INSIDE

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

GUNS HAVE NO PLACE ON CAMPUS

Editor Joey Stipek says if guns aren't allowed in other state institutions, they should not be allowed on OCCC's campus, a state taxpayer-funded college. See more.

OPINION, p. 2

AROUND CAMPUS

AFFORDABLE WAYS TO WOO YOUR LOVE

From restaurant specials to affordable gifts, the Pioneer lists ways to have a perfect Valentine Day. See inside for more.

CAMPUS, p. 7

RECREATION

SWIM TEAMS TO GATHER AT OCCC

OCCC will host the Mountain West Conference swimming championships. See more inside.

SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE

CAMPUS TO HOST BLOOD DRIVE FEB. 16 AND 17

The Oklahoma Blood Institute is encouraging people to give blood at the upcoming blood drive to replenish low supplies. See inside.

COMMUNITY p. 10

POKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OKLAHOMA CITY COL

FEBRUARY 11, 2011

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Snowstorm costs college in number of ways

From students missing days to cleanup efforts, OCCC feels bite of Mother Nature

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Online Editor onlineeditor@occc.edu

Winter snow storms that dumped several feet of snow across Oklahoma City shut down campus for an "unprecedented" number of days this week and last.

In addition to closing an hour early Monday, Jan. 31, the main OCCC campus and off-campus buildings like the John Massey Center and Family and Community Education Center were closed for the rest of the week before opening again on Saturday.

And that wasn't the end of winter's effects on OCCC. The college shut down early again Feb. 8, all of Feb. 9, and part of Feb. 10 before reopening for evening classes.

That number is unprecedented, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist in an e-mail.

"I would prefer that we could be open, but conditions on campus were too hazardous to open," Sechrist said. "The decision to close and when to open is decided primarily on one factor — safety.

"Even though our roads, sidewalks, and building entrances (were) free of snow, it (took) additional time before all of the parking lots (were) cleared," he said.

Sechrist said efforts to clear the campus of snow and ice were put into motion Thursday afternoon.

An estimation on the money spent to clear campus of snow and ice was not available at press time.

Costs to clean up after last year's February snow storm, which closed campus for three days straight, totaled \$20,512.50, said Gary Phillips, Building and Campus Services supervisor, in a Feb. 5, 2010, issue of the Pioneer

The decision to remain closed also factored in area road conditions, as well as public school closings.

"I know that it will take some effort and adjustments to make up for these days," Sechrist said.

"The ideal semester would not include any unexpected closed days. This is not a situation I desire, but one that we must deal with, both as administrators, faculty, staff, and students. I know that faculty either [has been] or will be communicating with their students on any adjustments in the semester

See **SNOW** page 9

Winter fun



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Students should protest the

Courtney, 8, from Oklahoma City sleds on the closed college campus after a recent snow. Courtney's grandfather Gene Groves, also of Oklahoma City, said he brings his grandchildren to the campus every year when it snows. Groves and his grandchildren have taken classes at OCCC.

STUDENTS NOT HAPPY WITH NEW PRICES

Vending increases by quarter

WHITNEY KNIGHT Online Editor

onlineeditor@occc.edu

For many students, vending machines are a college necessity. They provide a quick, easy, and cheap way to grab a snack or drink between classes.

However, some vending machine products have recently seen a 25-cent increase — and students aren't happy with the change.

"It sounds high to me," said OCCC student Wendy Boyce Bradley. "It's not always convenient, but I buy my soda at the store and bring it from home. It's a lot cheaper."

Bottled PepsiCo products like Pepsi and Mountain Dew, juice and bottled water, could previously be purchased in vending machines across campus for just \$1. Now, these products cost \$1.25.

In addition, single cans of Dr Pepper used to be sold in the vending machines for 75 cents, but now cost \$1.

Jeremy Walker, local PepsiCo accounting manager, said the increase is possible due to a mutual contract between OCCC and PepsiCo that has been in place since 2003

For seven years, Walker said, prices of bottled products in OCCC's

PepsiCo vending machines have remained a steady \$1.

hike.'

-ETHAN BURCHETT

OCCC STUDENT

"The product cost is simply going up," he said.

"If you go into any convenience store right now, the price for a small bottle of Pepsi is probably \$1.59.

"We are able to maintain rising costs while still giving students a discount.

"Absurd" is how student Ethan Burchett sees the increase.

"They would have made more money if they

See **VENDING** page 9

EDITORIAL I Second Amendment not threatened if bill is defeated

SB 858 a bad idea all around

Oklahoma Senate Bill 858 is a bill intended to allow citizens to conceal weapons on college campuses.

Although advocates say the bill will allow concealed carry on college campuses but not inside classrooms, SB 858 raises more questions than it answers.

A study compiled by John Wood of Rose State College found in the U.S., from May 2007 to the

Joey Stipek

present, concealed permit holders in the U.S have killed at least 282 individuals, nine of which were law officers.

that The study found weapon-trained officers hit their targets less than 20 percent of the time.

What is the possibility of this happening on OCCC's campus in the case of another event like the February 2010 shooting incident on campus or the campus classroom attack last September

which allegedly occurred after a student felt he was being constantly teased?

What if a student or professor felt the need to fire in self-defense or anger? What if one of these lone-wolf Jared Loughner types felt the need to take

out their frustrations on a classroom, professor or employees with a firearm?

What if an officer from Safety and Security fired when arriving on the scene at a student with a firearm?

Another point to consider is member of the U.S. military officers are not allowed to bring firearms into their own homes while living in base quarters. Military has to check and submit all weapons into a cabinet for keeping. Members of the military must check all their weapons into a cabinet for safekeeping.

If this practice is good enough for our own military, why shouldn't it be for colleges? Are we going to put a gun cabinet on each floor of every department with security to staff it? The cost of additional security in the time of a budget shortfall due to lack of state appropriations is simply impractical.

Do not mistake this editorial as a rant against the Second Amendment.

There will always be weapons in American society, for better or for worse. There will always be a Second Amendment in the United States so long as there are lobbyists who are there to protect it.

However, we live in a society where citizens have other means to protect themselves such as pepper spray and martial arts self-defense classes.

What does this bill say about the safety and

off the mark.com

by Mark Paris



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

security of modern society where one feels they must resort to conceal a firearm on their hip reminiscent of the days of the 1800s in the Wild Wild West. What does it say about where we are at as a society where one feels the need to carry a firearm to feel safe on college campues?

