

## PIONEER ONLINE

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## EDITORIAL

## PLAIGARISM A BAD IDEA ON ANY LEVEL

Staff Writer Erin Peden explores the reason some students plagiarize and why it's never an acceptable practice. Read more.

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## CAMPUS LIFE

## PAST OCCC STUDENTS FIND SUCCESS

Writers Jeremy Cloud and Logan Kennedy take a look into the lives of two OCCC graduates to find out what gave them an edge for success. Read their stories.

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## FOOTBALL LEGEND TAKES ON NEW ROLE

OCCC grad Chris Knight talks about his career in football, his academic successes and how he wants to help others. See what he has to say.

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## CAMPUS LIFE

## STUDENTS DISCOVER THEMSELVES

Determine what career field might be right for you by taking a computer test to determine your interests.

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## PIONEER

MARCH 25, 2011

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Scientifically minded



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Premed major Jason Lauderdale, and biology majors Marion Mines and Liliana Brito gather scientific data during an experiment at OCCC's physical science lab. The Physical Science lab hours are available at [www.occc.edu/SM/PhysicalLab](http://www.occc.edu/SM/PhysicalLab).

## CHANGES CONSIDERED REGARDING FINAL GRADE

## Appeal process revisited

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER  
Community Writer  
[communitywriter@occc.edu](mailto:communitywriter@occc.edu)

The Instructional Administrative Procedures Committee is considering a draft proposal that would bring changes to the final grade appeal process.

The biggest change would be that professors would no longer have the last say about a final grade a student disagrees with.

According to a draft revision of Procedure 4030: Student Appeal of a Grade, there are four steps to the proposed process. In a nutshell, those are:

- The student would be required to meet with the instructor who assigned the grade within 90 days and "attempt to resolve the matter."
- If that failed to resolve the matter, the student would

have two weeks to submit a "Student Appeal of a Grade," and a meeting would be called with the student and the division dean who oversees the area the class falls under.

- The student would be notified of the decision from that meeting within one week. If the student disagrees with the decision that comes out of that meeting, he or she can request a hearing before a Grade Appeal Committee.

The committee that would evaluate the appeal "will be composed of six (6) faculty, one each from the academic divisions, and not to include the instructor involved in the case. [It] will also include three (3) students selected by the Vice President for Student Services."

- At the end of the hearing, the committee would meet privately and discuss the

case. If a unanimous vote is reached, the grade would be changed.

If the vote is not unanimous, the committee would provide its recommendation to the associate vice president, who would then notify the instructor and student of the committee's decision.

Sara Mathew, computer science professor and IAPC chairwoman, declined to comment on the specifics of the proposal, saying the changes have only been discussed within the committee and have not been made available at the faculty level or to the deans for discussion yet.

Under the current policy, instructors alone have the power to change a final grade after it has been posted to a

## Program has students stepping up

SHINE is a volunteer program for the high school and college community

YVONNE ALEX  
News Writing Student

State School Superintendant Janet Barresi greeted about 250 people who gathered to learn more about a community volunteer program called SHINE.

Elected city officials, educational professionals, members of the Oklahoma City police department and community development leaders were among those in attendance when OCCC hosted SHINE in the Bruce Owen Theater March 22.

Oklahoma County Commissioner Brian Maughan introduced his program which encourages high school and college students to engage in community service.

He said he had the support of commissioners Ray Vaughn and Willa Johnson.

Oklahoma City is recognized as one of the top five cities in the nation for volunteerism, Maughan said.

"Over 30 percent of residents volunteer at least a portion of their time," he said.

"Studies have shown that by (students) volunteering, it will limit their exposure to gangs and other violent activities and hopefully eliminate or defeat our graffiti problem.

"In reports published in 2005, students involved in community service were less likely to fall victim to achievement gaps often seen in inner city schools."

Maughan said he developed SHINE, in part, thanks to the influence of George Chapman, his former high school principal at U.S. Grant. Chapman gave troubled students an option. They could stay for after school suspension or fail.

