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PIONEER ONLINE

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In the latest games, the Crew tramples the Spartans in a lopsided win. Look inside for details of the game and overall standings.

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OCCC's Halloween Carnival is set for Oct. 29. More about the family-fun event on the community page.

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

OCTOBER 22, 2010

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



Seasonal makeover

Theater student Sarah Wilson applies some wild colors to her face during Professor Rebecca McCauley's Halloween makeup class Oct. 14.

Wilson's final look included some major bloody burns. For the full story about how students are celebrating Halloween, see page 12.

RACHEL MORRISON/
PIONEER

MANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS NOT REACHING POTENTIAL

Achieving the Dream promotes success

JANELLE STONE
News Writing Student

Nearly half of all U.S. undergraduate students are enrolled in community colleges and half of those students are not reaching their educational goals, according to an overview of Achieving the

Dream, a national program that uses data to initiate change, posted at www.occc.edu.

OCCC is included in those numbers, said Stu Harvey, executive director of Planning, which is why the college has joined scores of community colleges around the country to try to

improve the outcomes for students.

Harvey said the OCCC faculty and staff are doing their best to increase the percentage of successful students with the help of Achieving the Dream.

"Achieving the Dream is working to help more students earn certificates

or degrees that open the door to better jobs, further education, and greater opportunity," he said.

At OCCC, Achieving the Dream focuses on five different areas that may cause students to stumble on their path to an associate degree, said Greg Gardner, as-

sociate vice president of Academic Affairs.

The five areas are: gateway course groups, online learning, math, academic advising, and financial aid.

Gateway course groups

These are freshman

See **DREAM** page 9

Redesigned math curriculum more creative

SARAH JAY
News Writing Student

It's not all fun and games, but creative elements have been blended into the redesigned mathematics curriculum in hopes of prompting more students to pass their classes, said

Tamara Carter, Mathematics Department director.

The math department made the decision to reorganize its pre-college level courses to improve student performance by changing the learning atmosphere, Carter said.

The redesigned courses

debuted this summer and are now being offered for the fall semester, Carter said.

Dale Duke, mathematics professor and a College Prep Math class coordinator, said occasionally during

“My favorite part of the prep math class is the review games.”

—CHRISTIAN-MONET HYATT
OCCC STUDENT

group work, students will participate in interactive games to help them review for upcoming tests.

Games such as Bin-

go, Jeopardy, and Who Wants to be a Millionaire have been redesigned

See **MATH** page 9

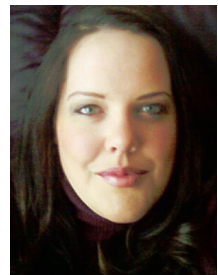
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Students should be aware of loan default consequences

Financial aid a double-edged sword

For most college students financial aid is a lifeline, a means to fund higher education. When the offer of a student loan comes, most students just say yes.

Fresh out of high school with a new found freedom and free money from Uncle Sam, student loan debt is the last thing on a college student's mind. But it should not be forgotten.



Jennifer Massey

The student loan master promissory note should not be tossed to the side without another thought until after graduation.

Experience has taught many a borrower, including this one, that a debt to the United States of America won't be forgotten. Even if you never found that dream job paying \$65,000 a year.

Once a loan reaches default status, the govern-

ment will hound you until the debt is satisfied. Tax withholding, check and bank garnishments, and drops in credit scores are just a few of the consequences that could, and probably will, happen if loans are left to default.

Being mindful of your student loan account is as important as paying attention to your credit rating or bank balance. Once you leave college, you can expect to begin repaying college loans after six months. Sometimes that creates a problem — which must be faced, not overlooked.

There are many ways to protect yourself from going into student loan default. According to the Department of Education's website, it takes 18 months without payment for loans to go into default. Basically, a student has to bury the paper trail of payment-due notices they receive each month for 18 months for this to happen.

Before it reaches this point, communicate with the Department of Education. That is all they are asking. If something happens that prevents you from making your monthly payments once your



COURTESY OF OFFTHEMARK.COM

loans are out of their deferment grace period, make a call. The people who work in financial aid aren't scary or mean. They really do want what is best for both parties.

Above all, remember Uncle Sam never forgets.

—JENNIFER MASSEY
EDITOR

YOUR VOICE | Reader responds to smoking editorial

Cigarette smoke more detrimental to student's health than poor eating habits and fast food diet

To the editor:

Although I am a proud non-smoker, I found myself respecting Bonnie Campo's Oct. 8 editorial, "Don't tell smokers new smoking ban policy is for their own good," right until the end.

Ms. Campo stated that while she realizes "cancer sticks" cause health issues for some, she also asserts, "so is

eating fried food from the cafeteria."

Comparing food, however unhealthy it may be, to cigarettes, is simply ludicrous.

I suffer from severe allergies year 'round, and walking through a haze of cigarette smoke makes me feel sick.

It causes me to choke and makes it hard for me to breathe. I know I am not the only person

"If someone chooses to live off of a diet of double bacon cheeseburgers and french fries, that is their choice."

—KRISTEN AXTON
OCCC STUDENT

with such a condition.

But if I walk in close proximity to someone chomping down on a Big Mac, it isn't going to adversely affect my health in the way that

cigarette smoke can — and does.

Everyone should make an attempt at healthy eating, but if a person chooses to live off a diet of double ba-

con cheeseburgers and French fries, that is their choice. It is their own health they are compromising.

Cigarettes impact not only the smoker, but also everyone around them. I absolutely believe smokers have just as much right as the rest of us, but we have a right to breathe, too.

A much better solution would have been

to make the courtyard the only area on campus where smoking is allowed.

This new rule doesn't seem fair to smokers, but the old one prohibiting smoking near doorways — which smokers routinely ignored — wasn't fair to the rest of us.

—KRISTEN AXTON
OCCC STUDENT

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The **PIONEER** will withhold the author's 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 should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the **PIONEER** office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, faxed to 405-682-7843, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER** ONLINE also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Swank shines again in historical drama

Sibling bonds propel 'Conviction'

Recently appearing in box offices, "Conviction" provides a entertaining story with a historical base with the potential to win an Academy Award.

Writer Pamela Gray's and Director Tony Goldwyn's film opened Oct. 15.

While "Jackass 3-D" will more than likely claim the title of number one in the box office, this film should not fall under the shadow of grown men who are paid to act like children.

"Conviction" is based on the true story of Betty-Ann (Hilary Swank) and Kenneth Waters (Sam Rockwell), siblings who struggle from childhood to live a "normal" life.

Some of the opening scenes depict a sister and brother's hardships

within their family.

Even as they grow older, their support of one another continues.

After Kenneth is wrongfully convicted and sentenced to life without parole, the plot escalates into a swift story brimming with suspense.