> —Joey Stipek **EDITOR**

YOUR VOICE I Watch your mouths, people

Even decent language is a learned art at college

To the Editor:

I knew that coming to a community college would be an eye opening experience, but I am sometimes overwhelmed by the amount of cursing done by young people in and out of class.

I am not a prude, and

it's not like I have never heard these words before, I just didn't expect to hear them so loud and so often

I am sure I am not the only person offended by the use of filthy language in my presence.

The other day I was sitting at the coffee shop

phone:

trying to study when a group of students at the next table were talking about their weekend exploits.

I lost count after 17 uses of the f-bomb.

Come on people.

It's a word that doesn't have to be used to describe everything from your car to the weather conditions.

This is a learning environment.

One of the important things we have to learn is how to function in the world after graduation.

Not many businesses welcome filthy language in the workplace.

It is not cool. It is not attractive and, in most cases, it is inappropriate.

Think about your fu-

This is our time to begin planning for our lives, jobs, families and vocations.

It is our chance to clean up our acts and grow up.

We need to use this time wisely and leave our bad habits, and bad words, behind.

-Name Withheld By Request

The PIONEER welcomes letters. Send to editor@occc.edu

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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

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 in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, 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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OMMENTS AND REVIEWS

REVIEWS I Dinosaur thriller delivers short-lived fun

Gamers face prehistoric peril

"Dino Strike" is an arcade-style shooter where you the player investigates the disappearance of a research team that was investigating a volcanic island where dinosaurs thrive.

In this game there are unfriendly dinosaurs, including raptors and one very angry T-Rex.

Everything is out to eat you, so gamers need to watch their ammo and keep a sharp eye out for anything cold-blooded.

The game play is all right as far as a rail shooter goes.

Sometimes you don't get enough time to collect all of the power-ups you would like, but that is more reliant on the skill of the player.

This game is one to four players, but the most fun comes from playing with one or two people,

as you and your friend can dual wield Wiimotes, using different weapons in each hand.

Both hands have separate ammo pools, which makes for a very interesting experience for a firstperson shooter game.

Unfortunately, the time it takes to beat the game is very short, being that there are only five or six stages, but the game gets much more challenging toward the end.

The controls are superb, requiring only that you change weapons, reload, and shoot.

Unfortunately, it gets a bit confusing when you are using a Wiimote in each hand.

The graphics are very detailed. I was very impressed with how nice the dinosaurs trying to eat my face looked.

"Dino Strike" is rated



T for animated violence. the genre, however, I suggest renting it.

The experience is short, but the game is

ROBERT BOLTON STAFF WRITER

At \$19.99, "Dino Strike" might be worth your money if you like

pretty good. Rating: C

REVIEWS I After box office flop, 'Devil' a terrifying thrill

Shyamalan delights in devilish film

Writer M. Night Shyamalan is known for his dark horrific twisting tales.

"Devil," released on DVD Dec. 21, is yet another movie sure to fit in with his already growing list of accomplishments.

Shyamalan, creator of movies like "The Sixth Sense" (1999), "The Village" (2004), and "The Last Airbender" (2010), continues his evil ways in "Devil," part one of "The Night Chronicles," a series of movies based on Shyamalan's many stories.

On a rainy night in Philadelphia, a recovering alcoholic who is struggling with his faith, Detective Bowden (Chris Messina) is investigating a suicide jumper when five strangers become trapped in an elevator 20 some-odd floors above the lobby of the building.

Passengers in the elevator include an old lady (Jenny O'Hara), a security guard (Bokeem Woodbine), a creepy mattress salesman (Geoffrey Arrend), an ex-marine mechanic (Logan Marshall-Green), and a ruthless gold-digger (Bojana Novakovic.)

All five are almost instantly turned against

each other.

Every time the lights go out, the passengers are exposed to yet another deadly moment, as each begins to suspect the other as a murderer leaving the viewer questioning who will die

With direction from John Erick Dowdle who directed "Quarantine," the premise that the Devil sometimes walks among men is well kept, never allowing the viewer to know the whole truth as Bowden races to save any passengers

After recent teen box

office flop "The Last Airbender," it is a relief to see Shyamalan return to his true ability of conveying terror and confusion to the masses.

Dowdle does a great job packing the 60-minute scenario into an 80-minute fast-paced film portraying both the righteous and the wicked in a race against time, leaving the characters and the viewer to question if there really is a higher power.

Despite bad reviews from various critics, Blist actors and an overall lack of interest from consumers, "Devil" is well

worth the rental fee. "Devil" is rated PG-13

for violence and disturbing images, thematic material and some language including sexual references.

Rating: B-

— SHAWN STAWICKI LAB ASSISTANT

Q: Can I get a partial refund if I paid for a month of yoga and one of the classes was canceled due to the snow storm?

A: Fitness classes can be prorated for the next month.

-ERIC WATSON SPORTS AND RECREATION SPECIALIST

Q: Why we don't get half of our money back when we sell our books back to the bookstore?

A: The books in our bookstore are different by their price, condition and quality. All the science books have additional access codes, which last only a year, and when you sell your book back to us, we are giving you money which only includes for your book. Access code always costs and we always add it to the book price. We determine the amount of the refund by the books condition.

-Brenda Reinke **OCCC BOOKSTORE DIRECTOR**

Q: What is the variety of fitness classes offered?

A: A variety of fitness classes are offered such as dance, swimming, cardio, yoga, etc. Students can find a complete list of classes offered on the recreational fitness site and a book is also available."

—JENNIFER KELLBACH RECREATION AND FITNESS SECRETARY

Q: What kind of services does the library offer to students?

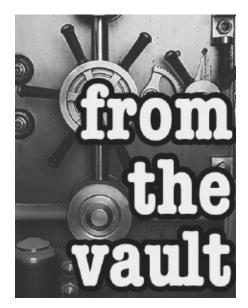
A: The library provides services such as article databases, a collection of e-books, tutorial videos, research help pages which help create ideas for writing a paper, and ask a librarian which assists students with research and helping find what they need. A link to all resources can be found on the library tab on the school's main page. "

> —AMANDA LEMON REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MUSIC REVIEWS I Decade-old album already considered a classic

Album still rocks after a decade



Only certain albums can stand the test of time, and although Incubus' "Morning View" was released a decade ago, it is a record that will always be fresh no matter the date.