"(Chapman) put kids to work," Maughan said. "For awhile Grant had one of the best looking campuses in the city.

"Educators make one of the biggest impacts on our communities," Maughan

See **APPEAL**  
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See **SHINE** page 9

# OPINION

**EDITORIAL** | Writer says students have become prone to laziness in due part to technology

## Procrastination leads to plagiarism

We have all heard it from our instructors: plagiarizing is a serious matter that is not to be taken lightly and will result in discipline.

Many students roll their eyes when it comes to this topic because they think they know the ground rules. Some, however, are clearly mistaken.



Erin Peden

According to dictionary.com, the definition of plagiarism is to “steal or pass off words as one’s own, to use another’s work without crediting the source, and presenting an idea derived from an existing source.”

Students waiting until the last minute to write their English essays or research papers often find themselves in a frenzy that sends them pouring over countless websites searching for a quick way to finish.

It is very easy for students to copy and paste information they have gathered off a website, paraphrase it and take credit for it in their essays as their own. Some even feel simply changing a few words here

and there is acceptable. They figure it’s only one sentence and the chances of getting caught are slim. After awhile, one sentence becomes four, and four becomes an entire paper of plagiarism.

Technology has made it possible for students to look up virtually anything with the click of the mouse, making resource materials such as encyclopedias and other books a thing of the past.

Many students will not even cite a source out of a book unless required by an instructor for the assignment because the Internet is much more convenient.

Another problem is many students do not take the time to check if the information they are searching for is credible.

Websites such as Wikipedia online Encyclopedia allow articles to be submitted and edited by anyone, making it very easy to gather inaccurate information.

Most instructors would rather accept a paper that is primarily cited material than one they must painstakingly search through for plagiarism.

If more students would be honest in writing their papers, they could not only produce a better-written paper and learn more, but also make things easier on the instructor and themselves.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

If it didn’t come from your mind, cite it. It’s not that hard. Your instructor and your grade will thank you.

—ERIN PEDEN  
STAFF WRITER

**YOUR VOICE** | Reader fears those with concealed carry permits might make wrong decision

## College student questions concealed carry on campuses

### To the Editor:

After reading a Letter to the Editor in your March 18 publication, my concern for firearms on campus has reached a new high.

As a student on a college campus, I believe I should be protected, and be allowed to protect myself from any event that may occur, whether violent or non-violent.

But as a campus employee, I fear the thought of students being allowed

to carry, and whether or not they are certified to make a life or death call within a matter of 30 seconds.

Many of us feel safer being able to defend ourselves, but we don’t feel we are capable of taking a human life, or at least, are less capable than a trained member of law enforcement.

In Mr. Daniel Cox’s letter, he stated, “I don’t go anywhere without at least one gun on my

person, sometimes two, depending on what side of town I am going to and what time of day it is.”

I think with further research, not only would Cox be more intelligible on the crime rates on any “side of town” Oklahoma City possesses, but also would the general public.

Comparable to many major cities, and cities undergoing steep renovations, Oklahoma City is still considered a gen-

erally safe city.

Comparable to my hometown of Philadelphia, PA, I have felt safer here in my five years of residency than any other state thus far.

The question now should change from when to why; why do we need to allow students to carry weapons on campuses in Oklahoma?

How many campus shootings must the state endure for its residents to consider this move-

ment?

And, is it completely necessary for a campus to allow students to carry when it’s already paying for a security, or police, force to protect us?

It seems that this measure is allowing for situations of gun violence to erupt, rather than to be a preventative measure.

Regardless of who is right or wrong, who agrees or doesn’t, everyone must first ask: if you carry a firearm, are you

ready to take another human life, to play God with a bullet?

And if you do not choose to carry, but hide under the desk on a school lock down, will you ever look at your chemistry lab partner the same way after you witness him splatter someone’s brains across the chalkboard?