Swank, a two-time Oscar winner, delivered a crisp and authentic performance.

The factual storyline and dialogue of the original Mrs. Waters made it an easy task. Swank's talent unearthed her versatility as an actress, possibly even more than her past film, "Boys Don't Cry."

Rockwell's performance seemed effortless in comparison to past films like "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy."



In the theater it became easy to be oblivious that the images before the audience were not indeed reality.

For a brief instant, someone not attached in any way to the authentic event seemed invested in it.

The factual content of this film is justifiably the most impressive of all.

Simply stating historical evidence, the movie enlightens society today about what the crude

justice system consisted of before DNA testing.

Since it's based on a historical case, "Conviction" is predictable.

The trailers shown on television relay a summary of the message, but without the intensity and grandeur the film portrays.

"Conviction" has a running time of approximately an hour and 45 minutes with an R-rating for its use of profanity and violent content.

However, this should not discourage people from seeing the film.

"Conviction" portrays hope in such a way that it will leave a mark on the brain and a tingling in every toe as if a streaming star floats past the horizon.

Rating: A

—**BONNIE CAMPO**
STAFF WRITER

YOU asked FOR IT

Q: *If I'm eligible to graduate in the summer, when should I apply for graduation?*

A: "Fill out the paperwork — the sooner the better. Those who will graduate in the summer, will walk in the spring."

—**BARBARA GOWDY**
GRADUATION SERVICES DIRECTOR

Q: *When is the last day to drop 16-week fall classes?*

A: If it is a 16-week course, it will be Nov. 12. All drop dates are listed in the hard copy schedule.

—**ALAN STRINGFELLOW**
GRADUATION SERVICES DIRECTOR

Q: *What is the wait list for child care at the Child Development Center?*

A: "The wait list for full time enrolled babies and toddlers is a year and a half. Pre-school aged children's classes are on a six-month wait list. There is something called student-scheduled child care that is available to students. It is first-come, first-serve and is available daily."

—**LEE ANN TOWNSEND**
CHILD DEVELOPMENT LAB SUPERVISOR

FILM REVIEW | New movie infuses heartfelt love with organ-farming

'Never Let Me Go' a surprising tale of romance, thrills

"Never Let Me Go" is a romance, a story of undying love.

That being said, the thought of seeing a British romance movie starring Keira Knightley turned my stomach.

But "Never let Me Go" is romance that can be tolerated and even appreciated by most any male.

It is a film which incorporates ideas of cloning and organ-farming to give the movie a depth and a uniqueness which I did not anticipate.

The film starts by saying that in the near future all disease has been eliminated.

How it has been eliminated the viewer does not know.

As the movie goes on we come to know the three main characters: Ruth (Keira Knightley), Tommy (Andrew Garfield), and Kathy (Carey Mulligan).

The children are being raised for their organs, to be harvested at a future date.

They learn of their fate because of a rogue teacher in the children's boarding school.

The teacher tells the children that when they reach their mid-twenties their organs will be collected to assure the survival of others.

The movie is set in England in the not-so-distant future.

As the film progresses we see Ruth, Tommy, and Kathy as mature young adults wrestling with their own bleak destiny.

Kathy and Tommy fall in love and a strained relationship between Ruth and Kathy ensues as a result.

The acting in the film is very good in that it is unnoticeable.

One grows attached the characters without ever being reminded that they are actors.

Knightley and Mulligan turn in performances that are impec-



cable.

The cinematography beautifully complements the action on the screen without taking away from it.

"Never Let Me Go" is film which never lets one down.

It is a pleasantly surprising film that will touch the viewer while

at the same time challenging his or her notions of morality.

Rating: A-

—**CHRISTIAN KOSTED**
STAFF WRITER

FORMER STUDENTS HONORED IN ANNUAL CEREMONY

Five alumni inducted into Hall of Fame

MORGAN BEARD

Staff Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

A businessman, a paramedic and a dancer were among five honorees inducted into the OCCC Hall of Fame this year.

The former students were recognized for their accomplishments since graduating from the college in the fifth annual Alumni Hall of Fame banquet on Oct. 14.

Shelley Blakemore, Lam Nguyen, Romeo Opichka, Shannon Calderon Primeau, and Chris Snow were honored at the ceremony, which was held in the Film and Video Production Studio.

Pat Berryhill, Institutional Advancement executive director, said the Alumni Hall of Fame is a fantastic opportunity to honor OCCC alums.

"It's a great way to recognize the alumni of the college," Berryhill said. "It's also nice to hear their stories and understand what makes them so successful."

Blakemore, First Financial Network Human Resources director, earned her associate degree in Liberal Studies from OCCC in 2004. She later went on to graduate from the University of Oklahoma in the same field.

Blakemore said she attributes much of her success to her time at OCCC.

"It gave me the confidence as a student to know that I could walk through any door that was open for me and strive for the most in life," she said.

Nguyen is a commercial sales manager for Cox Communications. After studying at OCCC in 1997, he earned his bachelor's degree, cum laude, from OU.

Nguyen also volunteers for various charities, including Mobile Meals and the Cox Foundation.

"My experience at OCCC

was wonderful, thanks in part to the accommodation of the faculty and staff," he said.

"They never give up on you and are always engaged in what you're doing."

Romeo Opichka, retired Emergency Medical Sciences director at OCCC, finished his studies in that field at the college in 1979.

He completed his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1986.

Opichka later led OCCC's EMS program during the period when it earned national accreditation, Berryhill said.

Primeau achieved her lifelong dream of running her own dance studio after her tenure at OCCC.

Primeau owns Everything Goes Dance Studio in Oklahoma City.

She said the intimacy of the college was an integral part of her later success.

"The staff is always available to you," Primeau said.

"They are very helpful and sincere. For them to even recognize me is amazing in its own right."

Snow serves as Facilities Management assistant director on campus.

Snow, who graduated magna cum laude from UCO in 1999, has received multiple international and local awards in facilities management.

He was awarded the title of Certified Educational Facilities Professional from the Association of Physical Plant Administrators, only one of three to achieve the title internationally.

Snow, too, attributes his accomplishments to his beginnings at OCCC.

"This college gave me a great jump-start on my educational journey," he said. "The college changed my life."

For more information about the Alumni Hall of Fame, visit www.occc.edu.



CALEB BARRETT/PIONEER

(L to R) Shelley Blakemore, Shannon Calderon Primeau, Romeo Opichka, Lam Nguyen and Chris Snow were honored Oct. 14 at the fifth annual Alumni Hall of Fame banquet. Pat Berryhill, Institutional Advancement executive director, said the Alumni Hall of Fame is "a great way to recognize the alumni of the college."

