

- OSU may use law to expand, editorial, p. 2.
- Affordable Christmas gift ideas, p. 8.
- Olympic hopeful at OKCCC, sports, p. 12.
- Children given gift of books, p. 14.

PIONEER

Ring in the money



Photo courtesy of Jon Horinek

OKCCC students Stacy Dunn and Vaneza Ceballos ring the bells for the Salvation Army during a Student Life Service Saturday event Dec. 3. Students volunteered for two-hour shifts. For more information on volunteer opportunities through Student Life, see page 4.

Stress can be lessened via a phone call

'211' helpline open 24/7

By Matthew Caban and Lizzie Byrd
Staff Writers

The forecast for some this holiday season is a blizzard of stress with long lines at the mall, visiting in-laws, and children on school vacation. Although such a forecast could cause alarm, experts say some stress should be expected over the holidays.

They also say help is but a phone call away through a nationwide help line that assists citizens with information that may relieve stress. The non-emergency phone service, 211, connects people with multilingual "service specialists" who answer questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The 211 operators are trained to help callers deal with stressful problems and questions, and all information is kept private.

The 211 service also can be used to access employment services, home care support for aging parents, finding volunteer opportunities, or to get a list of recreational activities available, along with many other helpful topics.

For those who might prefer to seek help online, the National Mental Health Association has dedicated a portion of its website to tips and suggestions on how to fight holiday blues.

Sally Edwards, OKCCC Student Support Service grant director, said people can follow a few basic guidelines to help eliminate some holiday stress.

She recommends keeping gift giving simple and limiting it to friends and family or those close to you. Keeping expectations low for the season helps reduce over-scheduling, over-buying, or general over-doing. That can keep stress at bay, Edwards said.

Edwards also suggests making a plan to stick to during the holidays.

211 helpline

Online shoppers, be aware

By Richard Hall
Staff Writer

Online shopping has grown in popularity the last several years, yet the security risks online shoppers face are still all too real.

Trey Bishop, OKCCC's UNIX System administrator, said there are a few things people can do to protect themselves while shopping online.

"Online stores like Amazon and eBay follow strict security measures," Bishop said. "But it's always best to create some of your own."

Bishop said online shopping should only be done on personal, home computers.

"Never shop online at Internet cafes or on work computers," he said.

Bishop said online shoppers also should learn how to clear the data their computer stores when they shop online.

He said, on most computers, this can be done by opening Internet Options in the web browser and choosing what you wish to delete.

Bishop said people also should shop only at secure websites and never buy items from an unsecured site.

He said secure websites are indicated by an added 's' at the end of the http line located in

the address bar of the web browser.

"That 's' stands for secure," he said. "Many websites normally don't turn into a secure site unless the shopper types in sensitive information or proceeds to checkout," he said.

Bishop said sticking with online merchants you know have a good reputation is a good idea as well. "It's always tempting to find the cheaper deal, but stick with who you know."

Freshman Alice Pillman said she doesn't shop online much but is careful when she does. "I make sure the store is a good store and won't sell my information to people," she said.

Liberal Arts major Richard Dunst said he shops online frequently but sticks to only a few online stores. "I only shop Amazon and eBay," Dunst said. "They've never given me a problem before and they're safe."

Amazon Customer Service Representative Sandeep Chaurasia said Amazon operates on a secure server.

"Several parts of our website are usable via the secure server," Chaurasia said. "[Such as] the order form and 'Your Account' sections."

Chaurasia also said all payments made

See "Online," page 16

See "Stress," page 16

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Eminent domain law for the good

Oklahoma State University is seeking the possible use of eminent domain in order to expand the main campus by adding additional academic and athletic facilities.

The area in question is north of McElroy Road to Eskridge Avenue, and between Duck Street and Washington Street. The additional area in question is south of McElroy Road, and between Washington Street and Monroe Street.

More than 80 percent of the property in the proposed area is rental, and OSU sees no difficulty in acquiring the land needed for its master plan. OSU has reported more than 100 voluntary signatures for housing appraisal.

However, many residents disagree with OSU's view. They are outraged and fighting the proposal.

The area near OSU has in excess of 400 homes and businesses. If owners do not agree to sell, OSU could seek the route of eminent domain to complete their plan.

"Eminent domain is the right of a government to take private property for public use by virtue of the superior dominion of the sovereign powers over all lands within its jurisdiction," according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

OSU President David Schmidly has met with residents of Stillwater and explained that the project will occur in two phases so as to "soften the blow."

OSU also has given the citizens meetings, information, and fair warning. OSU did not surprise Stillwater residents with the proposal, tons of preparation and consideration have been done and it all included the citizens.

The first portion of the plan is set to occur over a three- to five-year period. The second portion currently has no time limit but is expected to begin shortly after the first phase.

Having an updated athletic facility will ensure better sports programs for the university, and donations and enrollment into its programs will improve. Same would go for the academic addition. That is what college is for, believe it or not.

OSU has taken every possible route to cooperate with the citizens of Stillwater, but the outcome could hold a huge backlash from the community, and cause negative publicity for the university.

The legality of eminent domain includes just compensation, so the residents who are being displaced are set to receive funding to take care of their relocation.

OSU officials have discussed possible avenues for their expansion plan and have decided that while voluntary participation would be easiest, if needed, eminent domain would be used, and that is the school's right.

If eminent domain is used, OSU could have a public relations nightmare.

—Lizzie Byrd
Staff Writer

Professor praises Pioneer

To the editor:

English teachers are some of the worst nitpickers in the world. We're just wired that way.

Likewise, however, we are known to get goose bumps when we read a piece of excellent writing.

Imagine my delight, then, when I read "Follow Clues to New Class" in last week's

Pioneer.

From the title through the content, Ms. Byram did such an excellent job with the story of my new class. I just wanted to say how much I appreciate the coverage of the Detective Fiction course and what a good article I thought it was.

And last, I thought the

accompanying art was truly unique and eye-catching. Someone worked hard on that. As the article aptly portrays, I am excited to teach this new course, and I am very grateful for your fine piece about it. Thanks so much!

—Mary Punches
English and Humanities
Professor

Missionaries explained

To the editor:

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or Mormons, we are always asked questions about what we believe, and why.

Our church has grown rapidly since its beginnings on April 6, 1830, to encompass nearly 13 million members all over the world, yet many people still do not know or understand what we believe.

As missionaries, we spend two years of our lives volunteering to help others understand more about what we believe. You have undoubtedly seen us on campus, in our suits and ties, standing near a table full of Books of Mormon.

There are nearly 52,000 missionaries like us

throughout the world. Our objective is to help others gain a deeper understanding of our faith.

We teach about the Prophet Joseph Smith, a prophet whom God himself called to re-establish his church in 1830.

As missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Saints, we are very grateful for the opportunity to be here on your campus.

We will have a booth set up in the College Union on Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. You can get free information that will help you better understand the church. Please stop us if you have any questions you would like answered. After all, that's why we are here.

—Elder Temple and
Elder McGirr



PIONEER

Vol. 34 No. 16

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John Savage.....Staff Writer
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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 to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to (405) 682-7818.

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: www.okccc.edu/pioneer.



Comments and Reviews

Narnia film brings book to life

Whether it was required reading or you chose to read it for your own pleasure, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" was sure to plant a smile on your mug.

Now, the beloved children's classic from author C.S. Lewis has come to the big screen with an even more exciting entourage than the "Harry Potter" films and, dare I say, even a couple of the "Lord of the Ring" installments.

What starts off during an age of turmoil ends in a symphony of peace as the four Pevensie siblings embark on a journey across the world of Narnia.

Their goal: to stop the White Witch from claiming Narnia as her own with the help of the King of Narnia, the Great Lion Aslan.

Composed of a good balance of action, suspense and seamless accuracy to the novel, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is a distinguished film.

Aimed toward family audiences, the film dedicates itself to its acting, keen special effects and message.

Georgie Henley, who plays the young Lucy Pevensie, is the gem of the picture.

She's adorable and acts the part well, and is easily the most believable of the



four children.

Other notable acting jobs come from James McAvoy as Mr. Tumnus, Tilda Swinton as the White Witch and Liam Neeson as the voice of Aslan.

As for the special effects, they're grandiose, but not in a disgusting way.

It will be easy to compare the film's visual appeal to any of the "Lord of the Ring" films, but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

The same special effects company, Weta Workshop, did both.

With "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," everything looks more crisp and greater attention is paid to minute details, such as rustling feathers on a bird's wing and the damage caused to patches of grass

during the last battle.

The most charming aspect of "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is the animatronics and costumes used in place of an over abundance of computer-generated characters.

Those qualities are boasted throughout the film, and it's almost refreshing to see the special effects gurus go back to their roots to add a sense of antiquity and authenticity to the film.

What also amazes is the use of music. The horns, strings and drums don't miss a beat.

As music should, it lends heavily to the mood the film promises, and executes, in setting.

And what a mood the film



I am humbled and honored by the trust and confidence of the College's Board of Regents when they appointed me as the next president of Oklahoma City Community College. This is truly a great institution with a remarkable history and a promising future.

It has been a privilege to work with Dr. Bob Todd over the past 10 years. He is one of the finest, most dedicated presidents in the history of Oklahoma higher education. Dr. Todd led the institution to become one of the premier community colleges in the nation.

During my time at OCCC, I have met thousands of students from all across the state, the nation, and the world. I celebrate and commend them for the dedication and work required to achieve success. And, I am inspired by our students who have chosen to make a difference through the power of education.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with a dynamic Board, talented faculty, and superb staff, I am confident that we will build on this distinguished legacy to strengthen and deepen the impact of Oklahoma City Community College on the lives of students and on the community. I look forward to building on the work that began over 33 years ago when OCCC was founded.

—Paul Sechrist
Acting President

sets.

It represents storytelling at its finest and sends strong, positive messages to children and adults.

The film also flows great — it never feels rushed nor does it move too slow.