Following the success of their previous album, entitled "Make Yourself," Incubus dropped their fourth studio release in October 2001. This album also marked the end of former bassist Alex Katunich's tenure with the band, which turned out to be quite the swan song.

Top to bottom, "Morning View" is a true work of art, with each and every song worthy of an article all to

themselves

While the album features popular Incubus hits such as "Wish You Were Here," "Nice to Know You," "Warning," and "Are You In?," the unheralded songs are what makes this album one to remember.

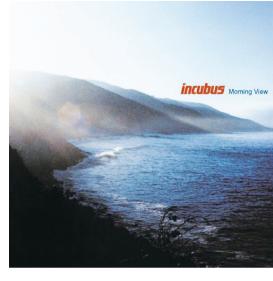
"Just a Phase" is perhaps one of the most unique pieces on the entire album. With a smooth crescendo into a teased buildup that ends powerfully, the song structure is one to admire, epitomizing the feel of the entire album.

Along with excellent pacing and flow, there is never a boring moment throughout the album, as no two tracks sound alike on "Morning View."

The album's lone true love song, "Echo," is simply beautiful. One would be hard pressed to find a more graceful-sounding tune from any type of album, band, or genre of music.

From "Blood on the Ground," an intense expression of the power of restraint, to "11am," a melancholy retrospection of regret and indecision, a common theme throughout the album is the band's ability to showcase their diversity both lyrically and musically.

All in all, over the course of 13



masterfully-created pieces, the voice of frontman Brandon Boyd resonates over the skillful and unforgettable music provided by drummer Jose Pasillas, guitarist Mike Einziger, and DJ Kilmore.

Incubus would go on to release two other highly successful albums in recent years.

However, "Morning View," which is considered a classic among Incubus faithful, is arguably the band's magnum opus to date.

Rating: A+

-Morgan Beard Staff Writer

BOOK REVIEW I Dying professor leaves behind words on life

'The Last Lecture' teaches about living

"We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand."

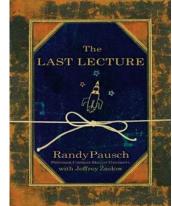
That's what Randy Pausch teaches us in his non-fiction book "The Last Lecture."

Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University, was given the opportunity to speak to his students in a

series called "The Last Lecture."

Randy had learned just months before that he was dying from pancreatic cancer.

As people watched Randy give his



last speech, they did not see a dying man but rather a man who knew how to live life.

His whole presentation focused on really achieving your childhood dreams, enabling the dreams of others, and how to make the most of what you have.

It also was about overcoming the challenges life throws at you and

remembering that "the brick walls are there to show how badly you want something."

Pausch's stories will force you to examine your own life and think about

what is truly important because "time is all you have and one day you may find you have less of it than you think."

Now a best seller, "The Last Lecture" has been an influence and encouragement to adults and children everywhere.

Pausch may no longer be alive, but his words will remain forever.

This tear-jerking book is sure to touch your heart and is definitely worth the read.

Randy Pausch wrote a book about living while dying.

If that's not inspiration, I don't know what is.

RATING: A+

-ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of Feb. 4 through 6 www.yahoo.com

- 1. The Roommate
- 2. Sanctum
- 3. No Strings Attached
- 4. The King's Speech
- 5. The Green Hornet
- 6. The Rite
- 7. The Mechanic
- 8. True Grit
- 9. Black Swan
- 10. The Dilemma
- 11. The Fighter
- 12. Yogi Bear
- 13. Tangled
- 14. TRON: Legacy
- 15. 127 Hours
- 16. Little Fockers
- 17. Blue Valentine
- 18. From Prada to Nada
- 19. Biutiful
- 20. Country Strong

TOP 20 CDs

week of Feb. 12 www.billboard.com

- 1. Mission Bell
- (Amos Lee)
- 2. Kiss Each Other Clean
- (Iron and Wine)
- 3. Pink Friday
- (Nicki Minaj)
- 4. 2011 Grammy Nominees
- (Various Artists)
- 5. Doo-Wops & Hooligans
- (Bruno Mars)
- 6. Sigh No More
- (Mumford & Sons)
- 7. Speak Now
- (Taylor Swift)
- 8. Los Vaqueros: El Regreso
- (Wisin & Yandel)
- 9. Kidz Bop 19
- (Kidz Bop Kids)
- 10. The King is Dead
- (The Decemberists)
- 11. Greatest Hits... So Far!!! (Pink)
- 12. My Kinda Party
- (Jason Aldean)
- 13. Loud
- (Rihanna)
- 14. Teenage Dream
- (Katy Perry)
- 15. Low Country Blues
- (Gregg Allman)
- 16. Recovery
- (Eminem)
- 17. Need You Now
- (Lady Antebellum)
- 18. Love Letter
- (R. Kelly)
- 19. My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fa...
- (Kanye West)
- 20. Brothers
- (The Black Keys)

BIODEGRADABLE CONTAINERS WOULD COST MORE

Food packaging would offer greener choice

YVONNE ALEX News Writing Student

The Leadership Council student leaders have decided to be proactive in a society that's becoming increasingly conscious of carbon footprints.

TLC's first meeting of this semester addressed an environmental issue: Should OCCC make the transition to a greener cafeteria and absorb the costs now, or wait until a later date when biodegradable products are possibly more affordable?

A resolution on the issue was scheduled to be presented for discussion at the Feb. 10 meeting. The group would then bring the resolution to a vote on Feb. 24.

TLC is comprised of one student representative from each campus club and at-large members chosen through application.

Carson's Catering manager, and Chris Snow, Facilities Management assistant director, brought cost samples of environmentally-friendly paper

products that could be used to replace Styrofoam containers now in use.

They also brought charts to illustrate the difference in cost.

Bottom line: there would be an increased cost of 10 percent across the board for all food items that require a to go container.

Prepackaged items such as chips and soft drinks would not be affected.

Aguilar said she doesn't foresee that cost improving any time soon.

"Green products probably won't go down," she said. "It's actually going up."

Snow said balancing the cost Guests Corrine Aguilar, against the benefit is difficult.