—MIRANDA LIMING  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
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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 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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# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**MUSIC REVIEW** | Conflict between record label and rapper causes hip-hop 'fiasco'

## Record label stifles hip-hop album

After years of controversial delay, the highly acclaimed rapper Lupe Fiasco has finally released his third studio album, entitled "Lasers."

With his two prior releases achieving critical and mainstream success, expectations were soaring for Lupe's latest creation.

Despite being completed for the past two and a half years, "Lasers" still sat on the shelf at Atlantic Records, turning anticipation into frustration for fans.

Unfortunately, even with the release of "Lasers," fan frustration isn't likely to subside.

First, let's get one thing straight: "Lasers" is not a bad album. But following "Food and Liquor" and "The Cool," Lupe has set a standard that had fans expecting more of the same.

However, this album is a far cry from what we've



come to expect.

Much of this can be blamed on the disputes between Atlantic Records and Lupe during the production process. "Lasers" is a prime example of what happens to an album when the record label abuses its power over the artist.

"A lot of the songs that are on the album, I'm kinda neutral to," Lupe Fiasco said himself in an interview with Complex magazine.

Lupe said on most of the tracks, Atlantic Records insisted he use a pre-made hook or change certain aspects of his songs, oftentimes going in a completely different direction than intended.

As a result, almost every song on "Lasers" features an over-produced, heavily emphasized chorus that steals the thunder from Lupe's own verses.

Even with outside in-

fluences overtaking the album, Lupe still manages to produce a few gems worthy of comparison to his previous works.

"All Black Everything" is one for the "Food and Liquor" fans to enjoy, as it displays the originality and style of old that we've come to appreciate from Lupe Fiasco.

Songs like "I Don't Wanna Care Right Now," "Coming Up," and the lead single "Words I Never Said" are among the few standouts of the album.

Although there are moments of greatness on "Lasers," the unfortunate battle between artist and record label taints what could have been. Instead of another masterpiece from Lupe Fiasco, we're left with a run-of-the-mill rap album from one of the best in the game.

**RATING: C**

— MORGAN BEARD  
STAFF WRITER

**MUSIC REVIEW** | Pop singer leaves listeners asking themselves 'what the hell?'

## New Avril album lulls listeners to sleep

With the release of her fourth album "Goodbye Lullaby," Avril Lavigne seems to be taking a step backward from her younger days.

Produced by Max Martin, the album features 14 tracks written by Lavigne along with co-writers Evan Taubenfeld, Butch Walker and ex-husband Deryck Whibley.

Lavigne starts out the album with the upbeat track and lead single, "What the Hell" which is nothing but immature lyrics masked by a catchy tune.

Other tracks such as



"Smile," added almost midway into the set list, provide enough foul lan-

guage to suffice for the whole album.

The album follows

with mostly ballads describing love, relationships and breakups.

While most of the lyrics are an attempt to be heartfelt and romantic, most seem to be reflectant upon Lavigne's divorce from Sum 41 member Deryck Whibley.

Songs such as "Alice," written for the fantasy adventure film "Alice in Wonderland," and "Push" do nothing more than project a screechy voice which results in awkward decibels that make the album's 52 minutes hard to sit through.

## YOU asked FOR IT

**Q.: Where do students go for information about Arts and Humanities professors?**

**A.:** Students who have any questions regarding Arts and Humanities professors, their office hours and overrides need to come to the Arts and Humanities office located at 1E3 AH.

—AILEEN PEREZ

ARTS AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT  
SECRETARY ASSISTANT

**Q.: Where can students get military information on campus?**

**A.:** People are more than welcome to come to the Veteran's Services office (on the first floor of the Main Building) and to seek assistance on any questions they may have.

—DARRELL TOQUITO

VETERANS SERVICES WORK-STUDY

**Q.: "Where should I go to join a club at the college?"**

"Via the student life webpage on the OCCC website, information and applications can be found there."