Students listen to candidates

MALLORY NEWSOM

News Writing Student

Students from OCCC's Emergency Medical Sciences program attended a public safety forum in early October at the Oklahoma State Capitol. They heard candidates for the Fifth Congressional seat, as well as candidates for attorney general and lieutenant governor.

The congressional seat is being vacated by Mary Fallin, who is running for governor.

Sixty-two students and about 10 faculty members attended the forum. Most students attending the forum are in the program on the OCCC campus but a few were from the Tulsa area and are a part of the growing online program, said Leaugeay Barnes, Emergency Medical Sciences director.

The college's EMS lab assistant Rodney Johnson said the forum was arranged for the students to hear a wide variety of views across the political spectrum.

The first to speak was Demo-

crat Billy Coyle. The three main issues he addressed were the economy and jobs, local energy resources, and veteran benefits.

Next on the podium was Clark Duffy the independent candidate for Congressional District 5. Duffy said freedom is his passion.

"I believe in the absolute right to live your life anyway you want," he said. In a nod to his audience, he also mentioned the need for death benefits for EMS workers.

Republican James Lankford talked about the debt America has and the long-term process it is going to take to get rid of it.

Last to speak was the Democratic candidate for attorney general, Jim Priest. Priest said he believes his experience in the courtroom as a lawyer would help him in the position of attorney general.

Two main points he said he would address if elected are fighting drug addiction and promoting cleaner water for Oklahoma.

Student Kelley Weedn, who was active in asking questions,

said she was disappointed in some of the candidates.

"I think if you're going to be a politician, you need to be prepared for controversy and know what you're talking about," she said. "I think only two could do that ... Overall it was a good learning experience."

As the director of OCCC's nationally-accredited EMS program, Barnes said she wanted to introduce students to the political process.

"We are trying to build the next leaders to take charge in our profession," she said.

She and Johnson believe this forum helped the students start building that leadership.

The EMS department takes a trip to the state Capitol for a presentation or speech every semester, Leaugeay said.

The students said the programs get better every time and most are excited to see what's in store for the spring.

For more information, contact Barnes at 405.682.1611, ext. 7343 or by e-mail at lbarnes@occc.edu.

Professor from Jordan teaches Arabic

MEREDITH ELLINGER

News Writing Student

The Arabic language has been offered at OCCC for two semesters now with the possibility of adding Arabic II to the course offerings in the spring, if enough students enroll, said course Professor Thabet Swaiss.

Swaiss is the first professor to teach Arabic here.

"It is easy to teach something I know so well," he said.

Swaiss also teaches Arabic at Francis Tuttle Technology Center where he has been for three and a half years.

Swaiss said he began his working career in the broadcast journalism industry in his home country, Jordan. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Oklahoma.

After many successful years as a television news reporter, he switched to advertising. Later he returned to the U.S. and worked for several years in New York.

Now, he said, he enjoys teaching his native language to interested students.

Swaiss conceded that Arabic is not an easy language to master.

Arabic uses a different alphabet, which students must learn. There are 28 letters in this alphabet, three quarters of them having an English equivalent. Only eight or 10 are uniquely Arabic, Swaiss said.



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Thabet Swaiss

The Arabic language is read from right to left; also, up and down and diagonally.

Swaiss said he simplifies the language so it is easier to learn. For example, each class period, students will learn a line of the alphabet.

Even knowing the difficulty level, his students are really interested in learning the language.

"Ninety percent of the students take it seriously," he said.

He said he believes it is important to immerse oneself in other cultures.

"The younger you are, the better it is to learn a language."

—THABET SWAISS
OCCC PROFESSOR

"Only four percent of the world's population is the U.S.," he said.

"There are so many more different cultures to learn about."

Twenty-two countries speak Arabic, Swaiss said. He said Arabic is essential to the culture of the world's 1.57 billion Muslims, because it is the language of the Quran, the Islamic holy book.

In any language, Swaiss said, he believes one must go to the country and immerse oneself in the culture to truly understand the language.

"The younger you are, the better it is to learn a language," Swaiss said.

Even though the class is new, there are hopes of this program growing.

If everything goes as planned, there will be two courses available at OCCC in the spring — a beginning course and an intermediate course.

For more information regarding the Arabic program, e-mail Professor Dianne Broyles at dbroyles@occc.edu or call Swaiss at 405-606-5650.

Former broadcaster enlightens students

J. STIPEK

Staff Writer

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Having covered many stories with an element of risk in Jordan before, today's journalism students learned from one of the practitioners of Middle East broadcast journalism.

OCCC News Writing students got to listen to former Jordan Television Corporation reporter and current adjunct professor of Arabic, Thabet Swaiss on Oct. 7. For an hour, Swaiss relayed his experience in the field of journalism. Swaiss graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

From there he interned at KOCO, Channel 5 in Oklahoma City which Swaiss said was one of the most important things he has ever done.

After graduation, Swaiss landed a job with the Jordan Television Company (JTV) in Amman, Jordan, where he worked as an editor, reporter and writer.

Swaiss said he managed to get ahead due to an unrelenting work ethic. "I did not complain about the time and

"It was always a great honor to meet heads of state."

—THABET SWAISS
OCCC PROFESSOR

effort," he said.

Swaiss spoke of many of the stories he covered in Jordan, his home country. Most of the media outlets in Jordan and the Middle East, such as Al-Jazeera, are semi state funded media companies that limit what journalists are able to cover. Swaiss spoke of his meeting with King Hussein. In Jordan, "you never talk bad about the King," said Swaiss.

The words Swaiss spoke of King Hussein could almost be used to describe Swaiss himself. "He was a gentle man, soft spoken and very polite. He spoke English and was Western educated," Swaiss recounted.

Swaiss continued to candidly speak about the regrets and thrills of his career. The biggest thrill he said was covering Fairouz, one of the biggest Lebanese pop stars in the region at the time.

Swaiss's eyes lit up as he recalled speaking with her manager and being able to get access to the singer when no one else

could. Swaiss said it was one of the true highlights of his career.

Swaiss spoke of the one regret of his career was declining to meet Shimon Peres, the head of the state of Israel. Swaiss had the chance to encounter him at a 1984 Christmas party in Bethlehem; however Swaiss thought if he attended it would greatly upset his bosses due to the political ramifications of possibly being seen with Peres.

"It is always a great honor to meet heads of state," Swaiss said.

After four years of working and living in Jordan, Swaiss packed up and moved to New York City. He said he enjoyed living in New York because he was a single, career-oriented guy with all the resources and benefits available to him living in the city.

While living in New York City, the 9/11 attacks occurred. During the trau-

matic events of 9/11, Swaiss was holed up in his office for a day at a bank in midtown Manhattan, as he could not go home to his wife and newborn baby in Brooklyn Heights.