It's the responsible thing to do. We need to change the culture now."

> –JORGE KRZYZANIAK ADVOCATES OF PEACE CLUB

"The increase is a fair amount, considering some of the containers would be replaced at a higher expense of 20 percent. We already know we won't make a profit.

"But we want to do what's right by today's standards."

Erin Logan, Student Relations director, said the topic is important because it would affect every student who eats on campus, including those with little money.

"There are students that have all their Pell grant spent on books and supplies before it gets here," she said. "They work to provide for their children. Some are taking their children to daycare on a public bus."

Javier Mabrey, a repre-

sentative from the Gay Straight Alliance, asked if the cost would be covered if there were an increase of 20 cents on all items, rather than 10 percent on just the to-go food.

Aguilar said they had considered that option but found it wouldn't work because it wouldn't add enough revenue.

Holly Hudson, a representative from the Nursing Students Association, said she thought most students could absorb the extra expense.

"I don't think many students would notice, honestly. I'm not going to remember what prices were before."

Jorge Krzyzaniak with the Advocates of Peace club, concurred.

"It is the responsible thing to do," he said. "We need to change the culture now. "Eventually the prices will go down."

Kenneth Meador, from the College Democrats, asked why food service customers automatically receive Styrofoam without being asked.

Snow said being an educated student who asks for environmentally-friendly containers would encourage this change.

Annalyn Gill, TLC co-chair, urged members to talk to their friends and other students about the issue.

"The green task force is here because students demanded it," she said. "The cafeteria is still the cafeteria without green. We're here to make that decision for the students.

"Go out and see what your friends have to say about it."

The biodegradable containers would be taken to the same landfill as the Styrofoam, so the change would not address the amount of trash being thrown

The difference, Gill said, is that Styrofoam lasts 500 years in a landfill, while green containers degrade in seven months.

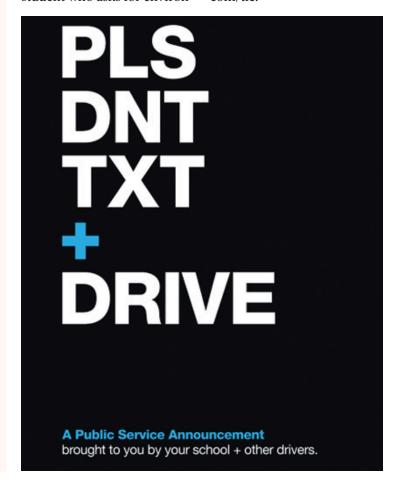
The cafeteria disposes of a lot of waste, Aguilar said. "Currently we are replacing trash bags at a rate of over 20 per hour," she said.

For more information or to express your views on this issue, contact the TLC Executive Board at occc.campusgroups. com/tlc.

Definitions of biodegradable on the Web:

- Capable of being decomposed by e.g. bacteria; "a biodegradable detergent" wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn
- Biodegradation is the chemical breakdown of materials by a physiological environment. The term is often used in relation to ecology, waste management and environmental remediation (bioremediation). Organic material can be degraded aerobically with oxygen, or anaerobically, without oxygen. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodegradable
- •Biodegradability: The capacity of a material to decompose over time as a result of biological activity, especially to be broken down by microorganisms. en.wiktionary.org/ wiki/biodegradability
- •Organic matter that can be broken down by bacteria to more stable forms which will not create a nuisance or give off foul odors. www.alken-murray.com/glossarybug
- After disposal, can decompose into substances that can safely be reabsorbed into the soil. Some manufacturers use the term more loosely (and less meaningfully). Biodiversity. www.sustainablefurnishings.org/glossary
- Material that, if left to itself will be decomposed by natural processes. www.carbondescent. org.uk/glossary.php
- A substance or material that can be chemically degraded and typically absorbed via natural body processes. www.gmdnagency.org
 - •Capable of decomposing naturally within a relatively short period of time. www.ahla.com/green.aspx

—courtesy www.google.com



MOCKINGBIRD IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW ALBUM 'SIRENS' SONG'

OCCC employees make music together

KERAYA HASSAN

Staff Writer onlinewriter@occc.edu

Two OCCC employees are in the middle of producing their second album, "Sirens' Song."

Mockingbird, a local uprising band, is comprised of Communications Lab Assistant Brandon Isaak (songwriter, vocals and guitar), Financial Aid employee Anthony Edwards (drums), Brian Gabbert (lead guitarist and back up vocals) and Kendra Boeckman (bass).

Isaak said he has always been interested in music.

"I've been writing songs for 10 years," Isaak said. "I got really serious in 2007 (when) both grandparents died within a month of each other.

"I was sad but it really inspired me to live life more and purse my dreams."

The groups' album "Garage Apartment" was recorded in six months, Isaak said.

When the band expanded



PHOTO COURTESY BRANDON ISAAK

Shown are three of the members of the band Mockingbird. Left to right: Anthony Edwards on drums, Brian Gabbert on lead guitar and vocals, and Brandon Isaak, guitar and vocals. Not shown is Kendra Boeckman, bass.

to include more members, the name Mockingbird was chosen.

"Everyone is native to Oklahoma," Isaak said.

"We're all originally from different cities in the state but we all are living in OKC." Issak said Mockingbird comfortably fits into the indie rock genre.

"Sometimes our songs sound kind of folksy or sometimes straight up rock," he said. "I think it's one of the things that's great about our music — it's highly dynamic."

Isaak said his influences are Jeff Buckley, Nirvana and Elliot Smith.

Mockingbird also incorporates synthesizers and a mini keyboard to add to the variety of sound, he said.

Isaak said he could envision expanding the band even more to include more instruments.

"I have a friend who plays the mandolin. We will probably try to have her add stuff in and we add some piano every now and then."

Isaak said he and lead guitarist Gabbert make their own guitars.

"Brian has a Telecaster, and I have a Fender and a Jagmaster," he said.

"We take the skeleton, gut out the electronics and replace them with high-quality gear bought from e-Bay and we wire it ourselves.

"You can get crazy tones and a wider range of sound," Isaak said. Mockingbird's drummer is enthusiastic about the band's contrasting harmony.

"We don't sound like Nickelback, Hinder or Theory of a Deadman," Edwards said. "We don't auto tune.

"It's like what Frank Zappa said, 'Why sell people good stuff when you can sell them shit."