—MARCY ROLL

STUDENT LIFE ASSISTANT

**Q.: "Where would I go to find out about getting a job at OCCC?"**

"Come on down to Student Employment and Career Services and we'll help you out"

—LISA BROWN

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ASSISTANT

Tracks such as "Darlin" and "Everybody Hurts" provide a moment of relief by featuring likable acoustic guitar chords rather than the usual pop fluff.

Despite the album's sound-alike tunes and cheesy lyrics, songs such as "Stop Standing There" and "I Love You" are standout tracks that offer a bit of variety from the album's other melodies.

Overall, the album is a letdown and will have many Avril fans wishing she would go back to her angsty, moody and "Complicated" teenage years. If this is Lavigne's attempt to regain the emotional affect and success of previous albums, it fails significantly.

**RATING: C-**

— ERIN PEDEN  
STAFF WRITER

**Comments? Opinions? Let us know. e-mail Joey Stipek at [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu), call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675, or drop by 1F2.**



# Social worker discusses alcohol abuse

AMANDA JENSEN  
News Writing Student

The number one killer of adolescents is alcohol related car crashes, said Erin Koos, in a presentation to raise awareness of alcohol use March 8 in the college union.

Koos, a licensed clinical social worker, visited OCCC to present students with information about alcohol use and misuse.

"Alcohol addiction is a brain problem," Koos said. "Thirty-

one percent of college students meet the criteria to be diagnosed."

Some 1,825 college students between the ages 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related injuries each year, she said.

Statistically, alcohol misuse is more commonly found on non-commuter campuses.

One 12-ounce beer, one 5-ounce glass of wine or one 1.5-ounce shot of hard liquor is each considered one drink.

Men can usually have more

drinks than women without being affected. It takes men around four drinks and women around three drinks to be impaired by alcohol.

Nothing can speed up the rate of metabolism to reduce the alcohol level in the blood stream and allow for someone to return to their normal state of mind. Only time can help a person sober up, Koos said.

In a recent study, 45 percent of college students were reported as binge drinkers. Binge drinking occurs when

many drinks are consumed in one sitting at a fast rate.

For men, binge drinking is defined as around five or more drinks within a two hour period and four or more drinks for women.

When experienced on a regular basis, binge drinking can lead to addiction and possibly even death, Koos said.

Alcohol is a mood altering depressant drug. When someone drinks to cope with depression or anxiety, it will make things worse in the long

run, Koos said. When used on a regular basis, alcohol causes depression.

A large number of unintentional injuries, assaults, and sexual abuse in adolescence through adulthood are related to alcohol and drugs, Koos said.

This is one of the many Brown Bag lectures presented by the Student Life of OCCC.

To learn more about attending Brown Bag events, visit the Student Life website at [occc.edu/studentlife](http://occc.edu/studentlife).

# Student's photograph earns her first place

TIFFANY DAVIS  
News Writing Student

By combining the art forms of sculpture and photography, photography major Julie Bragg earned a first place award in a statewide photography contest.

The OCCC Board of Regents recognized Bragg for her accomplishment in the February regents meeting.

The award-winning photograph titled, "Golden Stallion" was taken at the Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa, while Bragg was exploring the city with her family.

The photograph captures sculptures above the South entrance of the church.

The image is shot from directly in front of the gold metal sculpture of a horse, with the stone edifice of the church rising symmetrically behind the animal.

"I was just messing with the exposures and checking out what the lighting was going to do," Bragg said. "But it turned out to be the photograph to enter [in the photography competition]."

Photography Professor Randy Anderson said he knows how skillful Bragg is as a photographer.

"She's really good with architecture," Anderson said. "She can bring out some sort of emotion or feeling with it. She did that with her photograph."

The Norman native, who has entered various photography competitions since she was a child, entered the photograph into the Oklahoman Made Photography Competition hosted by the Oklahoma City Foundation of Architecture.

Entrants must submit photographs that have an architectural theme or some element of the manmade environment that is located within

“She’s really good with architecture. She can bring out some sort of emotion or feeling with it.”

