.

"Lisa knows that I would



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Lisa Adkins

be right there if she ever needed me and I'm sure she would do the same," Belcher said.

LeaAnn Hall, business division assistant, has

"I've always seen [the Employee of the Year award] as a prestigious award."

—Lisa Adkins

Administrative Office
Technology Professor

worked with Adkins for eight years. Hall said Adkins trained her for the position she currently holds. Hall said she respects Adkins' teaching style.

"She develops her classes from the ground up," Hall said.

"When new textbooks come out, she makes sure she knows what she is teaching."

Adkins has an open door policy with her students

and always tries to stay involved with them.

Adkins said she loves the college atmosphere that OKCCC offers and was happy to win the award.

"I've always seen [the Employee of the Year] as a prestigious award," Adkins said.

Adkins is a graduate of OKCCC, and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Aquatic center closed for improvements; reopens sometime in November

"Swim,"

Cont. from page 1

The Physical Plant began the process Sept. 14, and the contractor is expected to have materials on site starting Sept. 20, Snow said.

The pool will reopen soon after Nov. 10, the agreed-upon completion date for the renovations, Wheeler said.

"It was imperative that we have this project completed by Nov. 10, so that we have an adequate amount of time to be able to adhere to our promises to other entities utilizing the facility," Snow said.

He said the changes will benefit the college for years to come.

"Refurbishment such as this [is] necessary for the longevity of the facility," he said.

During the shutdown period, Wheeler said, events and activities that were scheduled have been relocated to other pools near the college in Oklahoma City.

Wheeler said the changes are being made to benefit the students and community members.

However, it also will help the college continue to attract national and regional swim meets.

"The renovations will allow Recreation and Community Services to continue competing for large National Collegiate Athletic Association and USA swim and dive

events," Wheeler said.

"The improvements must begin," she said. "We are seeing an increase in new aquatic centers in our surrounding states, thus creating the competition."

During the renovation, Physical Plant workers also will do some work including lighting repairs, circulation repairs, and perhaps some painting and numbering of the area as well.

The money will come from the college's Educational and General Operational budget and Auxiliary funds according to the regent's meeting agenda.

Students have mixed feelings about the project.

"I think it will benefit both the college and community," said freshman Bert Meigs, who also is a workstudy employee for the Wellness Center. "It will help draw people in."

Freshman Sharace Dansby said she has concerns about the renovations.

"I think some people won't like it," Dansby said. "The money could go toward more useful things for the school."

The Aquatic Center was built in 1989 and served as the outdoor

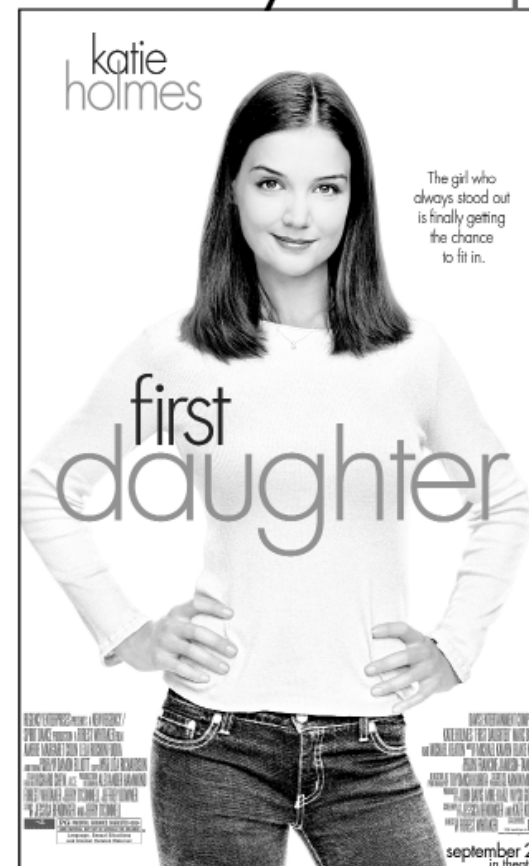
venue for all aquatic competitions during the 1989 U.S. Olympic Festival, according to www.okccc.edu/rcs/aquatic.html.

For more information about

Aquatic Center activities and temporary locations, contact the RCS office at 682-7860.