Isaak said the band strives to send a message to their audience through his words.

"I like to challenge conventional thought in my lyrics," he said. "I try to get people to take a look at what they're doing in society and how they respond to it."

Mockingbird will be playing with The Nghiems at The Deli, 309 White Street, on Campus Corner in Norman Wednesday, Feb. 23.

For more information and to sample their sound visit, www. reverbnation.com/mocking-bird and www.mockingbird-band.com.

Sechrist to teach fall President's Leadership class

MISTY COWLEY
News Writing Student

College President Paul Sechrist will teach a leadership class on campus beginning fall 2011.

Called the President's Leadership Class, the new two-credit-hour course will be offered from 3 to 4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays as an elective.

Students must apply for one of the 24 openings and will receive scholarships to attend if they are chosen, Sechrist told members of the Faculty Association on Jan. 25.

The class is designed to keep academically-strong students engaged at OCCC right through the completion of a degree, Sechrist said.

In this class students will gain leadership experience, be exposed to positive and successful role models, and enhance their writing and speaking skills.

"The broader your experiences, the better your leadership potential," Sechrist said.

He will be the in-class in-

"I am very excited about teaching," he said.

Sechrist said he will use a variety of sources and tools for his lectures, including his own life experiences.

After the semester is over, students in the President's Leadership Class will be asked to serve as ambassadors for the college at various events the following semester, he said.

"For example, the students may be asked to volunteer for Opening Day activities and serve as tour guides to new students to help them find their classrooms and answer quesI am very excited about teaching."

—Paul Sechrist OCCC President

tions about going to OCCC," Sechrist said.
"Students may also be asked to serve as greeters for events

to serve as greeters for events on campus hosted by the president, such as ground breaking ceremonies and alumni banquets."

Each student who is selected and enrolls in the class will be provided with a scholarship to cover 12 hours of tuition and fees for the fall semester, he said.

"I recognize that many students who would be excellent candidates for the class cannot take a full load of classes because they need to work to pay for tuition and fees," Sechrist said. "Therefore, as an incentive to take the class and go to OCCC full-time for at least this semester, this generous scholarship will be awarded."

Sechrist said he is excited about this project.

"This gives me the opportunity to teach a class, be directly involved with students at the core of our mission — teaching and learning — and expose students to campus, civic and business leaders."

If a student is interested in enrolling in the class, there are a few participation requirements that must be met prior to be admitted. Students must:

•fill out an application which can be obtained from the office of the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services located in the Main Building on first floor, south of the Welcome Desk.

•complete 12 college credit hours at OCCC at 1000 level or higher with a minimum grade point average of a 3.0 prior to fall semester 2011.

•complete ENGL 1113, English Composition I (or equivalent), and Math 0403, College Prep Math IV (or equivalent) prior to fall semester 2011.

•be enrolled full time during the fall 2011 semester.

Completed applications and all required attachments, including a recommendation from a faculty or staff member, must be turned in by 5 p.m. Friday, March 11, to the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services.

For more information about the leadership class, students should contact Student Relations Director Erin Logan at 405-682-7821 or elogan@occc.edu.

Valentine Day gift ideas for \$20 or less

- •A pretty and warm scarf to keep her neck cozy when apart. www.oldnavy.com. \$10.
- •Feng Shui candle gift set to help them relax after a long day. www.target.com. \$18.99.
- A reusable mug, for the 'green' person. www.target.com. \$18.99.
- The DIY 'I Love You' bean for the person with a green thumb. www.thinkgeek.com. \$4.99.
- •Mr. Bar-B-Q 7-Piece Stainless Steel BBQ Tool Set for the man who likes to grill outdoors. www.walmart.com. \$18.
- Personalized "You Complete Me" puzzle. www.giftbee.com. \$14.95.
- Follow your heart compass. www.sundogcompany.com. \$18.
- •Set of 10 love tokens. www.uncommongoods.com. \$16.
- •Personalized split hearts keychain. www.walmart.com. \$15.
- •"What I Love About You" book for the tongue-tied. www.barnesandnoble.com. \$13.99.
- •Homemade coupon book filled with redeemable coupons for massages, get-out-of-chores, etc. **Cost of supplies.**
- •A photo collage of some of your favorite moments. **Cost of supplies.**
- •Candle-lit indoors picnic followed by a movie. **Cost of food and movie rental.**
- A carefully-thought-out mix CD. Cost of music downloads and blank CD.

Pioneer staff shares romantic favorites

Joey Stipek

Editor

Song: "Sexual Healing" by Hot Chip

Movie: "Pirate Radio"

Jeremy Cloud

Senior Writer

Song: "Mama I'm Coming Home" by Ozzy Osbourne Movie: "P.S. I Love You"

Morgan Beard

Staff Writer

Song: "I'm in the Mood For Love" by Kenny G Movie: "You've Got Mail"

Keraya Hassan

Online Writer
Song: "Closing Time" by
Modest Mouse
Movie: "Edward
Scissorhands"

Whitney Knight

Online Editor Song: "I Don't Want to Miss A Thing" by Aerosmith Movie: "Sweet Home

Alabama"

Christy Johnson

Staff Writer
Song: "I Will Always Love
You" by Troop
Movie: "Love and

Basketball"

Yasmin Shirali

Photographer
Song: "Falling Slowly"
by The Swell Season
Movie: "Amélie"

Azizakhon Mansuri

Graphic Designer
Song: "Sheikh El Shabab"
by Nancy Ajram
Movie: "Vivah"

Bonnie Campo

Podcaster
Song: "Fistful of Love" by
Antony and the Johnsons
Movie: "The Apartment"

Holly Walker

Community Writer
Song: "Elephant Love
Medley" by Moulin Rouge
Cast
Movie: "Hitch"

Cynthia Praefke

Ad Manager Song: "Hello My Friend, Hello" by Neil Diamond Movie: "Somewhere In Time"

Jacob Chambers

Sports Writer
Song: "I'm Still In Love
With You" by Al Green
Movie: "When In Rome"

Ronna Austin

Lab Director
Song: "I Met Your Mercy"
by Remy Shand
Movie: "Rock Star"

Rachel Morrison

Photographer
Song: "Every Breath You
Take" by The Police
Movie: "Pretty Women"