"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch

and the Wardrobe" would have put a smile on Lewis's face, just as his novels continue to do to those who read them.

Live the best adventure offered so far this year.

Rating: A+

—Richard Hall
Staff Writer

'PGR 3' for Xbox 360 drives into stores for Christmas

This Christmas will have you seeing green lights, tight turns and some sweet rides.

Bizarre Creations and Microsoft Game Studios have upgraded and retooled one of the best racing games ever to hit the gaming industry.

This third installment of the series gives gamers a small combination of simulation mixed with arcade racing.

This time, there will be no

Mini Coopers or Honda Civics. This year, "Project Gotham Racing 3" has high performance vehicles that are not typically found in a parking garage. More than 80 authentically-modeled and licensed super cars are in this year's "PGR 3."

Drivers can place themselves in Ferrari, Mercedes Benz, Jaguar, and Lamborghini cars, all decked out from the interior to the authentic engine roars.

Just as in past "PGR"

games, Kudos challenges will be used to calculate the drivers' racing skills and award drivers points for making killer turns, 360 degree spins, drafting and powersliding maneuvers.

The solo career in "PGR 3" is average at best and will have players performing several races in such places as New York, Tokyo and Las Vegas.

The solo career guides the player through several different races including one-

on-ones and cone challenges.

"PGR 3" has received a face-lift on the presentation of the Xbox Live! features. Gotham TV players can now watch other players race, and the new "PGR 3" ticker gives constant up-to-the-minute stats and world rankings. Racers can race each other online for world rankings or just host a game with friends for bragging rights.

Graphics are much im-

proved from the last "PGR" title, and showcase crystal clear colors on the cars and the cities when racing.

One small complaint is the cars bounce off each other like bumper cars and leave the drivers with a bad taste in their mouths. If racing is your forte, then grab the wheel and check the mirrors because "PGR 3" is here.

Rating: 4.75 out of 5.

—John Savage
Staff Writer

Nance named business vice president

By Matthew Caban
Staff Writer

Donna Nance was recently named the new vice president of Business and Finance, succeeding her longtime mentor Art Bode.

Nance is currently the college's Finance director.

She has been at the college for 10 years, including five years as the Finance assistant director.

Nance said she has big shoes to fill after learning much from Bode, who became the Business and Finance vice president in 2000.

"I have been his shadow for the last couple of weeks," she said. "He has been an absolutely wonderful mentor."

"I appreciate his help with the transition."

In her new role as Business and Finance vice president, Nance will oversee the college's business and financial affairs as well as maintain other duties.

"My job deals with the oversight and leadership of various projects behind the scenes," she said.

One plan Nance is working on is an Emergency Response Plan.

"Currently, we do not have a comprehensive plan for dealing with emergencies," Nance said.

Additionally, Nance will oversee the completion of three major construction projects.

Groundwork has already begun on the first project, the Science, Engineering and Math Center which will



Donna Nance

be completed in 2007.

Nance said the other two projects she will oversee are the construction of the Health Professions building and the Arts Education Center, which are still in the planning stages.

"One of the goals of the Vision of the Future is to increase the college's physical capacity," she said. "The

goal is to offer more classes and the first step is having the space to do so."

Nance said she enjoys spending her time with her family and being involved at her church, Trinity of the Nazarene.

"I go camping a lot with my husband and my two boys," she said. "They are a handful."

Nance will move from her office in the John Massey Center to the Main Building when she begins her new job Jan. 10.

"The people who work [at the John Massey Center] are great and have the students' interests at heart," she said.

"While you get a good parking space here, you feel cut off from what is going on."

Nance's secretary, Shar-

en Hall, said she will miss her boss, but knows Nance has a lot to offer the college.

"She is a great boss and easy to work for," Hall said.

Hall said Nance proved her worth when the Finance office was setting up the college's Datatel system in 2001.

"Datatel is tough to use until you get used to it," she said. "It was so trying that it made you act funny."

"But Donna made it easier to deal with."

Nance has a bachelor's degree from Hope College in Holland, Mich. and a master's in business administration from Oklahoma City University.

She also is a certified public accountant.

Staff Writer Matthew Caban can be reached at StaffWriter2@okccc.edu.

Clocks finally to be in sync with one another

By Christiana Kostura
Editor

Campus clocks have caused people to go cuckoo for years.

Now, thanks to a new Global Positioning System controlled clock network, everyone on OKCCC's campus will soon be able to agree on what time it really is.

Primex Wireless is the company OKCCC has decided to purchase the system from, said J.B. Messer, OKCCC Physical Plant director.

The company provides schools, universities, health facilities and others with synchronized clock systems.

The system will be placed on campus at an unknown date, said Chris Snow, Physical Plant assistant director, but it will be purchased by June 30.

Not all campus clocks will be replaced at once, however. It will be a gradual change.

"The new clocks will be

phased in," Messer said. "First, we're working on getting the transmitter."

The system receives a satellite signal and then transmits the signal to all the Primex clocks on campus, he said.

Students, faculty and staff say they are excited about the new system.

"I think it [will] be great," said Mark Carver, adjunct history professor. "It [will] help students get to class on time."

Carver said at the beginning of the semester, he would take roll when class started, but would inevitably count some students absent because they were following a different clock.

Cultural Programs and Community Development Assistant Scott Tigert agrees with Carver.

"I think it's a very good thing," he said. "The wishes of the people are being answered."

Tigert said it would be nice to have events beginning and ending at the correct times.

Paul Sechrist, OKCCC acting president, said com-

"I'm tired of rushing to class only to be 10 minutes early, or not hurrying and being five minutes late."

—Sarah Gardner
Nursing Student

plaints have been heard for years about the current clock system.

Sechrist said when he arrived at the college 10 years ago, the topic of synchronizing clocks was brought up at the first meeting he attended.

"I'm very excited [about the new clock system]," he said. "It's a solution to a challenge we've had for many years."

Snow agreed. He said after much research, college officials believe they have found the company that will work the best for OKCCC's needs.

Messer said the new clock system also will help save the college money.

He said the new clocks do not require the amount of maintenance the current clocks do.

Currently, the Physical

Plant has to change batteries, make minor time adjustments throughout the year and change all clocks for daylight-saving time, Messer said.

"The new clocks adjust automatically," he said.

The new clocks also have five-year batteries, according to the Primex website.

The clocks being ordered are accurate to the second, Messer said.

"They gave us a demo," he said.

Primex Wireless provided the Physical Plant with approximately 12 demo clocks, which were disbursed throughout cam-

pus.

Messer put the receiver in his office on a table and checked all the clocks throughout the week. They all stayed on time, he said.

Large-volume customer areas, corridors and large offices will have the clocks first, Messer said. Then, more internal areas, like classrooms, will receive the clocks.

Nursing student Sarah Gardner said she can't wait.

"It will be more convenient," she said.

Gardner said she is looking forward to arriving to all her classes at the right time.

"I'm tired of rushing to class only to be 10 minutes early, or not hurrying and being five minutes late," she said.

Editor Christiana Kostura can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

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OKCCC president hospitalized again

By Christiana Kostura
Editor

OKCCC's president, Dr. Bob Todd, remained hospitalized Dec. 6, in the latest round of medical procedures following his heart surgery in January.

Todd was in Baptist Integris Medical Center, in early December, undergoing tests to help determine new levels for his medications.

"He is resting comfortably," said Paul Sechrist, acting president.

Todd underwent two



Bob Todd

heart procedures Jan. 10. Doctors performed a single arterial bypass and replaced his mitral valve.

In June, Todd returned to the hospital to have a pacemaker inserted.

After a stroke in September, Todd announced he would be retiring from OKCCC effective March 1 after 34 years of service.

The stroke temporarily left Todd without the ability to speak.

"He's still going to therapy and his speech continues to improve," Sechrist said.

A committee of OKCCC faculty, staff and students has planned a celebration to honor Todd's career at the college.

The ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Na-

tional Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

"[Dr. Todd] appreciates everyone's thoughts and prayers," Sechrist said.

Sechrist was appointed

to be the ninth president of OKCCC by the Board of Regents on Nov. 21.

Editor Christiana Kostura can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

Book Buyback Dec. 12 to 17

By Caroline Ting
Contributing Writer

Sell your books and get a free backpack.

The OKCCC bookstore will buy back textbooks from students Dec. 12 through 17, between the college union and the main building.

The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

The free backpacks will be limited to one per student, said Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke. Students must have some type of identification to show they're currently enrolled at the college, she said.

"An (OKCCC) student ID would be great," Reinke said, "but if you don't, a driver's license or something."

Students can get up to 50 percent back on their textbooks, Reinke said. She said a few textbooks have changed editions, and those won't be purchased.

"This semester we're expecting a really big buy," she said.

Also, Reinke said, how much money students receive on their books depends heavily on the condition of the books.

"We won't buy back any books that are water damaged," she said, "or if they look like the bindings are coming apart and the pages are loose."

Workbooks, lab manuals and study guides also will not be bought back if they have tear-out pages that can be filled out, she said.

One question Reinke said she hears from students every semester is, Why can't you put out a list of all the textbooks you're buying back?

"We're buying back certain books for the store," she said. "If we're not buying them back for the store, a lot of the wholesale companies buy them back for their companies. They have over 600,000 titles that they can possibly buy back."

Reinke encouraged students to bring their textbooks to the buy back even if they don't think the books will be used again next semester.

If students have any books that are of no use to them but they don't want to throw away, Reinke has a solution — donate them to the bookstore.

This is the fourth semester the bookstore has been a drop-off location for Books For Africa, she said.

The organization collects, sorts, ships and distributes books to children in Africa, according to www.booksforafrica.org.

"[A book] may not have any value to you, but it has value to somebody who would use that book," Reinke said.

Holiday volunteer opportunities

By Christiana Kostura
Editor

'Tis the season of giving, and there are plenty of opportunities during the holidays, said Jon Horinek, OKCCC Student Life Community Engagement coordinator.