Editor Caroline Ting can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

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'Week of Action' to focus on political issues

By Matthew Caban
Staff Writer

In an election year where information is vital and knowledge is power, the Leadership Council is bringing both to campus during its Week of Action starting Sept. 27.

The event is organized through the Student Voice Committee, which is sponsored by the Oklahoma State Board of Regents for Higher Education, TLC Sponsor Liz Largent said.

Included in the Week of Action are former New Mexico Gov. Jerry Apodaca, members of major presidential campaigns, and a number of candidates from Oklahoma and Cleveland counties.

"This gets students more aware of their ability to change and let their voice be heard," said Kyle

Stowers, TLC civic engagement coordinator.

The first event is a lecture by Apodaca at noon Monday, Sept. 27, in college union rooms 1, 2 and 3. Apodaca currently lectures in colleges across the country regarding the dynamics of American politics.

Apodaca has a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and is a former U.S. Marine. He served four terms [1966-1974] in the New Mexico state legislature before being elected governor in 1974.

As governor Apodaca rearranged New Mexico's state government into a cabinet system. This system remains in effect today.

President Jimmy Carter named him Chair of the President's Coun-

cil on Physical Fitness in 1978.

Since his time in office, Apodaca has published periodicals targeting Hispanics including Vista magazine and Hispanic magazine. He also led Apodaca Investment Group in San Francisco.

In the second event, presidential policies and politics will be discussed. The

Presidential Issues Debate will be at noon Wednesday, Sept. 29, in college union rooms 1, 2 and 3.

TLC Sponsor Mary Candler said invitations have been sent to the George W. Bush, John Kerry and Ralph Nader campaigns.

She said both the Bush and Kerry campaigns will send representatives to this event, but the Nader campaign has not been confirmed to participate at press time.

Each campaign will be given time to make a statement at the beginning of the debate, Candler said.

After opening statements the audience can ask questions, Candler said. The participants will be given two minutes to answer.

The final event of the Week of Action is the Candidate Carnival. It will last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, in college union rooms 1, 2 and 3.

During the event, TLC will have a voter registration table set up. TLC members will be present to assist those registering to vote by answering questions and locating voters' legislative districts.

Candler said TLC sent invitations to candidates for the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Oklahoma State Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

The candidates were given a deadline of Friday, Sept. 17, to confirm for the event, Candler said.

A list of candidates scheduled to appear was unavailable at press time.

"Many issues affect students directly," Candler said. "This even will connect students with candidates in their districts."

Largent agreed.

"This personalizes politics and helps people make the right decision in November," Largent said.

Staff Writer/Club Reporter Matthew Caban can be reached at staffwriter1@okccc.edu.

Young people less likely to vote

By Christiana Kostura
Staff Writer

Younger people are less likely to vote than older people according to a report by the U.S. Census Bureau.

"The peak age group for voting participation is 65 to 74 years, where 72 percent of citizens voted in the 2000 election," reads the report. "The lowest voting rate (36 percent) is for 18- to 24-year-old citizens, who were half as likely to vote as people 65 to 75 years."

John Hughes Sr., political science professor, agrees with those statistics and is concerned about the low turnout of young

ger voters.

"It's the process of voting that is important," Hughes said. "(Young adults) feel that they don't have as much of a vested interest in the outcome."

Hughes said once people have families they tend to have a better understanding of how politics affect them.

The U.S. Census Bureau backs up that statement. "Married individuals (67 percent) are more likely to vote than widowed (59 percent), separated (46 percent), and never-married individuals (44 percent)," according to the U.S. Census Bureau statistics report.

Senior Writer Christiana Kostura can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu.

Deadline for registering to vote fast approaching

"Vote,"
Cont. from page 1

not cast a vote for two years, the county election board will send out a notice to see if the voter is still in the area or precinct. If the notice is not responded to, and the voter does not vote for another two years, that person may be taken off the list of registered voters.

Simply put, Sanderson said, if a person registered when they were 18 and they're 23 now, and they have not voted, they may need to register again to vote.

People can call the county election board where they were last registered to see if they are still registered to vote.

County election boards also have information about voting locations and absentee ballots for voters who can't make it to the proper location.