When he returned to work, Swaiss' boss said to him: "If anyone messes with you, let me know."

When someone from his office began harassing Swaiss for being of Middle Eastern descent, his boss simply told the employee he could not do that and moved their offices to separate them.

Swaiss went on to talk about what separates this generation of reporters from his generation. "Technology is dangerous and wonderful," he said. "You get everything instantly. Within one or two minutes you know what is going on. I wish we had that in my day."

Broadcasting major Casey Akard came away impressed with Swaiss. "With all of his experience in reporting, we were very fortunate to hear him speak in our class."

Currently Swaiss seems content with teaching Arabic at OCCC and raising his family in Oklahoma. There is no danger in reporting that story.

STUDENTS WEIGH IN ON BALLOT QUESTION

State Question 744 coming up for vote Nov. 2

- State Question 744 would repeal a section of the State Constitution.
- The repealed section required Legislature to annually spend \$42 per common school student.
- State Question 744 would add a new Article to the Constitution. It would set a minimum average amount Oklahoma must annually spend on common schools.
- It would require the State to spend annually, no less than the average amount spent on each student by the surrounding states.
- When the average amount spent by surrounding states declines, State Question 744 states Oklahoma must spend the amount it spent the year before.
- The measure deals with money spent on day-to-day operations of the schools and school districts.
- State Question 744 would require that increased spending begin in the first fiscal year after its passage.
- It requires that the surrounding state average be met in the third fiscal year after passage.
- State Question 744 would not raise taxes, nor would it provide new funding for the new spending requirements.

—Courtesy ok.gov

The Pioneer polled 100 students:

SQ 744 would fund public education to at least the per-pupil average of neighboring states. Do you support or oppose State Question 744?

SUPPORT - 33%
OPPOSE - 50%
UNDECIDED - 17%

How will you vote on SQ 744?

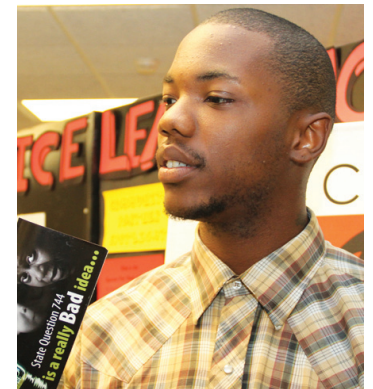


“NO. Against it because you do not know if the money is going where it is supposed to go.”

—Heather Phariss, 18,
Premed major

“YES. I approve of this as long as they restructure the bill so it does not affect other departments.”

—Rich Collins, 23,
Journalism major



“NO. Please pay attention to SQ 754, which blocks SQ 744. If 744 passes it will be null and void.”

—Andrée Duckworth, 30,
Business major

“YES. They should fund SQ 744 to help more people out with education.”

—Andrea Caligone, 18,
Criminal Justice



Service learning day gives students sense of pride

JESSIKA KULHANEK
News Writing Student

More than a dozen OKC-GO scholarship students took part in a service learning day at the YWCA women's shelter of Oklahoma City on Oct. 15. The students worked cleaning the playground, parking lots and surrounding areas on the grounds of the facility as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Week.

They worked for a better part of the afternoon using rakes, leaf blowers and their own hands to clean leaves that had settled in nooks and crannies around the playground.

Erin Walker of the YWCA, said the group of student volunteers cleaned twice as much as the company the YWCA usually pays to clean

the grounds.

The students had a sense of pride and accomplishment after they left the grounds spic-and-span.

Ryan Moss, biology major, said he believes his work on the grounds of the shelter will “give victims a sense of pride to see a beautiful park instead of an institution.”

Another student, history major Jose Escapa, said he believes their work will give comfort to the shelter's residents.

“It shows that the organization cares, because first impressions last forever,” he said.

Nonprofit agencies can use all the help they can get, said Katie Treadwell, First Year and Student Life programs coordinator for OCCC.

Student volunteers are the

perfect people for the job.

“Whether it is a big project or picking up trash and raking leaves, this is one more thing that the agency might not have been able to do on their own,” Treadwell said.

The YWCA playground is dedicated to all the children affected by violence and the students' volunteer work is dedicated to those same children.

For more information about

service learning work days and opportunities to help the community, stop by Student Life located on the first floor of the main building or visit www.occc.edu/StudentLife/ServiceDays.

Professor to lead haunted tour

The University of Oklahoma campus is rife with legends of ghosts, secret societies and daring pranks. This Halloween season, OU and OCCC adjunct professor Jeff Provine will lead a walking tour to various spots on the Norman campus and tell the tales not shared in typical hours.

The tour will explore such items on campus as the cursed Mustang statue that may or may not have killed its creator, the steps of the Law Barn, where an engineering queen was crowned amid a prank war involving defacing school property, kidnapping and tampering with public services, an accidental beheading of a youngster playing in a dumbwaiter, and more. Provine said he was given the idea while traveling in Britain and taking ghost tours of cities such as Newcastle, Edinburgh, and York.

Tours will be offered at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26, 27, and 28 beginning at the Mustang Statue north of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. The 80-minute tours are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Provine at jprovine@ou.edu.

FROM MAKEUP TO DECORATIONS, ALL AGES ENJOY SPOOKY HOLIDAY

Halloween finds its way to OCCC campus

SARAH JAY
News Writing Student

Blood, gore and the seasonal spirit have come to OCCC.

Students are learning about faking traumatic injuries, choosing their costumes and planning the designs for the pumpkins they will carve.

On Oct. 14 the theme in Rebecca McCauley's Makeup for the Stage class was gore and gruesome injuries — especially facial trauma.

The class meets once a week on Thursday to learn about different styles of makeup.

During this particular class period, students learned how to create realistic bruises, cuts, scrapes, gashes and even bloody noses, using a mixture of latex, tissue paper, makeup and special blood formulas.

"Everyone looks pretty messed up," said Karlyn Morrison, theater arts sophomore.

McCauley said this particular topic is taught in mid-October because it fits well with Halloween, and the students have more spirit and enthusiasm for gruesomeness.

Also, she said, stores have a much larger variety of the makeup products that are used to create the look of torn and injured flesh during the Halloween season.

Other students are preparing

"You are never too old to dress up and act foolish."

—BONNIE MASON
OCCC STUDENT

for Halloween in less messy ways.

"You are never too old to dress up and act foolish," said Bonnie Mason, biotechnology sophomore. Mason said one of her favorite Halloween activities is carving pumpkins.

"In the past years I have carved my dog and the Obama campaign logo. This year it is a possibility that I will carve the democratic donkey."

Other students will celebrate by dressing in costumes for Halloween.