"Students should think about volunteering 365 days a year," he said.

Volunteering has a lot of benefits, he said.

"When you volunteer, you automatically feel good about yourself," Horinek said. "It's a self-esteem booster, improving lives of others."

In addition to the great feeling volunteering gives a person, Horinek said, it also can help a person meet new people and explore new opportunities.

OKCCC provides the Student Activities and Recognition Transcript (START) for students who wish to document their work.

Horinek said by using START, students have a certified document they can attach to résumés, transfer applications and scholarship requests. This can help students get a leg up on the competition, he said.

"There are some studies that say that students in college who volunteer and are more active in service programs and in their community and on campus are much more likely to succeed," Horinek said.

One place students can look for volunteer opportunities is Student Life's volunteer opportunity board.

Students can access the board by going

to www.okccc.edu, clicking on Student Life below the Departments drop-down menu, then the Service Learning Center link, and finally, Volunteer Now.

About 25 opportunities are listed right now, Horinek said.

The agencies listed include the dates of service, name of the agency sponsoring the event, the title of the opportunity (usually including a description and requirements) and the contact information needed to participate, Horinek said.

Some of the agencies currently listed on the site are the Arts Council of Oklahoma City, the Metropolitan Library System, OKCCC Recreational and Community Services and Camp Fire USA's Camp Cimarron.

He said the volunteer opportunity board is unique.

"These agencies are specifically looking for OKCCC volunteers," Horinek said.

Many people feel that they don't have time to volunteer, he said, but many times even an hour or two will help.

"Even if you don't have a lot of time to volunteer, there are a lot of great opportunities where you can even bring your family along."

Steve Musch, volunteer coordinator for the Regional Food Bank, agrees with Horinek.

Musch said just about any age and ability can volunteer at the food bank by participating in a variety of tasks.

"We have had two kindergarten classes volunteer and we have had volunteers as old as 88."

Editor Christiana Kostura can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

Read the Pioneer online at www.okccc.edu/pioneer

Laptop stolen during holiday luncheon

By Richard Hall
Staff Writer

While many members of OKCCC's faculty and staff celebrated at the holiday luncheon Dec. 6, a laptop was stolen from the Career Transitions office, located on the second floor of the main building.

Career Transitions Direc-

tor Nora Pugh-Seemster spent her lunch hour at the luncheon and returned to find her year-old Dell laptop had been stolen.

"Between 12:20 and 1:20 p.m. someone broke into my office and took my laptop," Pugh-Seemster said.

Career Transitions Assistant Nancy Abbas was the first to discover someone had broken into the office.

"The thief had to know we were all out of the office at the same time."

—Nancy Abbas
Career Transitions Assistant

"I came back from the luncheon and the door wouldn't open," Abbas said. "At first I thought it was a bad doorknob because it wouldn't turn."

It wasn't until she realized another door also was jammed that she knew something was wrong.

"We had to push the doors in," Abbas said.

Abbas said she found one of her desk drawers open but nothing missing.

Pugh-Seemster said the office has never been broken into and this is the first time anything has been stolen.

Pugh-Seemster said there

wasn't a lock on the laptop so it was an easy target for the thief.

"It surprised me that they only took the laptop," Pugh-Seemster said. "My purse was sitting on my desk the entire time I was out of the office."

Abbas said only someone familiar with the office would have been able to pull off the theft.

"The thief had to know we were all out of the office at the same time," Abbas said. "There's always someone here except for today."

Pugh-Seemster agreed.

"I always lock my door," she said. "The thief had to

know exactly when I was going to be out of the office."

This isn't the first time computers and related hardware have been stolen from campus offices.

During the summer, more than \$17,000 worth of computer equipment was stolen from the computer lab in the library.

Last semester several English professors' laptops went missing from their offices in the Arts and Humanities building.

Pugh-Seemster said she's devastated.

"I had a lot of work stuff on there," she said. "There were passwords, too."

"I'm going to have a lot of office work I have to redo now."

Staff Writer Richard Hall can be reached at Senior Writer@okccc.edu.

Professor tells of life in mountains of Nepal

By Ashley Yaffe
News Writing Student

A farm boy from Nepal has found his way to teaching business and economics at OKCCC.

Professor Gyanendra Baral lectured on his life in Nepal Nov. 15 during International Education Week, offering a window on Nepal to students, faculty and staff.

He said he sometimes misses herding water buffalo on his family's farm and the country's lush green mountains.

A slideshow accompanied his lecture with pictures of Nepal.

Baral said farming in the green mountains of Nepal

is a big part of life and that agriculture is the biggest rural economy.

He said when most people think of Nepal, they usually picture the Himalayas, the "white" mountains, which include Mt. Everest.

Baral said Mt. Everest is located in north Nepal, where an ethnic group called the Sherpas live.

He said the Sherpas are most famous for their climbing abilities and often serve as guides to those who choose to brave Mt. Everest.

Baral said religion also is a large part of people's lives in Nepal.

He said 80 percent of the population are Hindu, 15 percent are Buddhist and 5 percent follow other faiths.

Another aspect of Nepalese life Baral touched on was the population's diet.

He said the diet mostly consists of rice and wheat, and their source of milk comes from water buffalo instead of cows.

Baral said most Nepalese are not beef eaters.

Nepal, which lies between China and India, is slightly larger than Arkansas and has a population of 27 million.



Photo by Holly Jones

Business and Economics Professor Gyanendra Baral lectures on his life in Nepal Nov. 15 during International Education Week.

Place an ad in the Pioneer.
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Arts building on bidding block

By John Savage
Staff Writer

An Arts Education Center is scheduled to be built but a completion date has yet to be set.

The 35,000-square-foot Arts Education Center will include labs for art and music majors.

"The building will have studios and classrooms," Physical Plant Project Manager Eddie Cox said.

A performing arts center was originally in the plan but its construction has been delayed until funding is available, Cox said.

Cox said, once the contract documents are ready, the Board of Regents will publish the bid for 30 days. General contractors then will put bid packages together in hopes to acquire the contract.

Messer said construction at this magnitude usually

is completed in one and a half to two years.

"The Arts Education Center is still in the preliminary designs," Cox said. "The architectural firm, Triad, will present the plans to the Board in February."

The Triad Design Group is an Oklahoma City-based architecture group that has a long history of designing buildings at OKCCC.

Cox said he expects the contract to start attracting bids sometime in June of next year.

When the contractor is chosen, he said, work will begin. Contractors will start with installation of utilities.

After that, laying of the foundation will begin, Cox

"The overall cost including the architectural fees will approximately be \$8.5 million."

—Eddie Cox
Physical Plant Project Manager

said.

The building will be built on Regents Boulevard near S.W. 74th Street.

Cox said the construction of the building will increase the number of students the school can hold.

He said it will empty some of the classrooms in the Arts and Humanities building to make way for renovations there.

"Meetings have been ongoing but no floor plans have been made yet," Cox said.

"The overall cost including the architectural fees will be approximately \$8.5 million."

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at Staff Writer1@okccc.edu.

Read the Pioneer online! Visit www.okccc.edu/pioneer for online classifieds, newspaper archive and more.

Vital Awareness

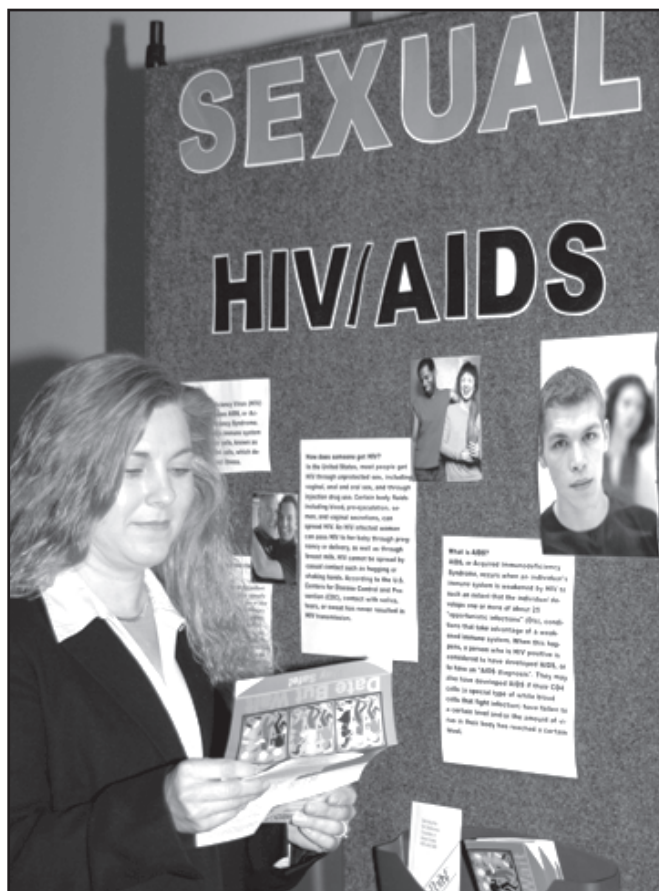


Photo by Holly Jones

Business major Kim Atterberry reads about sexual health during Sexual Health Awareness Week. Atterberry is shown standing in front of the Student Life informational board across from the Communications Lab.

Winter intersession offers another way to receive credit

By Patricia Roberts
News Writing Student

OKCCC students can earn credits between the fall and spring semesters. Enrollment for intersession classes began in October and will continue until Jan. 3.

Unlike the 8-week and 16-week classes, intersession classes run for at least four hours a day for two weeks, said Student Development Counselor Linda Guetterman.

"Students taking intersession classes will have to be focused and motivated to get all the course information done in such a short time," she said.

"Taking intersession classes is a quick way to get general education courses out of the way."

The last day to drop and receive a full refund is prior to the third class period, Guetterman said.

Classes run between Thursday, Jan. 3, and Friday, Jan. 13. Some classes run for just one week.