Shawn Stawicki

Lab Assistant
Song: "Time After Time"
by Cindy Lauper
Movie: "Brigadoon"

Robert Bolton

Video Blogger

Song: "More Than A

Feeling" by Boston

Movie: "Princess Bride"

Caleb Barrette

Videographer
Movie: "Postcards from
Italy" by Beirut
Movie: "Eternal Sunshine
of the Spotless Mind"

Erin Peden

Staff Writer
Song: "Happy Together"
by The Turtles
Movie: "While You Were
Sleeping"

Valentine Day Specials

Valentine Day Dinner at the Skirvin

Park Avenue Grill, the restaurant inside the downtown Skirvin Hotel will celebrate Valentine Day with a special dinner available Feb. 12 through 14 as well as a Sunday brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost of Brunch: \$29.95 adults and \$15.95 children 12 and under. This includes champagne and breakfast favorites

Cost of Dinner: \$45 per person which includes a fourcourse dinner menu features entree choices Braised Venison Tenderloin or Pan Seared John Dory. The dessert is a special creation from Chef Andrew Black.

Contact: For reservations, call 405-272-3040.

Romantic River Cruises

The Oklahoma River Cruises are offering a Valentine Day special 90-minute romantic cruise from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Valentine Day.

Cost: \$35 per person for live music, hors d'oeuvres, beverages and a limited cash bar with Champagne.

Contact: Call 405-702-7755 for reservations.

Museum Dinner and Dance

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum holds a Valentine's Dinner and Dance from 6 to 10 p.m. on Feb. 12. Held in the Sam Noble Special Events Center, the meal is presented by Dining on Persimmon Hill, and there is dancing with DJ Ronnie Kaye.

Cost: \$39.95 per person which includes salad; choice of entree such as Beef Wellington, Tender Marinate Roast Beef and Roasted Chicken Breast with Cherries; sides such as Fresh Steamed Green Beans or Roasted Vegetables; a dessert and a beverage of iced tea and coffee.

Contact: Reservations are required. Call 405-478-2250, ext. 281.

The Prohibition Room

Located on NW 23rd, The Prohibition Room will be having a Valentine Day Dinner special. It's a fourcourse meal for two that features an entree choice of Orange & Fennel Marinated Duck, Sautéed Swordfish, Braised Lamb Shank or Bone in Ribeye. There will be live music as well.

Cost: \$48 each includes entree with Amuse Bouche, Savory Parsnip Bisque, Field Greens w/ cranberries & goat cheese mixed with vinaigrette and Cheese Cake w/ Chocolate Strawberry & Amarula Sauce.

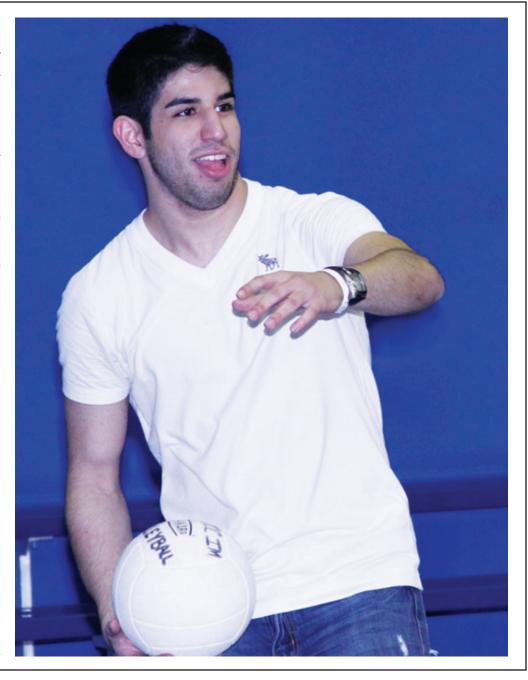
Contact: Call 405-601-0363 for reservations.

SPORTS

Serve it up

Pre-pharmacy major Amir Mouri serves a volleyball in the Wellness Center gym before going to class.

The gym is open to OCCC students with a valid ID 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and is closed on Sundays. For more information on all of the services offered, visit www.occc. edu/rcs.



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

AQUATIC CENTER I MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE TO HOLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT OCCC

Public invited to swim conference

JACOB CHAMBERS

Sports Writer sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC will host the Mountain West Conference swimming Championships Feb. 23 through Feb. 27 in the OCCC Aquatic Center.

James Hensley, Aquatic Specialist, said OCCC has hosted the Mountain West Conference since 2000.

Hensley said Mountain West Conference officials chose OCCC to host the event because it is a neutral site and is centrally located.

"We were also previously the host for the WAC Conference Championships prior to the conference splitting up," he said.

Also, he said, the depth of the OCCC

pool, the size and shape of the gutters, and the size of the swimming lanes, make the pool a "fast" pool for competitions, Hensley said.

Both men and women will compete. The meet will start off with a men's one-meter springboard preliminary round at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23.

The Conference Championship starts off with men's one-meter springboard at 10 a.m. on Feb 23, Wednesday morning, and the day finishes with women's three-meter springboard

The meet will finish with a trophy presentation for coaches of the year, men's and women's swim and dive, swimmers of the year, men's and women's divers of the year, and men's and women's Team championship trophies, said Hensley.

Hensley said the Mountain West

Conference will show highlights on their website at www.themwc.com/, and the conference television station The Mountain.

He said the event is open to the public. Adult admission is \$35 for the entire meet, \$6 for the preliminary rounds, and \$8 for the finals, Hensley said.

Children and students are \$15 for the entire meet, \$4 for preliminary rounds, and \$5 for the finals. Program packages start at \$20 and \$3 for the preliminary and final rounds, Hensley said.

Jennifer Kellbach, Recreation and Fitness Secretary, said they need volunteers to sign up for timing some events.

For more information, visit the Mountain West Swimming and Diving page at www.themwc.com/sports/c-swim/mwc-c-swim-body.