There are several ways students can register to vote. Student Life, located on the first floor of the main building of the college, has registration cards.

Registration forms also can be picked up from many government agencies including post offices.

Tag agencies will mail in voter registration cards for applicants if the form is completed while the applicant is renewing a driver's license.

Registration forms also may be filled out, printed, and mailed after downloading them from the Internet. One site that provides that service is www.justvote.org.

More information about registering to vote or about this year's ballot proposals can be found at the Oklahoma County Election Board's website: www.state.ok.us/~elections/.

Senior Writer Christiana Kostura can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu.

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Highlights

Cultural Awareness Series performance changed

Pianist Mykola Suk will appear in concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, in the college theater. Suk is originally from Ukraine, but now resides in Las Vegas, Nev. Percussionist Chen Zimbalista's performance is canceled. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students or senior citizens. For more information on events in the Cultural Awareness Series, contact Cultural Programs and Community Development at 682-7579.

State universities to visit campus

Many students continue their college education after graduation from OKCCC. Some state universities will send representatives to the Transfer Center in the Student Development office. The University of Central Oklahoma will be on campus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 20 and 27. Representatives from the University of Oklahoma, Norman campus, will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 22. OU College of Continuing Education will be here from 2 to 5 p.m. Sept. 23. Oklahoma State University will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 29. For more information, contact Zakee King at 682-1611, ext. 7535.

Young Democrats to hold meeting

Join the Young Democrats for their first official meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 22, in room 3P0 in the main building. Pizza and soda will be provided. For more information, contact James Williamson at jamesw@po.okccc.edu.

Health Profession club welcomes speaker

Interested in radiology, nuclear medicine, sonography or physical therapy? Susan Tucker from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Allied Health, will address the Health Professions club meeting at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in room 1C4 of the main building. For more information, contact club sponsor Steve Kamm at 682-1611, ext. 7268.

Creative journal Absolute accepting submissions

OKCCC's Absolute is accepting short stories, essays, poems, photographs, and black-and-white drawings for publication in the 2005 issue. Submissions will be accepted until Dec. 1. Anyone may submit work to Absolute. OKCCC students and staff are encouraged to submit material. Submission forms are available in the Arts and Humanities office or online at www.okccc.edu/ah/absolute. For more information, contact Clay Randolph at crandolph@okccc.edu.

Former governor of New Mexico to speak

Jerry Apodaca, the 24th governor of New Mexico, will lecture about American politics and its dynamics at noon Monday, Sept. 27, in college union rooms 1, 2 and 3. He also has served as the Chair of the President's Council of Physical Fitness under President Jimmy Carter in the past. For more information, call Student Life at 682-7523.

World's largest video game party coming to fair

GameRiot is coming to the Oklahoma State Fair Sept. 16 to 26. GameRiot will be open from noon to 11 p.m. daily with single session or all day passes available at the door. GameRiot hit the hottest clubs last spring and toured with Lollapalooza last summer. GameRiot will be touring major festivals and state fairs this fall. Participants will be able to play new video games such as Doom 3, ESPN NBA 2K5, Spiderman 2 and Star Wars: Battlefront at GameRiot. For more information, visit www.gameriot.com.



Carlos Robinson, president of the Black Student Association, speaks to club members during the club's meeting Friday, Sept. 10, in the college union. BSA's first meeting of the fall semester drew 35 members and guests.

"This is not a class. Here, we get to be friends and hang out," Robinson said.

Robinson and BSA Vice President Bobby Miller told the group about events they would like to plan this semester.

The club's next meeting is at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, in college union room 7. For more information, contact club sponsor Zakee King at 682-1611, ext. 7535.

Photo by Ann Lushbough

Black Student Association invites students of all races

By Matthew Caban
Staff Writer

The Black Student Association is beginning this semester by planning a slew of exciting events.

Club President Carlos Robinson said both fundraisers and volunteer activities would be planned during the club's next meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 24, in college union room 7.

Robinson said the club's meetings and activities are open to all students.

"People shouldn't be afraid to join because it is called the Black Student Association," Robinson said. He said BSA is open to all races.

"There are many new students on campus who need a place, and one of our goals is to get people involved."

Robinson said BSA hopes to introduce students to new friends.