Spring 2006 class schedule books are available in the registration office located in the main building. Students can enroll at the registration office or by visiting www.okccc.edu/enroll.html.

For more information, contact Admissions and Records at (405) 682-7512.

College survival might depend on new program

By Matthew Caban
Staff Writer

There is now another place for students to go if they need help.

In room 1X7 of the Main Building, the Student Support Services grant program, also known as TRIO, provides a place for students to get the help they need to survive college life.

It is designed to help first-generation college students and students who need tutoring or mentoring, said Director Sally Edwards.

Edwards was recently named director of the department. Prior to her new position, she spent the past eight years as Enrollment Management director.

"Students who are eligible for the program must meet at least one of the requirements," she said.

If students are first-generation college students, meaning neither parent has a bachelor's degree, they are eligible for the program, Edwards said. Students who are financially disadvantaged, according to federal guidelines, also are eligible, she said.

Edwards said the program also offers help to students with learning disabilities and physical disabilities.

"Basically, we are looking for students who need help," Edwards said.

Student Bethany Lang is one of the students in the program.

"Student Support Services is a great program that I am glad is available," Lang said. "I am a first-generation college student and I don't have much support and guidance from my family."

Edwards said up to 160 students will be accepted into the program. The grant program began Sept. 1.

"Since then, we have recruited 67 students from

the student body."

The TRIO program is still accepting applications from interested students, Counselor Maurisa Mahan said.

"Now is the time to apply because there are still about 100 spaces available," she said.

"I have noticed many students who don't ask for help until there is a crisis."

Mahan has been a licensed professional counselor since 2001.

A waiting list will be compiled when all 160 spots are filled, she said.

Students who are interested in the program must fill out an intake assessment while applying, Mahan said.

"It covers different areas of a student's life that may be stressors," she said. "It helps us know where they are in their college life."

Edwards said the intake assessment tells the TRIO staff what type of help a student needs.

"Some of them need more tutoring than counseling and some come by twice a week for counseling," she said.

Student Support Services is funded 100 percent from a grant through the U.S. Department of Education, Edwards said.

She said the program is funded by a five-year grant. The program's budget each year will be \$218,000, including the 2005-2006 school year, Edwards said.

Student Support Services also will hire several student tutors to assist students in the program, Mahan said.

To be a tutor, students must have experience in the subjects they help others with, she said.

In addition to student tu-

"Student Support Services is a great program that I am glad is available."

—Bethany Lang

Student in TRIO grant program

tors, the program will hire a group of student mentors.

"Student mentors would serve as guides and helpers to students in our program," Edwards said.

TRIO also will provide students with opportunities to see the arts and other cultural programs.

"We will be able to take students to the theater and other cultural events," Program Assistant Linette McMurtry said.

McMurtry worked in Southern Nazarene University's Student Support Services office for the past four years.

She said the TRIO program is designed with students in mind.

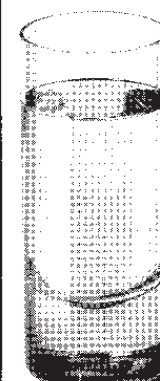
"We are here to do our best to help them succeed in college," she said.

For more information, contact Student Support Services at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7620, or e-mail sedwards@okccc.edu.

Staff Writer Matthew Caban can be reached at StaffWriter2@okccc.edu.

Now It Comes With A List Of Ingredients.

A short new report from your water supplier will tell you what's in your tap water. Look for your report and read it. When it comes to your drinking water, the most important ingredient is you.



Drinking Water. Know What's In It For You.

Call your water supplier or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/

SEPA

Staff's top Christmas albums this season

... And why they picked them



"The Jethro Tull Christmas Album"

"Flute. Ian Anderson. Christmas music. Rock on."

—Ronna Austin
Lab Director



"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

"It reminds me of watching the movie when I was a kid."

—Christiana Kostura
Editor



"Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer"

"It makes me laugh."

—Holly Jones
Photographer



"Home for the Holidays"

"I love jazz but not Martha Stewart."

—Caroline Ting
Lab Assistant



"A Very Special Christmas"

"Run DMC rocks the holiday times on this album."

—John Savage
Staff Writer



"Twisted Christmas"

"It's full of great parodies."

—Matthew Caban
Staff Writer



"It's A Punk Rock Christmas"

"'Christmas Night of Zombies' is the best holiday song ever."

—Lizzie Byrd
Staff Writer

"One Wish: The Holiday Album"

"I couldn't find my Boyz II Men Christmas album."

—Richard Hall
Staff Writer



Give the perfect gift this season without going into debt

**By Richard Hall
and Dusty Choate
Staff Writers**

Some OKCCC inhabitants are starving students, more worried about how they're going to afford textbooks next semester than what to get loved ones for Christmas.

Rest assured — your concerns have been taken into consideration and the result is the following Christmas buying guide for those on a humble budget.

Every gift on the following list is under \$50. Sure, that's half a textbook, but the folks are worth it, right?

Though the new Xbox 360 is out of your range, there are still treasures to be found for video game enthusiasts on your list.

Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo all offer classic games for the Playstation 2, Xbox and Gamecube priced under \$24.99.

Games such as "Halo,"

"Devil May Cry 2" and "Super Mario Sunshine" are up for grabs at many stores with \$15 price tags.

For children, www.amazon.com has the five-book Harry Potter paperback box set for \$28 with free shipping to anywhere in the United States.

With the Hornets temporarily calling Oklahoma City home, basketball memorabilia sales are up.

Found online at <http://store.nba.com> are DVDs featuring famous NBA stars like Michael Jordan and Larry Bird priced between \$12.99 and \$19.99.

This season, get dad a new watch from Pacific Sunwear. Classy and modern watches from brands like Fossil and Bullhead are as little as \$30 and most don't exceed \$50.

Moms, for all their hard work, deserve to be pampered. Bath and Body Works has the items to make it happen.

A 6.5 oz. bottle of spearmint aromatherapy body

lotion goes for \$13 and a True Blue Spa quilted traincase manicure set retails for \$34.

Now, to spoil yourself.

Gas prices are still too high for some, and commuting to and from class every day has put a dent in

your pocket book.

Buy a Wal-Mart gift card for your gas purchases. Every time it's used at the pump, you save an extra three cents per gallon.

With this list, everyone you know is covered. Just think of how much money

you'll save and be able to put toward school supplies next semester.

Staff Writer Richard Hall can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu. Staff Writer Dusty Choate can be reached at ADMAN@okccc.edu.

Be safe, use an Arrive Alive card

**By John Savage
Staff Writer**

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, approximately 300,000 Americans are injured in traffic accidents involving alcohol each year.

This year, the Yellow Cab Company will make it a little easier to get home safely after holiday partying.

Arrive Alive cards, cards that will provide funding for cab rides to those unfit to drive, can be purchased from Yellow Cab for \$25.

Clyda Teegerstrom, Yellow Cab Company owner, said the company has been offering the cards for a couple of years.

Arrive Alive cards are not only for the holiday season. The cards can be used throughout the year, Teegerstrom said.

Passengers of the Arrive Alive cardholder also can use the credit available on the Arrive Alive card for a ride home.

Teegerstrom said the cost of a ride is \$2.50 per passenger and about \$1.80 per mile.

As long as the card still has punches, it could pay for the extra riders.

In the past it was rumored some cab companies would give free rides on New Year's, but this is not the case, Teegerstrom said.

"I have never heard of this being done in our state, simply because we can't afford to," Teegerstrom said.

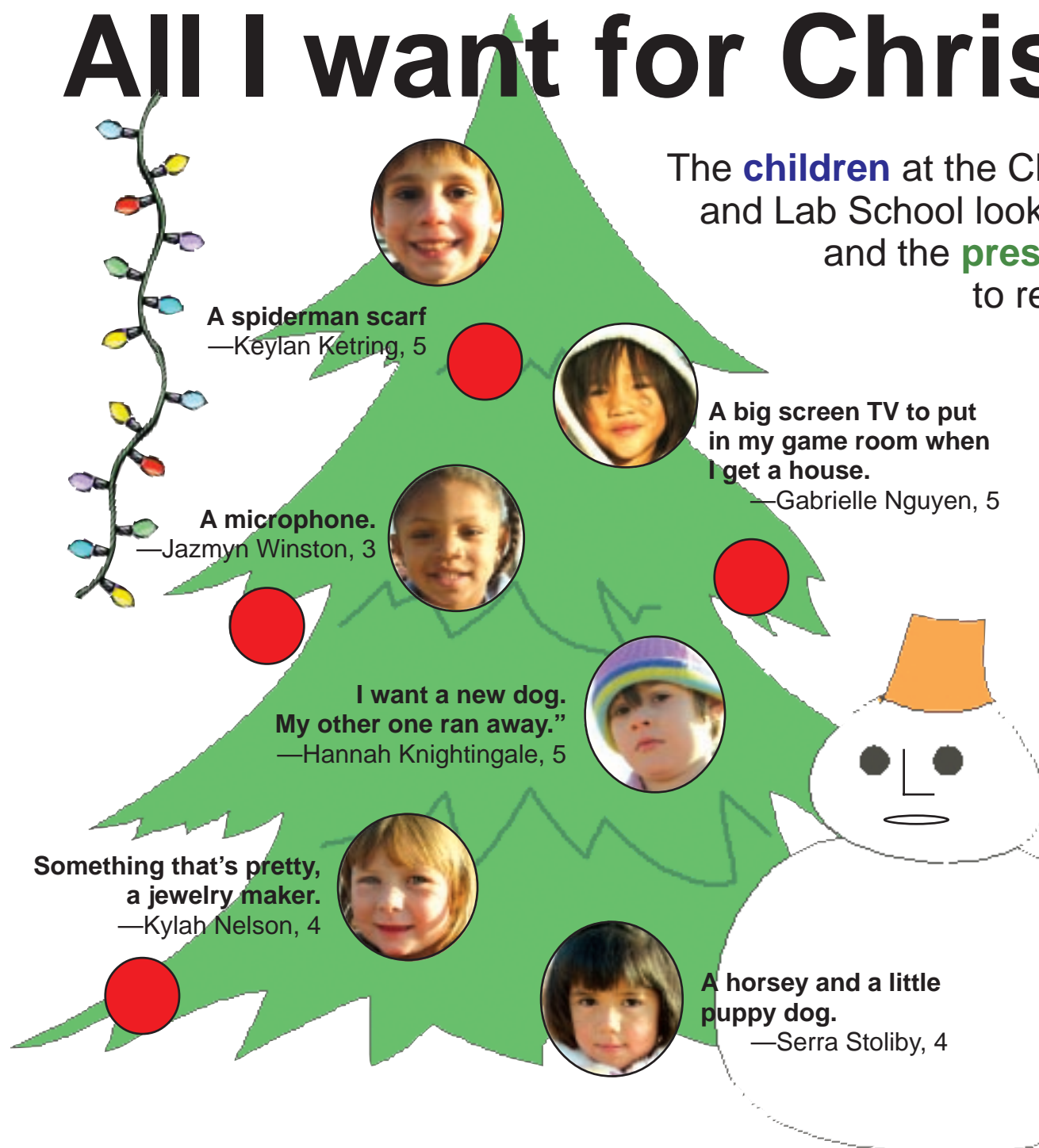
She mentioned there will be longer-than-normal wait times for rides on New Year's and party-goers should call in time to give taxi companies at least an hour head start.