Austin Glenn, store manager of Spirit Halloween, said this year's most popular costumes for college students are gladiators and humorous outfits for the guys along with pirates, vampires and gypsies for the girls.

Dallin Corman, sales associate of Spirit Halloween, said some of the newer costumes for 2010 include different versions of Lady Gaga and cast members from MTV's hit reality show "Jersey Shore."

Rachael Privett, graphic communications freshman, said her favorite thing about Halloween is "you can dress however you want and nobody

will judge you.

"This year I plan on dressing up as Light from the anime show 'Death Note' and helping with the photo club's Halloween booth at the carnival here at OCCC," Privett said.

"I will also rent horror movies and buy lots of junk food so my friends and I can stay up all night."

Anthony DeMauro, liberal arts freshman, said he enjoys going to stores and "seeing costumes and the kids being so excited."

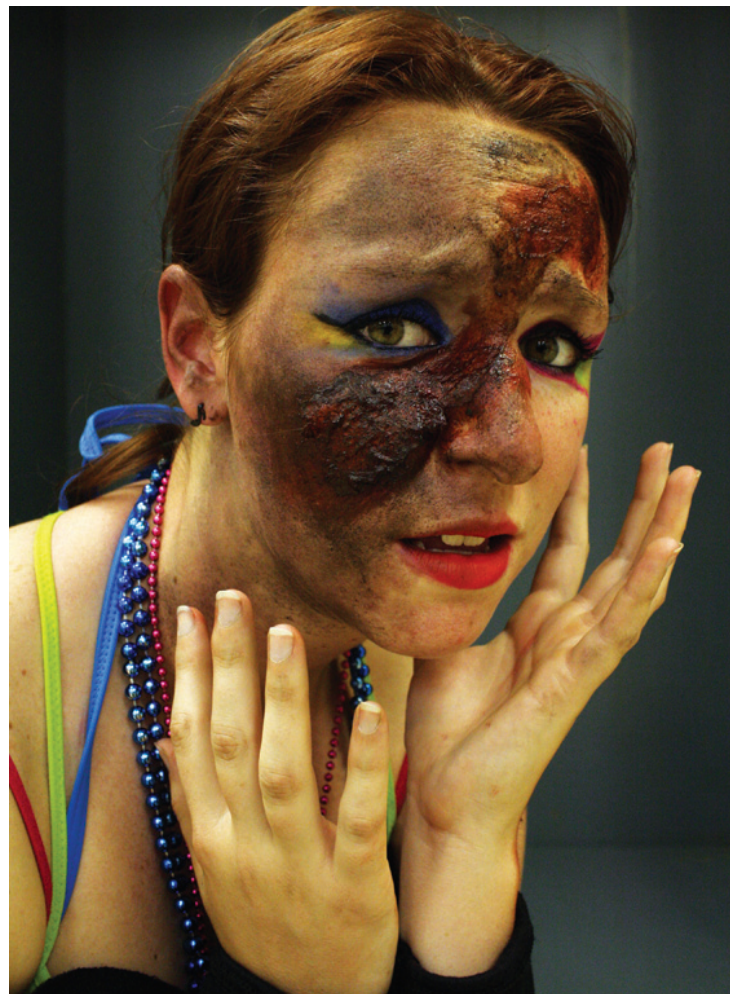
"I will be celebrating this year and dressing up in a '60s mod fashion outfit," DeMauro said.

Tawny Hacker, theater arts sophomore, said she has a costume picked out as well.

"I'm going to dress up this year as Flo from the Progressive commercials on TV," she said. "It's a costume that is fun and easy to put together."

Hacker said her Halloween fun extends beyond donning a costume. "So far, my house has some decorations and a little graveyard," she said.

Hacker said she also plans to take her daughter trick-or-treating and help operate a haunted house.



CALEB BARRETTE/PIONEER

Theater student Sarah Wilson shows off her completed makeup application. On Oct. 14 the theme in Rebecca McCauley's Makeup for the Stage class was gore and gruesome injuries — especially facial trauma. The class meets once a week on Thursday to learn about different styles of makeup. Other students also are dressing up for Halloween. "You are never too old to dress up and act foolish," said Bonnie Mason, biotechnology sophomore. Mason said one of her favorite Halloween activities is carving pumpkins.

Citywide Haunts

•Haunt the Zoo for Halloween

The Oklahoma City Zoo hosts its annual Halloween event at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. each night through Oct. 31, featuring several days of trick-or-treating for the kids. Admission cost is \$7 per child (\$6 if purchased in advance), and accompanying adults 18 and over are admitted free.

•Frightfest at Frontier City

It's a fright-filled Halloween celebration at Frontier City beginning Oct. 8. Called "family by day and fright by night" by organizers, Frightfest runs Fridays, Saturdays and

Sundays through Halloween, featuring costumed ghouls and monsters, a trick-or-treat trail for the kids and a great haunted house for the older ones. Admission to Frightfest activities is free with park admission, with the exception of an extra \$5 charge for the haunted house.

•Haunt the Harn on Halloween Night

At the historical Harn Homestead Museum, family members of all ages can have a great time from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 28. There will be hay rides,

games, bobbing for apples, marshmallow roasting by the fire, crafts, trick-or-treating and more.

•Oklahoma Gazette's Ghouls Gone Wild Halloween Parade

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23, the 2010 Oklahoma Gazette's Ghouls Gone Wild Halloween Parade will begin at 11th and North Walker, travel south and then east to 10th and Broadway, and finally turn south again to 2nd. The 2010 Grand Marshal is Count Gregore, and the Flaming Lips are again slated to appear along with many local bands,

dance groups, and individual performers. Plenty of food, drinks and merchandise will be available for purchase.

•Arcadia Lake's Storybook Forest

Held each year at Arcadia Lake's Spring Creek Park and hosted by the city of Edmond, Storybook Forest runs nightly from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 23 and through Halloween. The family event, geared toward the younger kids, lets them meet characters from their favorite fables. In addition, Storybook Forest features story-telling, campfires for

hot dog and marshmallow roasting, a hayride, games and more.

•Yukon's Annual Spooksville

Held at 3 p.m. on Oct. 23, Yukon's Annual Spooksville is in its 15th year. Go to the Yukon Community Center for this local favorite that features face-painting, games, a costume contest, haunted house, carnival and, of course, candy. Admission is \$3 per child.

For even more haunting places to visit this Halloween season, visit the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer

SPORTS

Going for the gold



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Ryan Lindsay, science major, swims laps in the OCCC Aquatic Center. The Aquatic Center is open for recreational swimming from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

FLAG FOOTBALL | Spartans remain winless as The Crew advances in rank

The Crew smash Spartans 36-6

RYAN PULS
News Writing Student

The Oct. 15 flag football game between the Spartans and The Crew showcased great passing and great defense in a one-sided matchup that ended with The Crew handing the Spartans their fifth consecutive defeat with a 36-6 victory.