SPORTS CALENDAR

- Feb. 23: Circuit Training Level 2 for Men and Women meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays starting March 1 through March 31. Register online at www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.
- March 1: Basketball Hot Shots Challenge for Men and Women meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Event takes place March 4 at the OCCC Gym in the Wellness Center. Register online at www.imleagues. com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.
- March 3: Badminton team meeting. CoRec team meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Event takes place March 25 through April 29. Register online at www. imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information, contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.
- March 23: Softball CoRec team meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Games will be held at the Oklahoma City University starting April 9. Register online at www.imleagues. com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.
- March 30: Circuit Training Level 3 meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays starting April 5 through April 28. Register online at www.imleagues. com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Have sports news?
Call Jacob Chambers at
405-682-1611,
ext. 7675, stop by
1F2 Arts and Humanities
or e-mail
sportswriter@occc.edu

Snow: College used many mediums to communicate

Continued from page 1

calendar to fulfill the objectives of the course."

Professor Rick Allen Lippert, who teaches Video Production, said faculty and students must work together to make up for lost days.

Lippert's students have missed two Wednesday classes because of the weather.

"... since my class is tightly scheduled and my students must be on campus to use the video equipment and lab, much of my plan to make up for lost time requires that they do their part.

"If my students can't meet an accelerated schedule, then my plan fails," he said.

Although campus was shut down, Online Marketing Coordinator John Richardson said that didn't stop college officials from communicating with students.

As the storm moved in and campus closed, Richardson said, the college began using online utilities such as the Campus Alerts Notification system, the college website, Facebook and Twitter to relay closure updates to students as well as to communicate with

them.

He said OCCC also used "traditional local media," such as local news stations, to distribute information.

Between Monday evening and Friday afternoon, more than 50 official messages announcing closures, as well as questions posted by OCCC students, were been posted to the college's Facebook wall.

"I monitored the college Facebook page (and tried) to address as many of the questions and concerns that students have posted as possible," Richardson said.

"I think that social media

can do an excellent job of responding quickly to students, and we take that responsibility seriously.

"If students want the college Facebook page to be the channel for conversation with the college, we are happy to provide that," he said.

Richardson said it is "quite normal" to see significant increases in the number of Facebook fans and in Twitter followers during periods of bad weather.

"We have added almost 150 new Facebook fans since Sunday and about 20 new Twitter followers," he said.

That number likely increased again after a second round of winter weather closed the campus for an additional two days.

The Campus Alerts Notifications system, CAN, which is facing its greatest trial since its inception last July, has seen relatively few hiccups, Richardson said.

A technical error on Tuesday caused many users to receive five to six text messages, all of which came from different area codes, regarding OCCC's closing.

"We have expressed our concern to the company that provides us with the system used to transmit these messages," he said. "The college must have a dependable system for the quick distribution of alerts."

Despite the minor glitch, Richardson said, he feels the system has been a success.

"I think that both the (Campus Alerts) system and social media provide additional channels to communicate quickly with the college community about the closures," he said.

Although he did not appreciate the multiple message error on Tuesday, meteorology major Kyle Tanner said he utilized the Campus Alerts system, as well as the college Facebook page.

Chelsye Bacon, photography major, said she has appreciated being able to spend time with her family during OCCC's closure.

"The storm hasn't affected my classes much since I have online classes and one at the school," Bacon said.

"I think that OCCC made the right decision in shutting down because the roads are still extremely bad in places.

"[On Feb. 3,] I drove just a mile down the road to get (groceries) and the roads are just extremely icy."

Although OCCC's closure was inconvenient, allied health major Lisa Bee said she was glad safety came first.

"Nobody needs to feel the pressure of making it to school when the road conditions are so hazardous.

"Students and instructors can address the missed work when classes resume," Bee said. "There is a solution to everything."

For updates regarding campus closures, visit www.occc. edu. To sign up for the Campus Alerts system, visit www.occc. edu/can.

> **Follow the Pioneer** on TWITTER http://twitter.com/ occcpioneer



A front-end loader moves aside snow in a parking area near the library. College crews worked during the days OCCC was closed to clear campus parking lots so the college could reopen. OCCC was closed Feb. 1 through 4 and again Feb. 9 as record amounts of snow moved through the state

Vending: New prices not well received

Continued from page 1

had made the intelligent investment of installing debit and credit card readers, instead of making the money-grubbing decision to hike prices by 25 cents," Burchett said. "Students should protest the hike."

Recently, OCCC added two vending machines with credit and debit card reading capabilities.

The first is located on the first

the bricked area across from the Welcome Desk.

A similar machine has been

floor of the Main Building, in the Main Building across from the elevators.

However, the addition of these new machines was not placed on the second floor of related to the price hike.

GOT NEWS? LET the PIONEER KNOW

editor@occc.edu communitywriter@occc.edu sportswriter@occc.edu or drop by 1F2 AH

It's a connected world. Do your share.

For 30 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share 3400 International Drive ,NW, Suite 2K (AD4), Washington, DC 20008.



Earth Share

10 · FEBRUARY 11, 2011 PIONEER | OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Meeting of the minds



Yasmin Shirali/Pioneer
Native American Student Association club president Candice Parker talks to club members. The

club will be holding an Indian Education powwow on March 5 at Western Heights High School.

COMMUNITY I OBI taking donations Feb. 16 and 17

Blood needed after snowstorms

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER

Community Writer communitywriter@occc.edu

The Oklahoma Blood Institute will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 16, and Thursday, Feb. 17, in the College Union.

Leslie Gamble, Oklahoma Blood Institute Community Relations director, said donations are desperately needed at this time.

"The storm we had last week has caused us to issue a blood emergency," Gamble said.

She said the snowstorm in early February caused many blood drives to be canceled and kept donors away from donation centers.

Jill Lindblad, Service Learning and Student Life Programs coordinator, said while it's not necessary to schedule an appointment to donate at the upcoming drive, donors are able to sign up for specific times to suit their own schedules.

She said the goal for the February blood drive is at least 80 donors between the two days.

Students, staff and faculty are all encouraged to participate.

Gamble said the entire donation process usually takes about an hour from start to finish. This includes paperwork, screening and the donation.

"Typically, the time the needle is in your arm is about 20 minutes or less," Gamble said.

She said donors' bodies replace the single pint that is taken in roughly 24 hours and can donate The storm we had last week has caused us to issue a blood emergency."

—LESLIE GAMBLE OKLAHOMA BLOOD INSTITUTE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

every 56 days.

"We want people to have eaten well before they donate," Gamble said.

Light snacks provided at the blood drive.

Participants are also rewarded for their time and donation.

"This winter, we have fleece gloves that go with the weather," Gamble said.