For more information, contact Yellow Cab at (405) 329-3333.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at StaffWriter1@okccc.edu.

All I want for Christmas...

The **children** at the Child Development Center and Lab School look forward to **Christmas** and the **presents** they hope to receive.



Holiday fun galore

•Bricktown will host several events for the holidays as part of the fourth annual "Downtown in December."

Everything from ice-skating and light displays to free Bricktown canal rides and theatrical productions will ring in the holiday season in downtown Oklahoma City. Events are scheduled between now and Jan. 1, and all are open most days. Group rates are available by calling (405) 274-1638 or visit www.downtownokc.com.

•A new addition to "Downtown in December" is fake snow for tube sledding. Snow Tubing at the Brick is open noon to 10 p.m. Located at the SBC Bricktown Ballpark, group rates are available by calling (405) 218-1000. For more information, visit www.downtownokc.com or call (405) 236-3640.

•OG&E Garden Lights display is held in the Myriad Botanical Gardens and the Crystal Bridge. The Crystal Bridge display is free and open on Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information call (405) 297-3995 or visit www.myriadgardens.com.

Timeless editorial still rings true today

When 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's *Sun*, the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

Dear Editor:
I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?
—Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West
Ninety-fifth Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas!

How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain, and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Environmental Club gives to the needy

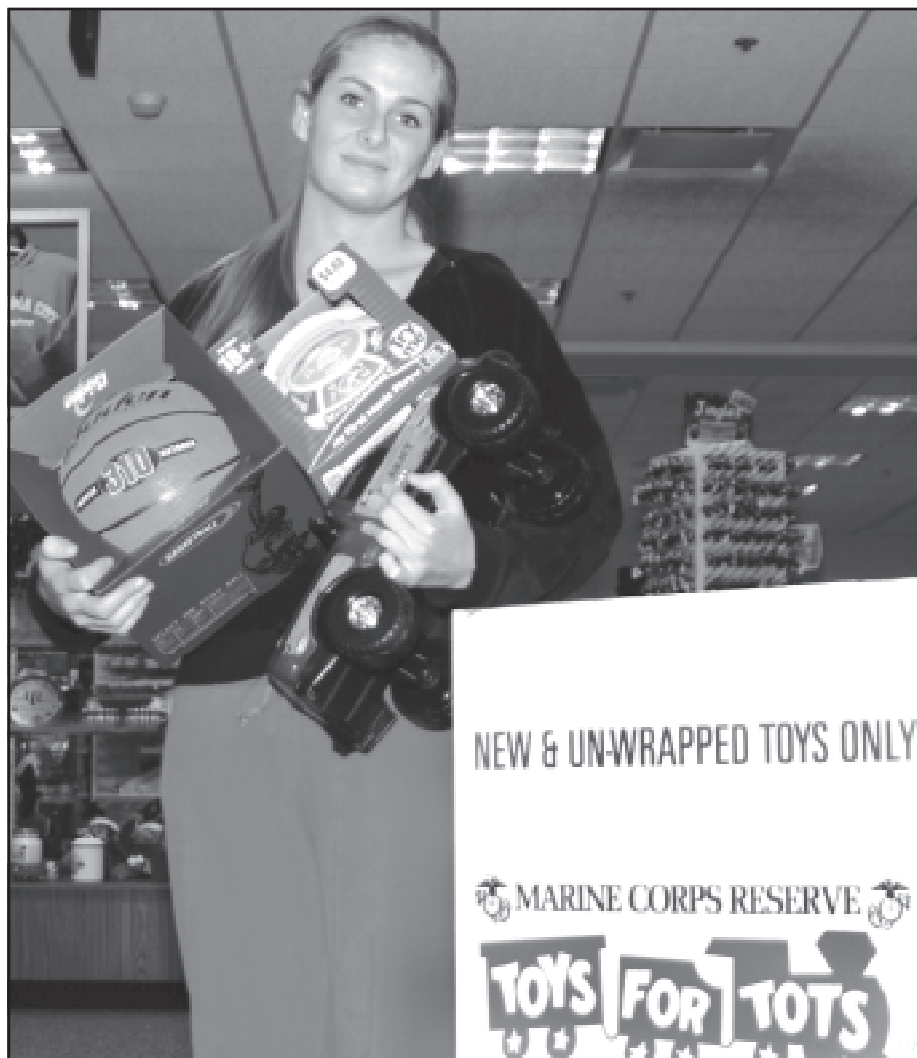


Photo by Holly Jones

Environmental Club President Jessica Austin holds up a few of the toys that were donated to the Toys for Tots program. The toys will go to underprivileged children and teens in the Oklahoma City area. The club also raised \$238 in a bake sale held on November 7. To learn more about the club, call (405) 682-1611, ext. 7676.

By John Savage
Staff Writer

Toys for Tots will receive a big boost from the OKCCC Environmental Club this holiday season. The club filled the bookstore's Toys for Tots box with toys for girls and boys from toddler to pre-teen.

"We raised \$238 from the bake sale. It's the highest that any club (bake sale) has raised in one day," said Club President Jessica Austin.

"We bought 51 toys and tried to divide them evenly. We purchased boys and girls toys and some younger toys for the toddlers."

Neutral toys were purchased as well, she said.

After the group purchased the toys, they were placed in the Toys for Tots box located in the campus bookstore.

"We donated to Toys for Tots because we wanted to do something for children," Austin said.

"It gives you a good feeling knowing that a kid will be getting a toy for Christmas that he might not have had."

Other club members are satisfied that the club chose a good project.

"It's a good feeling that our club contributed to a child's Christmas this year," said Public Relations Officer Holly Jones.

"We are going to have a bake sale to raise money for supplies for the Jesus House, and purchase things like socks, underwear and other articles of clothing."

—Jessica Austin
Environmental Club
President

Plans continue to develop as the group prepares to continue to help the needy by contributing to the Jesus House.

"We are going to have a bake sale to raise money for supplies for the Jesus House, and purchase things like socks, underwear and other articles of clothing," Austin said.

"We want to go out and purchase these supplies, and go down and deliver them."

"We realize that people donate money to them but we feel it's more personal if we get the supplies they need," Austin said.

Austin also said in the spring the club would try to find new ways to raise money and find new activities for the club to do.

For more information, contact Club Secretary Christiana Kostura at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7409.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at StaffWriter1@okccc.edu.

Students share life experience in a foreign land

By Karen Gonzalez
News Writing Student

Two hundred sixty-three international students from 55 different countries are enrolled at OKCCC this semester, said Sunny Garner, International Students Admissions officer.

Garner said the students come from all over the world: Kenya, 41; South Korea, 34; Japan, 32; Nepal, 25; India, 22; Malaysia, 21; Pakistan, 20; Morocco, 15; Taiwan, 14; Colombia, 11; Cameroon, 7; Venezuela, 6; Mexico, 5; Vietnam, 4; Ghana, 3, and Hong Kong, 3.

Elsa Gonzalez, an inter-

"The American culture is very different than mine. It is very hard to adapt to a culture other than yours, but it makes me feel better to know that other students at OKCCC feel the same way I do."

—Tannaz Tajbakhsh
Iranian business major

national student from Mexico, said she came to the United States to study, but she misses her home country.

"What I miss the most is, without a doubt, my family," Gonzalez said.

"It is very hard to come to a foreign country without knowing the language to continue your education."

Tannaz Tajbakhsh, from Iran, is a business major and currently is learning about American culture.

"The American culture is very different than mine," Tajbakhsh said.

"It is very hard to adapt to a culture other than yours, but it makes me feel better to know that other students at OKCCC feel the same way I do."

Many of these students came to Oklahoma because education is less expensive than other states.

Guatemalan finance major Marco Reyes chose to study in Oklahoma for the cheaper education.

"I had two choices," he said. "It was either California or Oklahoma. After looking at the cost of living down there, California was no longer a choice."

OKCCC students have a club for international students called the International Student Association.

Those interested in learning about the club can e-mail Club Sponsor Gemain Pichop at gpichop@po.okccc.edu or call (405) 682-7550. People also can e-mail Haifeng Ji, another club sponsor, at hji@okccc.edu or call (405) 682-1611, ext. 7381.

Save time!
Fax your ad to the Pioneer at
(405) 682-7843
or e-mail ADMAN@okccc.edu

Science Lab assistant has big plans

By Holly Jones
Staff Writer

Ryan Hays often finds himself surrounded by curious subjects at work — the skeleton of a human body, students working diligently at the human heart in plastic form and others attentively dissecting a pig. Traveling from one group of students to another, Hays doesn't hesitate to help the students understand a scientific concept.