Jamaal Surrell set the tone for The Crew early in the game by intercepting a Brandon Curry pass and returning it for a touchdown.

The Crew converted their point after to take an early 7-0 lead.

The Spartans' next possession ended shortly after it started when Justin Howell was unable to pick up a first down.

The Spartans then turned to Jeremy Bonsall to be the third quarterback of the half, who helped them gain some positive momentum.

Bonsall and Howell connected on three straight completions, the third

of which would result in a touchdown for the Spartans. After a failed conversion, the Spartans remained one point behind The Crew 7-6.

As quickly as the Spartans gained momentum, it was lost when quarterback Franklin Truong and The Crew began to pull away.

Truong started the next drive by finding teammate Thai Phan for a long touchdown pass. After another conversion, The Crew led 14-6.

The Spartans went back to Howell at quarterback to try to take advantage of The Crew defense, but the game plan failed, ending in another interception and the end of the first half.

During half-time, Surrell said, he believed much of the team's success was due to big interceptions in the first half.

"We were able to get pressure on the passer, and that allowed confusion and the possibility to jump in front and intercept the ball," he said.

As opposed to his first half, Truong

spread the ball around to his teammates.

That would led to The Crew scoring three touchdowns in the second half.

Meanwhile, constant quarterback pressure from The Crew defense halted drives from the Spartans.

The Crew coach Danny Williams said he was proud of his team's performance.

"They worked hard and worked together," Williams said. "There's no question at all that the MVP is quarterback Truong."

Truong explained how he was able to help The Crew pull away from the Spartans.

"We didn't want to make any mistakes to change the momentum," he said. "I was able to make safer throws, and let the receivers make plays with the ball."

Unfortunately for the Spartans, their turnovers proved to be their defeat.

"We needed to complete more passes, and have our receivers get in better position to help out the quarterback," Bonsall said.

UPCOMING
INTRAMURALS
EVENTS

• **Oct. 15:** Week five intramural flag football begins. The Thunder play You Know at 1 p.m. The OCCC Dream Team play the Smash Brothers at 2 p.m. The Crew play the Spartans at 3 p.m. All games will be held on the OCCC main soccer field. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786, or Charlier Tarver at ext. 7684.

• **Nov. 1-29:** The Abs Express class will be offered from 5:05 to 5:25 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in November. This class is designed to strengthen your abdominal muscles and lower back strength in 20 minutes. The class is designed for all fitness levels and costs \$20.

• **Nov. 2-30:** The Body Sculpting class will be offered from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays in November. This class is designed to emphasize "problem areas" by utilizing aerobic activity, weights and toning. The four-week class costs \$20 for current OCCC students.

• **Nov. 6:** Capital Area Special Olympics will host their annual basketball tournament from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, in the OCCC gymnasium.

• **Nov. 25-28:** The Health and Wellness Center, as well as the Aquatic Center, will be closed for Thanksgiving Break.

FLAG FOOTBALL STANDINGS

1. You Know	5-0
2. Dream Team	4-1
3. Thunder	2-3
4. Smash Bros.	2-3
5. The Crew	2-3
6. Spartans	0-5

Have sports news?
e-mail Morgan Beard
sportswriter@
occc.edu

Dream: Steps taken toward helping more students graduate

Continued from page 1

level classes that most students have to take, Harvey said. For Achieving the Dream, five classes were selected that had high enrollment as well as high failure rates. Those classes are English 1113, College Algebra, American Federal Government, American History to 1860, and Introduction to Psychology.

To increase success, Harvey said, the college offered training to the faculty to encourage students to work together and help one another.

Cooperative or collaborative instruction is the concept being used, Harvey said. Instead of lecturing for long periods of time, the professors break the class into groups to do systematic work together in hopes that the students learn from each other. After looking at data, it seems the classes taught by way of collaborative groups had higher success rates, Harvey said.

On Sept. 29 Joyce Morgan-Dees, research support ana-

lyst, discussed the fall 2010 cohort profile comparisons, a grouping that allows performance over time to be viewed.

Focusing on the five 1000 level courses, she reported all five selected courses increased considerably in the number of students enrolled in 2010 over 2009, as well as increased in successful completion rates.

Online learning

This category includes all online classes, Gardner said. Business professor Anita Williams reported on that area.

"We found that online students are not as successful as traditional campus students so we have formed a standing committee called Online Learning Success," she said.

"We look at things we can do to improve the success of online learning."

The committee has developed an online orientation course that students will be encouraged to take before attempting an online course. The orientation is designed to better acquaint students with the necessary technology

skills, Williams said.

Students often sign up for an online class, then find out they can't actually manipulate the computer adequately. She said the committee is still in the pilot phase of the orientation course but hopes to see results soon.

Math

More than half of all OCCC students have to take remedial math, Harvey said.

"For years the math department has been looking at different ways for improving the outcomes."

Looking to change the curriculum, he said, they have gone from three courses to four.

"We are adding a course called College Prep Math instead of calling it Developmental Math," Harvey said. "We think that gives it a more positive spin. People have all different learning styles. The new curriculum incorporates all learning styles and makes it truly revolutionary."

Academic advisement

Harvey said the main goal is

to figure out ways to identify and help students who may be struggling as well as encourage all students to seek academic advisement.

"Students that go in to be advised have a much higher chance of success," he said.

Student Development Dean Liz Largent reported her staff members are currently working on a program called Retention Alert that will help identify students who may need assistance in getting through difficult times.

For students seeking help with their degree program, academic advisers try to concentrate on the positive when working with students, she said. The concept is based on the belief that, at some point students have been successful, so the advisers try to focus on what those students have done in the past that made them successful instead of what they may have done wrong.

Financial Aid

"We know from statistics that if students get financial aid, they have a much higher

rate of persisting and succeeding at the college," Harvey said.

"We have gone up from 44 percent to 58 percent, which is huge."

"Now a lot of work is going into marketing and promoting financial aid as well as assisting students in applying for it," he said.

Not only is Achieving the Dream in effect at three different community colleges in Oklahoma, but it also is a nationally recognized program that has established an association of more than 100 organizations in 22 states, according to the national website achievingthedream.org. Besides OCCC, Rose State College and Tulsa Community College also are members.

"After four to eight years, a substantially higher percentage of students at Achieving the Dream colleges — especially low-income students and students of color — will experience success, with no reduction in enrollment for these populations," according to the website.

Math: New system makes classes more interesting

Continued from page 1

to contain questions over the material learned in class.

"My favorite part of the prep math class is the review games," said Christian-Monet Hyatt, CPM 3 student and psychology sophomore.