Robinson said one way new members can become involved is by volunteering at the Halloween Carnival.

This year's Halloween Carnival is sponsored by the Campus Activities Board.

It is scheduled to last from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 29, in the college union.

Club Vice President Bobby Miller said last year's carnival was fun.

Robinson said new club members will have a say in what BSA will do for this year's Halloween Carnival.

"Everyone has brilliant ideas," Robinson said. "They should feel welcome to share."

He said the club has other events planned in addition to the Halloween Carnival.

Robinson said a talent show and a talent spotlight are in the works.

"I think everyone has something artistic to bring to the table," new member Rashida Hobbs said.

Robinson said BSA might

visit local high schools to speak to students. He said the visits are an opportunity to mentor students.

Hobbs, a 2000 graduate of John Marshall High School in Oklahoma City, said she would like to meet with high school students.

"I can tell them about how they can finish school while being pregnant," Hobbs said.

"They can still be educated and I want them to be."

New member Rashad Deveau, a native of Nassau, Bahamas, also is a new student who is looking forward to spending time with the BSA.

"The sense of fellowship reminds me of home," Deveau said.

For more information regarding the Black Student Association, contact club sponsor Zakee King at 682-1611, ext. 7535.

Club Reporter/Staff Writer Matthew Caban can be reached at staffwriter1@okccc.edu.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OKCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611, ext. 7674 for more information.

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FOR SALE: '98 Nissan Frontier XE, 4 cylinder, automatic, power steering, driver and passenger airbags, garage kept, 57K miles, excellent condition, \$7,200 OBO. Call 524-9429 after 5:30 p.m.

FOR SALE: '98 Pontiac Sunfire 153K miles, dark purple, tinted windows, cold A/C and CD player. Runs great and very fuel efficient, \$2,200 OBO. Call 819-9850.

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FOR SALE: '95 Chevrolet Corsica. Gray, 4-door, clean, neat, few miles. Runs great. \$1,700 OBO. Call 682-2276 or 514-4295.

FOR SALE: '92 Honda Prelude, black exterior, dark gray interior, sun roof, power windows,

Alpine CD player, Pioneer speakers, 14" rims, silver and red. \$2,000. Call 503-7807 or 366-1138.

FOR SALE: '90 Ford F-150 XLT. Newly replaced battery, alternator, drive shaft and tires. Very mechanically sound. Will sell for

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FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Two solid wood bar stools. High-back swivel seats. Excellent condition, \$30 for set. Tiny Tykes play workbench. All accessories included, excellent condition and toddler picnic table, \$10 for both. Call 895-6542 and leave message.

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FOR SALE: Almost brand new blue couch, \$75. 2 love seats, 1 for \$25 or 2 for \$45. Coffee table, \$20. Ironing board plus iron, \$20. Blue recliner, \$50. Black baker's rack, \$20. Night stand, \$5. Book shelf, \$7. Call and leave message at 947-4977.

HAVING A BABY?: Wooden rocking chair with back padding, \$15. Contact Christiana at 682-1611, ext. 7675.

FOR SALE: Victorian camel back sofa with Queen Anne legs, \$300. Call Michelle at 366-6009 or 410-1644. Please leave message if not available.

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MISCELLANEOUS

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED: The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center research team needs participants between the ages of 18 and 30, who have a parent with or without a history of an alcohol or drug problem. Qualified participants will be compensated for their time. To see if you qualify or to learn more about the study, please call 552-4303. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

WORKOUT EQUIP. FOR SALE: Dumbbells and standard plates, \$0.25 per lb. VKR station, \$40. Small bench, \$15 and other misc. stuff as well. Call Ben at 401-0594.