Hays has worked in the OKCCC Science Lab since 2001. Of 9,000 students currently enrolled in science classes, more than 2,050 of them come in the lab each week to study or get more details about lab assignments.

Hays is one in a group of assistants who help students comprehend the elements of science.

"Hays is just a big teddy bear, everybody loves him," said Virginia Hovda, Biology Lab supervisor. "I have never seen him lose his patience with any student."



Photo by Holly Jones

"Ryan has helped me throughout the whole semester and he explains the procedures thoroughly," said Alicia Williamson, nursing major. Ryan Hays, Science Lab assistant, helps Williamson identify different parts of a fetal pig.

Students in the lab are enrolled in a diverse range of coursework including anatomy, zoology and biology.

He has a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Hays's training prepared him to work with general biology but he had to diversify.

He started by helping students with chemistry when the lab was short-handed.

Hays's interest in scientific matters began when he was a boy. His uncle was a high school science teacher and coroner in a small

town in Colorado.

"He would come around Christmas time and tell us stories of hikers missing and then how they found the bodies. He is the one that first interested me in science," Hays recalled.

A future goal for Hays is attaining his master's degree in the field of science and education to become a teacher. Right now, Hays is taking advantage of his employment benefits, which include a tuition waiver. He is enrolled at OKCCC in the Film and Video Production program.

"I have written a few scripts and am planning a short film for production next semester," Hays said. "Right now, I am taking one class, and next semester will be taking the capstone course in that program."

"The classes allow me to get creative in other ways I never thought of. I would like to get a job working for a local production company."

Hays' passion for science connects with his interest in film and video production. The scripts he writes seem to develop around science.

Next semester, Hays will put together a short film for his capstone course. He has had the ideas for years, but recently learned how to put all the ideas into one story.

Staff Writer Holly Jones can be reached at PioneerPhotog@okccc.edu.

Finals week delivers high levels of stress

By Grant Berning
News Writing Student

Exams can be the deciding factor to whether a student gets that coveted A or dive-bombs to a C.

With finals looming, students find themselves adjusting their already hectic schedules for time to study for the tests that often hit them from all directions.

OKCCC doesn't employ a finals week and doesn't offer a "dead week" — seven days of study time before final exams. Students traditionally take final exams on the last day of class.

Justin Ast, physics major, attends both the University of Oklahoma and OKCCC. He said he wishes OKCCC had a more traditional finals week.

"I am much more stressed out about my [OKCCC] physics final and finding the time to study for it than I am for my other tests," Ast said. "I'm also having trouble making it to my class at OKCCC due to the finals schedule at OU."

A dead week would help students with the end of semester tests.

Traditional finals week occurs when classes are canceled and a block schedule is implemented. Students then have a prolonged period, several times during the week, to take the final.

Most OKCCC professors have their finals on the last day of class, during the normal class time. This leaves some students pressed for time to finish the tests, Ast said.

Travis Small, a former OKCCC student currently enrolled at OU, liked the system at OKCCC.

"Since [OKCCC] didn't have a finals week, my teachers never gave us a cumulative final," Small said. "[The test] was always the last few chapters of the book."

"The only problem [OKCCC's format] caused was that I wasn't quite sure how to study for a cumulative final at OU."

Small said he has adjusted to the new format but wishes he had been better prepared.

OKCCC administrators gave no comment on the campus policy on dead and finals week.

College for Kids first session sign up begins in January

By Peter Black
News Writing Student

Registration for the first session of the College for Kids program this spring semester is Jan. 3 through the 26, said Jack Perkins, Community Education and Health coordinator.

Several new classes will be offered to students ranging from word processing for ages 9 to 14, to music classes for ages 9 and up. Plans include providing a beginning golf class to kids in the second spring session.

The program is designed to reach out to children in the community, Perkins said.

It offers a chance for kids, ages 3 to 14, to experience educational opportunities that otherwise would be financially out of reach.

The program also is designed to give children and adolescents a preview of college and provide an image of the campus as a non-threatening environment.

The two sessions each semester consist of six-week programs. Activities cover a full spectrum from reading and math, to ballet and martial arts.

For the fall and spring, classes are grouped by age totaling around twenty.

Perkins has been involved with College for Kids for two years.

"It takes a lot of planning but it's really rewarding," he said.

Sports

UPCOMING

OKCCC
INTRAMURALS
SCHEDULE

•**Dec. 15-18:** The annual Kerr-McGee Pro-Am Meet returns to OKCCC. This event pits some of the top local amateur swimmers against former Olympians and other top swimmers. Athletes must have certain times in their events to enter the competition. Among the former Olympians are American swimmers Megan Jendrick, Rachel Komisarz and Jason Lezak. Jendrick won two gold medals at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. Komisarz won a gold and a silver medal at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. Lezak won a gold and a silver medal in Athens. Swimmers will compete for cash prizes and Speedo merchandise. The event is free and open to the public. Finals for different events will occur daily. For more information, contact Aquatics and Safety Training Specialist Stephanie Scott at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7662.

•**Jan. 9:** Sign up begins Monday, Jan. 9 for most of the spring intramurals. Students with a valid ID are eligible to sign up for table tennis, men's or women's basketball and the men's Hot Shot basketball shooting contest. For more information, contact Community Health and Education Specialist Eric Watson at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**Jan. 30:** Registration begins for the intramural squat contest. The deadline to sign up is Friday, Feb. 17. The squat contest will be held on Thursday, Feb. 23. For more information, contact Community Health and Education Specialist Eric Watson at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7786.

Jan. 31: The first captain's meeting will be held for intramural men's basketball. The captains and league operators will discuss the team rosters, league rules and game rules. Men's intramural basketball will include between six and eight teams. Students can put their own teams together or become free agents. Games will start Feb. 13 and end March 9.

Young Edmond Olympic hopeful swimming at Kerr McGee Elite meet

By Matthew Caban
Staff Writer

Some people say swimmer Samantha Woodward is Edmond's new wonder kid or Oklahoma's next Olympian.

This 15-year-old swimmer will be spending her winter break in Australia after competing in the Kerr McGee Elite Pro-Am from Dec. 15 to 18 at the Aquatic Center.

The young swimmer said OKCCC's Aquatic Center is one of her favorite pools.

"It's a first-class pool and is one of the best I've swam in.

"It ranks up there with the [NCAA] Division I pools."

Woodward will swim with the U.S. Women's Junior Olympic Team against top juniors from Australia, Canada, Great Britain and New Zealand at the Victoria State Championships from Jan. 3 to 7 in Melbourne.

In addition to her place on the Junior National Team, Woodward also has become friends with her idol and Olympic medalist Dana Volmer.

Yet none of the hype seems to faze Samantha Woodward. She will tell you she is just one of the girls.

"I want people to know that even if I made it to the Olympics, I would still be a normal teenager," she said.

The Edmond Memorial High School student asked for clothes and CDs for her birthday.

She said her favorite band is Jimmy Eat World and at practice she hangs out with the other girls.

"All of my best friends are swimmers so we joke around and gossip at practice," Woodward said. "It would be a lot harder without my friends.

"They keep me going."

Victoria Woodward said her daughter's favorite part of swimming is talking with her friends.

"They talk about normal things like boys, music and clothes between their sets," she said.

"You couldn't do this by yourself or without your team."



Photo courtesy of Victoria Woodward

U.S. Junior National Team swimmer Samantha Woodward (left) stands with Kerr McGee Swim Club teammates Jordan Hawkins, Katie Whitbeck, Elizabeth Thompson and Coach John Brown. Woodward and her teammates from the Kerr McGee Swim Club will be competing at the Kerr McGee Elite ProAm Dec. 15 to 18 in the Aquatic Center. For more information, contact Aquatics and Safety Training Specialist Stephanie Scott at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7662.

Although Woodward loves being part of a team, something sets her apart from her teammates.

She is the only Oklahoman on the U.S. Women's Junior National Swim Team.

Her abilities also have allowed her to qualify to try out for three events at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials.

She is qualified in the 50-meter freestyle, the 100-meter butterfly and the 200-meter butterfly.

Woodward admits her goal of reaching the Olympics is a difficult one to attain.

"It's pretty hard and takes quite a bit of time to get where I need to be," she said.

Woodward said she will need to cut time in each of her events to qualify for the U.S. team.

"I'll probably have to cut two to three seconds in the 100-meter

butterfly and one second in the 50-meter freestyle," she said.

"It may not seem like a lot of time, but both of them are pretty short events.

"It is a possibility that I will make it but I have to work really hard."

She said she has to swim for at least two hours each day and lift weights two or three times a week.

This includes working out more during the summer months.

"Samantha doesn't take summer vacations because it is on four-year training cycle for the 2008 Olympics," her mother said.

For more information on the Kerr McGee Elite Pro-Am, contact Aquatics and Safety Training Specialist Stephanie Scott at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7662.

Staff Writer Matthew Caban can be reached at StaffWriter2@okccc.edu.

International students vulnerable to identity theft

By Caroline Ting
Contributing Writer

International students are the perfect victims for certain types of crime, said FBI Special Agent Terry Weber during his speech "Identity and Passport Protection."

Identity theft is one such crime. Since foreign students don't have a credit

history in the United States, Weber said, their clean credit history makes them potential targets for identity thieves.

"Fifty percent of [identity theft] victims claimed they knew the identity of the perpetrator," he said.

The thief may be a relative, neighbor or an acquaintance, he said.

Weber said one way thieves make off with a person's identity is via the

person's mailbox. When people leave bills in the mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up, it gives identity thieves a chance to steal documents which may contain personal information, he said.

The Internet is another potential hazard, he said.

Some things to look out for include the Spyware technology that strikes Internet activities, and fraudulent e-mails from

what may seem like legitimate businesses or government agencies asking for personal identifying or account information, he said.

To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, log on to www.ftc.gov or call (877) FTC-HELP or (877) 382-4357.