"They let me know if I'm ready for the test or if I need to study more. Since we do it in groups, it makes me feel more confident in the answers we choose."

The new math courses consist of four different non-traditional sections, each comprised of different approaches to learning, Carter said. The classes are labeled College Prep Math 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Students are placed into a section based upon placement test scores. The placement test was developed specifically for

OCCC, which gives a more accurate idea of where the students need to be placed, said Marsha Austin, mathematics professor and a CPM class coordinator.

The new approach to learning consists of different segments within the class period, during which students move from one place to another.

Usually a cluster of four different classes meet at the same time and rotate, allowing more than one professor to assist students, Austin said.

"I like the changing of classes," said Sarah Hanson, CPM 3 student and diagnostic medical sonography freshman. "It keeps the class moving and prevents people from getting bored."

"I find myself keeping my focus better, rather than sitting through one long class the

whole time."

Unlike most lectures that last for the majority of the class, lectures under the new arrangement are much shorter, Carter said. These mini-lectures allow the professor to present material, work problems, and help the students build connections between concepts.

Group work is also a part of the new course agenda, Carter said. During class, students get to work with their peers on math activities that pertain to the lectures.

Some activities are hands-on and show how math is used in everyday situations. For example, the CPM 3 class did a percentage exercise over the wins and losses of the OKC Thunder basketball team, said Linda Knox, mathematics professor and CPM class coordinator.

While working in groups, individuals are able to grasp material by receiving help from other students or by being the one who helps explain, Carter said.

Another aspect of the redesigned curriculum is class time computer work, Carter said. Class time work gives students a chance to begin on homework assignments and check to see if they comprehend the problems correctly.

The change came partly as a result of low passing rates in pre-college level math classes, as well as departmental concerns, Carter said.

Since some students need better study habits, study skills are presented to the students in order to maximize what they accomplish, Carter said.

The mathematics department hopes this new cur-

riculum will bring promising results for students who have struggled with math and give them the knowledge they need to move on, Carter said.

For more information, contact the OCCC Mathematics Department at 405-682-7508.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

College Democrats President Kenneth Meador and club member Angela Gutierrez raise money for their club by selling popcorn to students Erica Vann and Heather Rochet.

STUDENT LIFE | Admission to party is non-perishable can goods for those in need

Halloween Carnival set for Oct. 29

CHRISTY JOHNSON

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

A gaggle of ghouls, ghosts and goblins will haunt the campus Friday night, Oct. 29, when OCCC hosts its annual Halloween Carnival from 6 to 8:30 p.m., said Katie Treadwell, Service Learning and Student Life Program Coordinator.

The event is designed to entertain children from the area, as well as children of OCCC students. Ages typically range from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade, she said.

"We wanted to provide a safer option for children on Halloween," Treadwell said.

Traditionally the price of admission has been \$1 but this year, in the interest of helping others, Student Life is asking everyone who plans to attend to bring at least one non-perishable canned good, but more than one would be greatly appreciated, she said.

Treadwell said the proceeds from this carnival will be donated to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

"We want to help serve the community by providing much needed food for those who are in need," she said.

Student Life is asking that all children be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times while attending the carnival, she said.

"Over the years we have had as many as a thousand people attend the carnival," she said.

Student Life is the sponsor of this event and enjoys hosting it every year, she said.

There will be a series of booths with various games.

Each booth will allow the children to play at least one game, she said.

Treadwell said many clubs are planning to have a booth at this event. Approximately 15 clubs are registered and there could possibly be more.

"Many clubs are still registering for this event as well as getting the themes of their booths in order," she said.

Among those already registered are Advocates for Peace, Health Professions, Engineering and International Students club, Treadwell said.

Booths will be staff by student club members, she said.

Kenneth Meador, College Democrats club president, said this is the first year for the College Democrats to participate in the carnival.

"In addition to representing the College Democrats club at the carnival, I will also be bringing my 7-year-old son to the event," he said.

"We will be having a limbo booth with lots of candy for the children to enjoy. I am looking forward to this carnival," he said.

For more information on this event contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Deadline nears for spring Tuition Fee Waivers

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the spring 2011 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Nov. 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7524.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Bible study group

Christians on Campus club will be holding a Bible study on the book of Galatians from noon to 12:45 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25, in room 2R5 or 2R7 of the Main Building. For more information, contact James Kennedy at 405-314-7739.

Photography club meeting

Photography club will hold a general meeting at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, in the Arts and Humanities Building, room 1C1. For more information, contact Rachel Privett at 405-620-3176.

Soup and dessert sale on Wednesday

The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee will host a bake sale plus a baking contest, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, in CU 3. Breakfast items will be offered early and homemade soups will be sold during the noon hour. All proceeds will go to benefit student scholarships. For more information contact Jeff Carlisle at 405-682-1611, ext. 7391.

Degree Check it Out

Advisers will be on hand to meet with students to check their progress toward graduation from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, and again from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 28, across from the Coffee Shop on the first floor of the Main Building. These meetings are informal and on a drop-in basis. For more information, contact Kyron Smoot at 405-682-1611, ext. 7547, or by e-mail at ksmoot@occc.edu.

Course to explore Performing Arts

OCCC humanities course, Arts Alive, HUM 2003, is being offered through the OKC Downtown College Consortium. This 8-week course meets from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays beginning Oct. 29. The class will be held at the Civic Center Music Hall. The course instructor is Ruth Charnay, department director for Communications and the Arts. For more information, contact OKC Downtown College at 405-232-3382.

Welcome reception

Black Student Association will host a welcome reception for the OCCC Regents first black member Dr. Lenora Burdine from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10 in CU 1 and 2. Special guest speaker will be President Paul Sechrist. For more information on this event, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or visit www.occc.campusgroups.com/bsa.

All Highlights are due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue.

Highlight forms can be picked up in the Pioneer office, located in 1F2 of the Arts and Humanities building, just inside Entry 2.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 2004 Nissan Sentra 1.8, silver color, new tires, rebuilt, 55k miles, good condition and drives great. \$3,900. OBO. Call: Tan at 405-524-4425 or e-mail chongtan_okc@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: 2001 Ford Focus ZX3, S2 special edition with hatch back, new water pump, battery and low profile tires. Drives great. 80,500 miles. \$3,000. OBO. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625.

ANIMALS

Dog needs home: Eighteen month old golden brown shepherd mix dog for free adoption. Dog has been neutered and has all shots. Call: Bob Carter at 405-682-7543 or e-mail bob.carter@occc.edu.

EMPLOYMENT

Job Offer: Looking for part-time employee to work with a special need child. Interested person will be trained for CPR and first aid. Hours are flexible. E-mail tekingfisher@yahoo.com. Put "Cree" in the subject line.