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ACROSS

- 1 Understandable
- 6 Recipe qty.
- 10 "Dear" one
- 14 Jazzy Lena
- 15 Jai
- 16 Mouse cousin
- 17 Getting older
- 18 Floor coverings
- 19 Historical periods
- 20 Shoppers' papers
- 22 Harangue
- 24 Poet Ogden
- 25 Gemsboks
- 26 Eucalyptus eaters
- 30 Famous volcano
- 32 Andes native
- 33 Greek goddess
- 35 Peculiarity
- 40 Timeless
- 42 Toss it!
- 44 Screwdriver need
- 45 Place
- 47 Emulate Celine Dion
- 48 Hull bottom
- 50 Pops
- 52 Wet
- 56 Boor
- 58 Mountain nymphs
- 59 Kernels

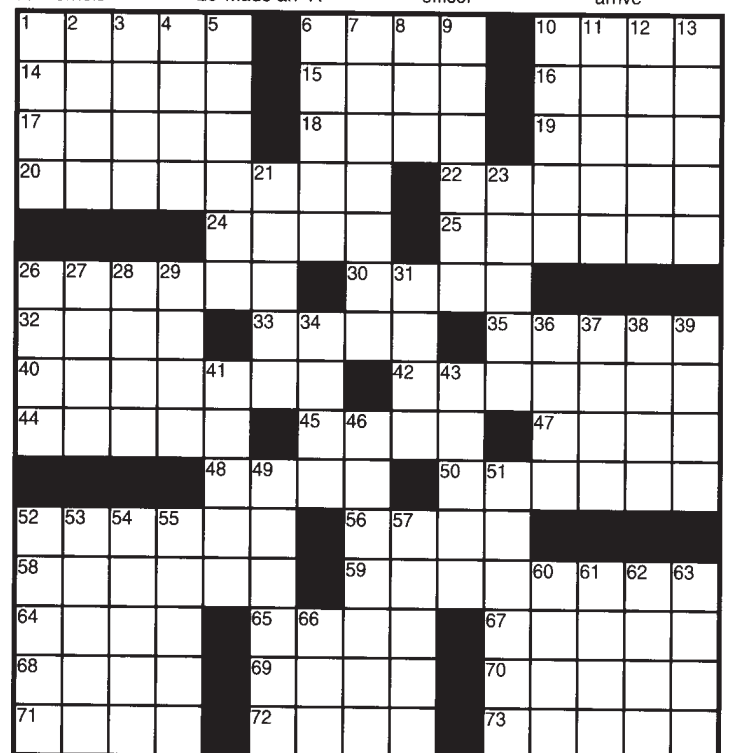
DOWN

- 1 Scorch
- 2 Theater section
- 3 Guitarist
- 4 Actress Meara
- 5 Canadian city
- 6 Bakery items
- 7 Rouge
- 8 Droop
- 9 Engine part
- 10 Painter
- 11 Water softener
- 12 Grass unit
- 13 Affirmatives
- 21 Turkish official
- 23 Baghdad native
- 26 Ukraine's capital
- 27 "I'm — your tricks!"
- 28 Made an "A"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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| M | A | P | S | A | B | E | L | F | A | M | E |
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Deaf Awareness Week celebrated by college

**By Shawn Bryant
Staff Writer**

About 30 OKCCC students are deaf or hard of hearing, said Pat Stowe, director of Services to Students with Disabilities.

The college offers several helpful services to those students.

Now, OKCCC is offering others a chance to learn more about the deaf and hard-of-hearing community during National Deaf Awareness Week.

On Sept. 22, Services to Students with Disabilities is holding faculty and staff professional training.

The workshop, covering deaf culture, is from 10 to 11 a.m. in room 2N3 of the main building.

The event is for OKCCC faculty and staff only, Stowe said. However, students may visit the library to be a part of the awareness week.

In order to promote deaf awareness, the library has placed a number of books concerning deaf culture on display, Stowe said.

The books are located in the display case outside the library as well as at a table on the second floor.

Stowe said National Deaf Awareness Week is not necessarily for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

"We want to promote awareness," she said.

National Deaf Awareness Week events are always held the last week of September in commemoration of the first World Congress of the Deaf which took

place in 1951, Stowe said.

Events won't be limited to that week however. A brown bag lunch is on the calendar from noon to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 20 in CU3.

During the lunch, basic sign language will be taught said John Horinek, coordinator of community engagement. No registration is required and the event is open to everyone.

Those attending may bring lunch, but some refreshments will be provided, he said.

Staff Writer Shawn Bryant can be reached at staffwriter2@okccc.edu.

Ver-r-r-y rice!



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Occupational therapy freshman Logan Grasteit shows off a rice necklace she made during welcome back week at the rice mania booth. Students lined up to make necklaces that featured their names written on a piece of rice.



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