To schedule an appointment in advance, stop by the Student Life office in the Main Building.

More information about the Oklahoma Blood Institute and other opportunities to donate can be found online at www.obi.org.

GOT NEWS?

If you have community news, contact Holly Davis Walker at communitywriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Spring writing workshops

Students can attend MLA Style: A Royal Pain, a workshop aimed to assist students with the finer details of the MLA style. The workshop will be held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. and last for an hour. MLA Style: A Royal Pain is on Monday, Feb. 14, in CU2 in the College Union. For more information, contact Nick Webb at 405-682-1611, ext. 7678, or e-mail at nwebb@occc.edu. More information and a list of other workshops can be found at www.occc.edu/comlab.

Money Matters-Budgeting

Students can attend a workshop that will teach attendees important financial skills for the future. The Budgeting workshop takes place at noon on Monday, Feb. 14, in CU1 in the College Union. For more information about this or other Money Matters workshops planned, call Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by their office in the Main Building.

Brown Bag series-First Aid 101

A workshop on basic first aid will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15, in CU1 in the College Union.

Free Parenting workshop

Joetta Gatliff, M.Ed., will conduct a free workshop on transitioning from early care to public school from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at OCCC's FACE building, room, 17, located at 6500 S. Land Ave. Attendees will explore the differences and similarities of early care and public schools and discuss how to make the transition successful for their children.

Choosing a College Major workshop

Students who are undecided on their major can attend this short workshop to learn how to use the DISCOVER test to determine what careers are keyed to their interests. Choosing a college major workshop is from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 16, in room 1G7 of the Main Building. For more information on this or other workshops in the series, contact Student Employment & Career Services at 405-682-7519 or employmentservices@occc.edu.

Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature

The Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature will hold it's bi-weekly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17, in room 1X3 near Entry 3 of the Main Building. The club will discuss how to write legislation, particularly for the upcoming state session in April.

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 tthe Arts and Humanities building, just inside Entry 2.

LASSIFIEDS

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 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, e-mail adman@occc.edu.

electronics

FOR SALE: 19" Samsung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. \$40. Call: 405-501-8777.

FOR SALE: TI 84 & TI enspire keyboards, operating systems. Used for one semester. Manual, software. \$50. Call: 405-682-7804 or e-mail jatkinson@occc.edu.

OR

ROOMMATE WANTED: Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom, pets allowed, no smoking or alcohol inside the apartment, \$250 per month. Call A.J. at 405-549-3398 or e-mail olalekanjl@yahoo.com.

ROOMMATE WANTED:

Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom apartment, no pets, no smoking or alcohol, \$400 per month. Call Jaime at 405-520-1262 or e-mail jaimecom@lycos.com.

URNITURE

SALE: Wooden highchair. Good condition. \$10. OCCC ext 7674 or 405-501-8777.

IISCELLANEOU

FOR SALE: Gently used power wheelchair in good condition. Works well and has a zero turn radius. Only \$500. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7544, or 405-364-6051.





REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: No down payment, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 2 car, CH&A, Move in ready, spotless, close to OU and OCCC, 227 S Bristow, Moore, OK. \$87,500. Call: 405-364-8555, 405-820-3630 or email cshutt1@cox.net.

SERVICES

NEED A RIDE: Looking for a ride from Norman to OCCC for Spring 2011. Willing to pay if anybody is interested. Call: Fatoumata at 405-474-1332 or e-mail fatoumatacisse@ email.occc.edu.

TUTORING OFFERED:

Are you struggling in Chemistry or Math? Take a tutoring class with Nguyen. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625 or email nguyen.h.truong@ email.occc.edu

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: Freshman books for Business & Management major. Used but in good shape and affordable price. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@gmail. com.

FOR SALE: Larousse student dictionary English-French for only \$5. Useful for students. Few other books for Business major are also available. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@ gmail.com.

> CLASSIFIED ads are free to ALL **OCCC** students and employees Call Cynthia at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, for details

Follow us online at www.occc.edu/pioneer

TODAY'S **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

ACROSS

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Early childhood expert to lead workshop Feb. 15

KERAYA HASSAN Staff Writer pioneerwriter@occc.edu

OCCC Child Development Center will be offering a free workshop, open to all members of the community, said Lee Ann Townsend, Child Development Center Lab Supervisor.

Townsend said the workshop will explore the differences in Early Care and Public Schools and ways to make the transition between schools successful for children.

Joetta Gatlif, OCCC adjunct professor and Mustang schools pre-K teacher, will speak at the workshop, Townsend said.

She said Gatliff also is a National Board Certified Teacherm and a Child Development, and Early Childhood Trainer and Consultant.

"Gatliff will address tips and ideas to make the transition an easier on for families, as well as, any questions that parents

have about this very important transition in their child's life," she said.

Townsend said parents should bring their concerns and a note pad to collect great ideas.

"A lot of useful knowledge will be presented," she said.

"There are things that work in making it a smooth and stress free transition."

Past workshops have proven to benefit the community, she said.

"We have such positive feedback from our families in the past."

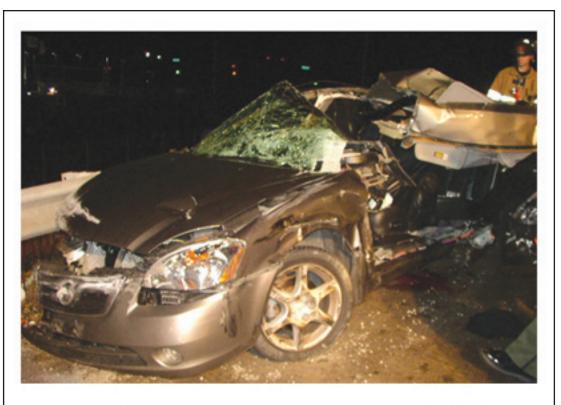
This event will be held at 7 p.m. Tue, Feb. 15 in Room 17 of the OCCC FACE building, located at 6500 S. Land Ave. in south Oklahoma City.

Sponsors of the event say they expect 20 to 50 people in the audience this year.

"We hope that the audience will take away ideas to use with their child," Townsend said.

"We also hope that they will take away important knowledge about contacting their

schools early in order to find out enrollment date and details they need to be aware of." For more information, e-mail ltownsend@occc.edu.



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?