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LOST: Digital voice recorder. If found, call Laquana at 405-607-2847 or 405-882-1603.

SERVICES

Tutoring Offered: Take a tutoring class with Nguyen, who has 8 years of tutoring experience. It is guaranteed that you will have a much better understanding of the subject. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Florida city
6 Pretenses
10 Burn
14 Caesar's tongue
15 Diving bird
16 After-bath attire
17 "— You Glad You're You?"
18 Division word
19 Jazz's home
20 Moocher
22 Allot
23 "What — is new?"
24 Badge
26 Giddy
30 Style
32 Type of spray
33 "— and the King of Siam"
35 Hand warmers
40 Solar spectacle
42 Walden Pond dweller
44 North Woods animal
45 Poet's inspiration
47 Social misfit
48 Farmer's produce
50 Highland misses
52 Take to task
56 Peddle
58 Arkin or Ladd
59 Insect repellent

DOWN

1 Norway's patron saint
2 Mystery writer John Dickson —
3 Fit to —
4 Queue
5 Stag feature
6 Pseudonym
7 Express strong disapproval of
8 Carry
9 Made sleep noises
10 Bit of bread
11 Marriott holding
12 Subside
13 Change the length of
21 Earthenware pots
25 Note
26 Polite cough
27 Texas town
28 Hawaiian port


PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

MIRAGE	PEA	OPTS
ISABEL	REV	BAIL
SHEENS	ERE	ONTO
TRAFFIC	CLIGHT	
PLATE	LEE	ESSES
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HOUDINI	YAK	TUG
ANS	SIR	OPE
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SUN	BAY	ODIE
ERNIE	AIL	FASTS
THUNDER	CLOUD	
HIDE	AGE	REMOTE
ANEW	SUP	CLAWED
NOSY	YES	ASPENS

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39 Beer: slang
41 Quick kiss
43 "Hi!"
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49 School period
51 Alloy used for magnets
52 Ran
53 Avoid adroitly
54 Flat-bottomed boat
55 Beneath
57 Sea eagles
60 Nastase of the courts
61 Light tan
62 Fibs
63 For fear that
64 Music and sculpture

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Pioneer Treasure Hunt

Search the Pioneer for answers to our weekly treasure hunt questions.

Correctly answer four Treasure Hunt Questions and be entered in our final drawing of the semester:

1: When is the deadline for OCCC's Annual Essay contest?
2: What is the name of the music professor who was featured in the Oct. 15 issue of Pioneer?
3: When is the Student Life office hosting a Halloween carnival on campus?
4: How many new student members joined the ranks of the Kappa Beta Delta international business honor society on campus Oct. 8?

Read the Oct. 15 Pioneer issue for the answers. Send your answers to: adman@occc.edu.

Correct Answer for last week:
1: Aug. 1, 2011, 2: 3,000, 3: Oct. 14, Mid-America Christian University, 4: Oct. 19, College Union.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL THANKED FOR SUPPORT

President Sechrist meets with student leaders

THADDAEUS AYERS
News Writing Student

College President Paul Sechrist thanked The Leadership Council several times in the Oct. 14 meeting for raising \$8 million to construct the new performing arts theater.

Sechrist said about four years ago student leaders on the Council agreed to increase tuition by \$3 per credit hour to raise the money for the theater.

The commitment from students made it possible for him to go to foundations in the community to help raise some of the remaining funds

needed for the construction, Sechrist said.

Sechrist said the tuition increase raised half of the \$16 million for the new performing arts center, which had its official groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 7. Construction for the theater is set to begin in spring 2011 with an expected completion of Dec. 2012.

The students will be included on the planned donor wall which will be in the lobby of the theater, Sechrist said.

"We've got a foundation that gave a million dollars, we've got one that gave half a million dollars, but the students gave

\$8 million," Sechrist said, "The students of Oklahoma City Community College will be at the top of the list of who gave money to support the theater."

In addition to the groundbreaking of the new performing arts center, Sechrist also talked about the new Family and Community Education Center child care center, which is planned to open in January in the old John Glenn Elementary School building, about a mile north of campus.

"We'll be the first and only college in the state of Oklahoma that will provide what I call scaled-up or large-scale student-scheduled childcare services," Sechrist said, "I'm

very excited about that."

The Aug. 1 tobacco-free policy was briefly mentioned; but Sechrist made it clear the policy was not open for debate and that it had been decided by the OCCC Board of Regents.

"The issue is over, we need to move on," Sechrist said. "Regardless of what you think about whether we've infringed on your personal rights as a citizen or not, my seven bosses have said the college will be tobacco free starting on Aug. 1."

OCCC has seen an increase in students of about 24 percent the past two years, he said. Last year OCCC exceeded the University of Central Oklahoma in enrollment, Sechrist said.

Based on those figures, OCCC is the fourth largest college in Oklahoma.

Sechrist has been president of OCCC since 2006. He holds degrees in communication from Southern Nazarene University and a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

The Leadership Council is made up of officers of campus clubs and other interested students who want to volunteer. The group usually meets twice a month at 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

For more information about The Leadership Council, contact Erin Logan at 405-682-7821 or by e-mail at elogan@occc.edu.

Theft, car break-ins reported to security

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
Senior Staff Writer
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Crime at OCCC has recently been dominated by several types of theft and property damage.

On the morning of Oct. 11, student Kelli Potts reported several bottles of prescription drugs had been stolen from her backpack. The prescriptions had been stolen the previous Wednesday but Potts said she hadn't noticed they were missing at that time according to the Safety and Security Report. The drugs are valued at roughly \$100.

Two cars were damaged, also on Oct 11, in apparent attempts at stealing the vehicles.

At 12:45 p.m., Andrew Smith advised campus security his vehicle was damaged in an attempted theft. He reported his car had damage to the driver's side door and steering column. Smith's car was parked in parking lot A.

Later that day, student Kirk Gatewood reported his car also had been broken into.

Although no items were

missing, there was damage to the door. Gatewood also was parked in parking lot A.

On Oct 12, Amy Caban reported her cell phone had been stolen from a table near the coffee shop when she left it behind while she went to another area of the college. Caban said the phone is a black Samsung valued at \$200.

A person was seen stealing books from the campus book store on Oct. 13. The person, a male with a mohawk and sunglasses, reportedly put books under his shirt and then paid for less expensive items.

When the suspect was confronted he fled on foot and was observed ducking between cars in parking lot A.

Major Keith Bourque identified the man as Craig Ralls, a person Bourque said campus security has dealt with in the past for a similar crime.

Officers searched the campus for the suspect but were informed by Bourque that the suspect was seen on camera leaving campus in a vehicle. Video evidence clearly shows the suspect placing books under his shirt and later fleeing.



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