International students also need to guard their paperwork closely, he said.

Passports are a crucial piece of identification when students first enter the country, Weber said.

"You should always know where your passport and your visa are.

"Unfortunately, [as] part of the post-9/11 era we're in... immigration is really becoming much more strict than it was in the past.

"So, we'd like to keep impressing upon foreign students to keep track [of those documents] and make sure they're up to date," he said.

Weber is one of several special agents who travel to college campuses in the Oklahoma City area representing the Oklahoma FBI

College Outreach Program.

The program also educates foreign students about issues relating to visas and passports as well as hate crimes, Weber said.

"Hate crimes can range from simple vandalism to assault and battery.

"If you feel like you have been a victim of a crime because of your race, your religion, your nationality, it's a hate crime and it's a federal offense that's investigated by the FBI.

"We encourage you to come in and report these things to us," he said.

To report a hate crime, call the Oklahoma City FBI Office at (405) 290-7770.

"If [the crime] is life threatening, call the police and then we'll do the follow-up investigation of what's in regards to the hate crimes.

"If it's an emergency, regardless of the circumstances, always (call) 911," Weber said.

The 15-minute lecture was one of several events presented to celebrate International Education Week 2005.

Protect yourself from fraud

By Caroline Ting
Contributing Writer

FBI Special Agent Terry Weber offered some tips to help people protect themselves from credit and charge card fraud.

Do:

—Sign your card as soon as it arrives.

—Carry your cards separately from your wallet, in a zipped compartment, a business card holder, or another small pouch.

—Keep an eye on your credit card during the transaction and get it back

as quickly as possible.

—Void incorrect receipts.

—Destroy carbon copies.

—Save receipts to compare with billing statements.

—Open bills promptly and reconcile accounts monthly, just as you would your checking account.

—Report any questionable charges promptly and in writing to the card issuer.

—Notify card companies in advance of change in address.

Don't:

—Lend your card(s) to anyone.

—Leave cards or receipts

lying around.

—Sign a blank receipt. When signing a receipt, draw a line through blank spaces above the total.

—Write your account number on a postcard or the outside of an envelope.

—Give out your account number over the phone unless you're making the call to a company you know is reputable.

If you have questions about a company check it out with your local consumer protection office or Better Business Bureau.

Did you know?

•The cases of identity theft exceed 53 billion annually and are still increasing.

•Yearly, there are about 10 million people in the U.S. who are victims of identity theft regardless of age, race, religion, social status or citizenship.

•The average victim spends 175 hours attempting to erase the problem or activity from their credit history. Victims face potential denial of credit and loss of employment.

•During 2003, 10 million people in the U.S. were victims of identity theft: 3.2 million identity thieves opened new accounts using others' information and 6.6 million identity thieves committed fraud on existing accounts that were actually in the victims' names.

•50 percent of victims claimed they knew the perpetrator (relative, neighbor or an acquaintance).

—courtesy FBI Special Agent Terry Weber
Oklahoma FBI College Outreach Program handout

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Highlights

Environmental Club to host bake sale

The Environmental Club will have a bake sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday Dec. 12, in the Main Building. All proceeds will go to the Jesus House. For more information, contact Public Relations Officer Holly Jones at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7676.

Social Sciences to raffle off prizes

Social Sciences faculty will hand out free tickets for a chance to win prizes. The tickets will be given to students in the faculty's classes. Students can deposit the tickets in a box in the Social Sciences office. Everyone can come to the office to pick up a ticket and enter. The drawing will be held at 1:30 p.m., Monday Dec. 12. For more information, contact Acting Dean of Social Sciences Cecilia Yoder at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7359.

Child Development Club to host meeting

The Child Development Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 14, in room 1H10. Club members will make posters to advertise their first "Reading Night" in January. Membership dues are \$5 and will be collected at the meeting. For more information, contact Child Development Professor Cecilia Pittman at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7159, or e-mail cmpittman@okccc.edu.

Reading Club shares passions at meeting

The Reading Club welcomes and encourages students who share the joy of reading and discussion to join the club. The next meeting is at noon Monday Dec. 19, by the stairwell in the Arts and Humanities building. Students are welcome to bring a book and share it with the club. For more information, contact Club Member Jenny Bryan at 74jenny@sbcglobal.net.

\$1,000 scholarships available to students

Each year, the Oklahoma Association Of Community Colleges awards scholarships to students from its member institutions to continue their education. The Scholarship awards students with \$1,000 to be used during the 2006-2007 academic year. The deadline is Friday Dec. 16. Winners will be expected to attend the organization's annual conference March 2.

Applicant qualifications may be found on the scholarship application at www.oaccwebsite.org. For more information about the scholarships, contact past President Rick Woodard at (405) 733-7999 and Prospective Student Services Assistant Linda Sapp at (405) 682-7580 or e-mail rwoodard@rose.edu. Students also can check the scholarship display in Enrollment Management, located near the main entrance of the Main Building for applications.

Spring semester starts Jan. 17

The spring semester starts Jan. 17. Intersession begins Jan. 3. For more information about enrollment or admission to OKCCC, visit www.okccc.edu or call (405) 682-7580.

Society of Performing Artists to put on play

The Society of Performing Artists will put on a play with the Pathways students. The play, *The Kings Creampuffs* will be presented on Saturday Jan. 21 in the college theatre. For more information contact Theatre Professor Ruth Charnay at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7246.

Students give a little



Photo by Holly Jones

Phlebotomist Sarah Kendall from Oklahoma Blood Institute cleans OKCCC medical major Kerusa Dunse's arm to find a healthy vein to draw from. "This is my third time to donate, I enjoy it. It's a way to give back to the community," Dunse said.

Give the gift of reading to a child

**By John Savage
Staff Writer**

This Christmas, give the gift that keeps on giving — give a child a book.

The Child Development Club is promoting reading by having a reading night once a month at OKCCC.

"We're aiming really to promote reading and activities appropriate for small children," said Child Development Professor Cecilia Pittman.

The Child Development Club is scheduled to have its second meeting and create some excitement for the reading night.

At the Wednesday Dec. 14 meeting the members will create posters and fliers to advertise the event. The first reading night will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday Jan 18, in the college union.

"Hopefully, we will get kids from the community and kids from our college that we can read to,"

Pittman said.

The club will have a different theme each month. January is dedicated to Winnie the Pooh. February's theme is Love, and Dr. Seuss will be celebrated in March.

Along with the reading night, the Child Development Club will offer parents and students an opportunity to order books for children or siblings.

"We have put Scholastic Books order forms in a display," Pittman said.

The order forms are near the Wellness Center. So far, more than \$300 worth of books have been ordered.

"My idea is to get as many books in the hands of children as possible," Pittman said. "It is one way I can promote literature."

Other Child Development Club members are enthusiastic about the reading program.

"Reading to children helps them with speech and teaches them good cognitive skills," Club Presi-

dent Elaine Cheatham said.

The club also will sponsor two children from the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education this Christmas.

"We are going to sponsor a girl and a boy in the name of the Child Development Club," Pittman said.

Along with sponsoring the children and buying what is on the children's list, the club will add some books.

Pittman stresses the importance of reading to children at an early age. All students are welcome to join the club. The only requirements are \$5 monthly dues.

"Anybody that has a love of learning about children and working with children is welcome to join," Pittman said.

For more information, students and faculty can contact Pittman at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7159.

Staff Writer John Savage 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. For more information, call (405) 682-1611, ext. 7674.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '99 Jeep Wrangler. 4 cylinder, 4 x 4, maroon with tan soft top, 5 speed. 77k miles. \$8,500. Call 823-2287.

FOR SALE: '95 Chevy Astro, 58k miles. Runs great, clean, handicap equipped, \$4,500 OBO. Call 527-4448, M-F, 9-5.

FOR SALE: '91 Honda Civic DX, Lt blue, 183k miles, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, CD player, runs good. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call Scott at 314-4935.

FOR SALE: '91 Lexus LS400, V8, loaded, \$2,995. 326-5495.

FOR SALE: '90 Honda Accord LX, sports, manual. \$1,499. Nice student car. White, economical. For info call 408-2828.

FOR SALE: '88 Fleetwood Cadillac. As is, \$500. 605-7728.

FOR SALE: '88 GMC 4 X 4. Runs great, \$2,250. 922-1284.

FOR SALE: '85 Chevy SWB Custom Deluxe truck, red, Trenz grille, APC Euro tails, tinted windows, bed rails, audio system (head unit, speakers, subs, & amp included). Owned for 6 years. Never wrecked. Great sport truck. \$2,800. 821-4321.

ANIMALS

FOR SALE: 6-month-old rabbit, \$20. Includes the rabbit, cage, water bottle, food bowl, 1st month supply of food, 1st month supply of cedar, and shampoo. The rabbit is mostly white with a few gray spots. Likes to be petted and loved. If you are interested, please call Rachel Johnson at 639-9574.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: My newborn son is allergic to our long-time family cat and the doctor says she has to go! Lovable and spoiled rotten. De-clawed. Spayed. 10 years old. Female. She is not an outdoor cat! If interested, please call April at 682-1611, ext. 7462, or e-mail at ajackson@okccc.edu.

FOR SALE: Pure bred red nose pit bull puppies. \$125. One dark brown beauty. The others are mostly white with great markings. I have 2 females/2 males. If interested, please call 301-0822.

FOR SALE: Pure bred American Big Head Pit Bull dogs. Born

09-22-05. Have several pure white. All are adorable with excellent markings. \$100 each. If interested, call 409-8871.

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FOR RENT: Original owner looking for responsible renters for lovely townhouse duplex at S.E. 24th & Hwy 9 in Norman. This 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath has an extended one-car garage, fenced in big backyard, fireplace, w/d hook-ups, refrigerator, ceiling fans. In a quiet family/college student neighborhood. Pets OK with deposit. Immediately available. Easy access to Hwy 9. \$500/month. Call 682-1611, ext. 7305, or e-mail pnnewman@okccc.edu, for more information or to see your new home.

FEMALE ROOMMATES NEEDED: To share large home 3 miles from OKCCC, 20 minutes from OU. Nice neighborhood, 3 car garage, 2 1/2 bath. Fully furnished except bedrooms. \$340/month plus 1/3 bills. Call 615-2396, leave message, or e-mail im_luv@yahoo.com. Pictures available.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Very nice blue, twin-size racecar bed with mattress, \$175. Excellent condition. Must sell!! mrstoops@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Full size bookcase headboard and matching chest, \$75 OBO. Call 364-6051 or 682-7544.

FOR SALE: Glass dining table w/ 4 chairs, excellent condition. \$150 firm. Call Candi at 573-4829.

FOR SALE: Pulaski glass/mirror hutch. Gorgeous, 46" X 79." \$500 OBO. Call 627-1435.

FOR SALE: Large Octagon Train table with two pull out drawers. Fake landscaping on the top of the table and colorfully decorated on the outside. Excellent condition and only one year old. Asking \$50. Call Gretchen at 745-4156.

FOR SALE: Leather recliner, \$75. Leather executive style desk chair, \$50. Call Annie at (405) 360-6793, leave message.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Tanning membership to At the Beach. Why pay the initial membership start up fees, when you can purchase an existing membership for \$25. Please call Lesa at 414-4158.

FOR SALE: Travel 'N' Play play pen, in great shape, \$20. Infants bath tub w/ shampoo & conditioner holders, like new, \$10. Over 400 original music CDs available in all genres, good condition w/o cases, \$1-\$5. Contact for list of music at zum21zum@aol.com, or call Deedra at 388-2336.

FOR SALE: Boys bike in great condition, \$40. mrstoops@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Two new 10" Alpine Competition Type R subwoofers in box w/ a 920-wt. self-cooling Kenwood amp, also new, \$700 OBO. Please call 606-9114.

FOR SALE: Electric wheel chair, good condition, \$1,500 OBO. Call 527-4448, M-F, 9-5.

FOR SALE: Cream king blanket, \$20. Green chenille king bedspread, \$20. Tan king bedskirt, \$10. OBO. All in very good condition; redecorating — now colors all wrong. 685-3776, VMBox3574.

HELP WANTED: Female student looking for a job as a nanny. Responsible, experienced, own transportation, afternoons and weekends. 314-9017.

FOR SALE: Maytag washer, Gas hook-up, late '90s model, good condition. \$60. Call Jared 488-5330.

FOR SALE: Frigidaire washer

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Flaws in a system
- 6 Dance for Cinderella
- 10 Arab prince
- 14 Happening
- 15 Have — in one's bonnet
- 16 Church part
- 17 Having more spunk
- 18 Information
- 19 Network
- 20 Fell in flakes
- 22 Was enough for
- 24 Pull
- 26 Baby grands
- 27 "An — and a Gentleman"
- 31 Type of contact
- 32 Islam deity
- 33 Entertain
- 36 Traffic problem
- 39 Harness part
- 40 Overflowed
- 41 Ruler of Venice
- 42 Drain
- 43 Visitor
- 44 Actress Hayes
- 45 "Alley —"
- 46 Responded
- 48 Drinks noisily
- 51 "— seeing things?"
- 52 Swindler
- 54 Seventh in a series
- 59 "You — seen nothing yet!"
- 60 Out of town
- 62 Singer Cara
- 63 Part of a grove
- 64 Pianist Peter
- 65 Overjoy
- 66 Mail
- 67 Streetcar: Brit.
- 68 Helicopter blade

DOWN

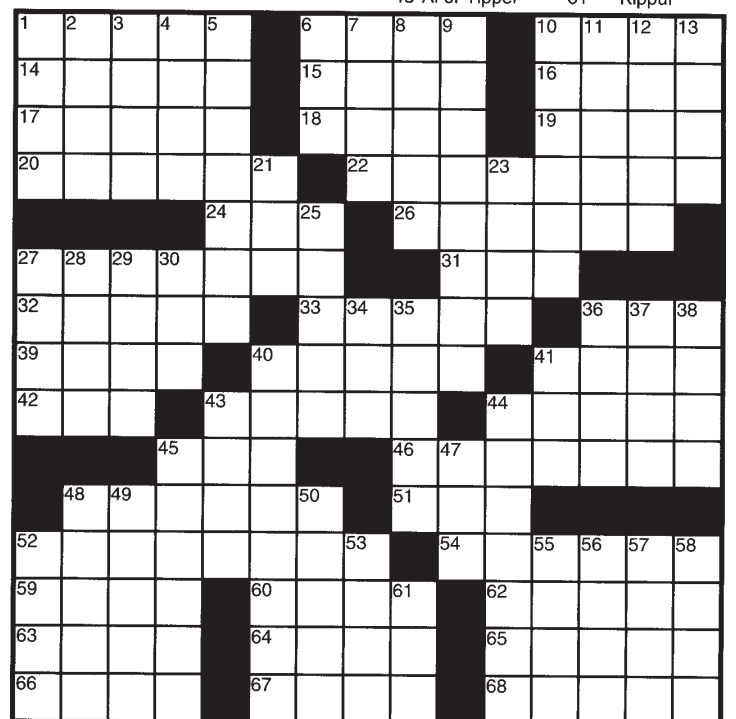
- 1 Beer barrels
- 2 "Terrible" one
- 3 Fictional captain
- 4 Was acquainted with
- 5 Limber up
- 6 Awful
- 7 Sheik's robes
- 8 Pause
- 9 Greenest, in a way
- 10 Motor
- 11 Traveler Polo
- 12 Climbing vines
- 13 Actor Foxx
- 21 Expected to arrive
- 23 Actress Dunaway
- 25 Green fruit

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

OSLO	MOOR	CAPP
RHINO	OGLE	AGUE
BISON	SEEN	MERE
SPA	ISLE	OPENER
COKE	SVELTE	
ANTONYM	TAR	
LOOMS	JETTISON	
TUNE	AGAPE	REBA
ANYTHING	COLOR	
ALA	STANLEY	
VELVET	HIES	
VENEER	FENS	DAB
ETNA	OPAL	ALOHA
SCUD	NEIL	RIDER
THIS	SIRS	DOME

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| 27 Rower's needs | 44 Scarier |
| 28 Type of market | 45 Expelled |
| 29 Type of chart | 47 Ostrich's kin |
| 30 Writer Fleming | 48 English county |
| 34 Prefix for "take" | 49 Suit fabric |
| 35 Very very | 50 Storm drain |
| 36 Jar | 52 Household pets |
| 37 Writer James — | 53 — avis |
| 38 Repair | 55 Singer Guthrie |
| 40 Displace | 56 Tidy |
| 41 Last mo. | 57 "Do — others" |
| 43 Al or Tipper | 58 Fortuneteller |
| | 61 — Kippur |



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BOOK FOR SALE: Human Anatomy and Physiology by Elaine

N Marieb, 6th edition. Asking for \$80. For contact call 408-2828.

BOOK FOR SALE: Modern Radio Production book for sale, \$25. Call Christiana at 682-1611, ext. 7409.

BOOK FOR SALE: HIST 2103, \$15. Call 793-2774.

BOOK FOR SALE: Conversational Spanish book, Motivos de Conversacion, 6th edition. \$65. Call 823-2287.

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Spending time with family and friends can help reduce holiday stress

"Stress,"

Cont. from page 1

"Don't cram [holiday activities] in at the last minute. Plan a little down time," Edwards said. "Give yourself permission to relax."

Student Development Counselor Mary Turner

agrees with Edwards' assessment.

"Students should maintain some type of schedule."

She said, during the holidays people get busier and tend to get out of sync with their normal routine.

"You should plot out a timeline of what you have to get done," Turner said.

And, above all, be honest

about your feelings and emotions. The NMHA recommends keeping all feelings out in the open. Hiding or closing off emotions, even if negative, can cause a build up and if not released can lead to severe depression.

Spending time with family, friends, and people who are supportive of you also can help keep your spirits

high according to the NMHA website.

Edwards suggests dealing with holiday stress by contacting a community health center, or participating in an online screening. Loneliness can increase stress, Edwards said.

Turner said college counselors are available to speak with anyone needing help and assist them with any problems.

If the counselors are not

able to help with the problem they are able to refer people to an off-campus agency. Additional phone numbers for help are:

- Reachout 1 (800) 522-9054
- Safeline 1 (800) 522-7233
- Contact 1 (800) 848-2273
- Cope 1 (800) 377-7757

Staff Writer Lizzie Byrd can be reached at StaffWriter3@okccc.edu. Staff Writer Matthew Caban can be reached at StaffWriter2@okccc.edu.

Use secure sites for online buying

"Online,"

Cont. from page 1

through Amazon are safe.

"Our secure server software is the industry standard and among the best software available today for secure transactions," she said. "It encrypts all of your personal information, including credit card numbers, names and addresses."

Bishop said websites like Amazon and eBay are popular because they're reputable. "There's no such thing as being perfectly safe but Amazon and eBay are as safe as they come."

Many online shops, including eBay, use a payment option called PayPal, which, Bishop said, is a good way to make financial transactions and to do business.

"Though it's still a young business, PayPal is secure and offers a lot of features."

Buyers are protected against unauthorized payments sent from accounts when they use PayPal, according to www.paypal.com.

PayPal also offers money-back guarantees for select online purchases and won't share a user's personal information with other companies.

Bishop said, when buying

from eBay, always use PayPal or a credit card and never send personal checks or cash.

"It's safer to use PayPal or cards," he said. "Many credit card companies offer buyer protection and only hold card holders responsible for the first \$50 of fraudulent charges."

When shopping online this holiday, Bishop said, follow three simple rules to keep yourself safe.

"Know who you're talking to, make sure the website is secure, and don't leave personal information on computers."

Staff Writer Richard Hall can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu.



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