—RANDY ANDERSON  
PHOTOGRAPHY PROFESSOR

the state.

The competition has three categories, including one for students.

Bragg took first place — and the \$500 cash prize — in that category.

Board members consider the student category the toughest category because of so many entries. Entrants can submit multiple photographs.

"Knowing that I came in first place and winning the \$500 cash prize made me feel very accomplished," Bragg said.

"Not only did I beat out other students from Oklahoma, but also I beat out some University of Central Oklahoma students."

This was Bragg's first time entering this particular competition. One of her competitor's was her younger sister, who won a Merit Award in that category.

"My 12-year-old sister was also competing and we both won [in] that competition."

Bragg, who will graduate this May, will continue her education at University of Central Oklahoma.

She will double major in Photography and Public Relations. Bragg already has a job offer from the Oklahoma Art Institute as a public relations specialist.

"I hope to give back to the Oklahoma Art Institute what they gave me in confidence in photography," Bragg said.

For more information about the Photography Club, go to the club's website at <http://occc.campusgroups.com/photography/about>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHILDSPLAY

By combining the art forms of sculpture and photography, photography major Julie Bragg earned a first place award in a statewide photography contest. The award-winning photograph titled, "Golden Stallion" was taken at the Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa. The photograph captures sculptures above the South entrance of the church.



'FERDINAND' DESIGNED TO ENTERTAIN AND EDUCATE

# Children's play next for cultural series

LAURA HULS  
News Writing Student

A musical drama for children, "Ferdinand the Bull" will be performed on campus at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, the Bruce Owen Theater, said Lemuel Bardeguez, director of Cultural Arts.

"Ferdinand the Bull" is a show based on the children's classic by Munro Leaf. It will light up the audience, Bardeguez said. The production includes original music and Flamenco dancing.

Spanish is also integrated into the performance.

"It's made in a way that as part of the dialogue they will throw in Spanish words," Bardeguez said.

The story centers on the theme of "flower power" over bloodletting, as Ferdinand refuses to respond to the matador's taunts in the bull ring.

Instead the peace-loving bull uses his time in the spotlight observing the ladies in the audience with flowers in their hair.

This is the first year OCCC is offering a show for younger audiences.

"We are starting to offer one family-friendly production per semester," Bardeguez said.

"It is for the entire family, but as far as the age group for kids, it is mostly for those who are in first through sixth grade."

Childsplay, Arizona's professional theater for young audiences and families, will produce the play.

Ticket prices have been reduced to \$8 per person. To purchase tickets, visit [www.occc.edu/CAS/tickets](http://www.occc.edu/CAS/tickets).

For more information or questions, contact the Cultural Arts office by e-mail at [culturalprograms@occc.edu](mailto:culturalprograms@occc.edu), or by phone at 405-682-7279.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHILDSPLAY

Actors from the Childsplay theater company of Arizona, pose against the backdrop for their upcoming performance of Ferdinand the Bull. Back row, from left to right: Jesse Berger, Andres Alcalá, Laura Berger. Front, kneeling: Colin Ross. Ticket prices have been reduced to \$8 per person. To purchase tickets, visit [www.occc.edu/CAS/tickets](http://www.occc.edu/CAS/tickets). For more information or questions, contact the Cultural Arts office at [culturalprograms@occc.edu](mailto:culturalprograms@occc.edu) or at 405-682-7279.

PROGRAM AT NOON MARCH 29

## Disney brings internship offers to OCCC

ALYSSA MCCAIN  
News Writing Student

Spending a semester working with Mickey Mouse — or being Mickey Mouse — will be among the options when the Disney College Program recruits student interns on campus March 29.

The program gives students the opportunity to live, learn and earn in a unique environment, said Jill Sodowsky, a Disney college campus representative who once served as a Disney intern.

The program is offered at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif., and at the Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Fla.

Currently an OCCC student, Sodowsky will provide an e-presentation from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, in the College Union Oklahoma Room to discuss the

opportunities the Disney programs have to offer.

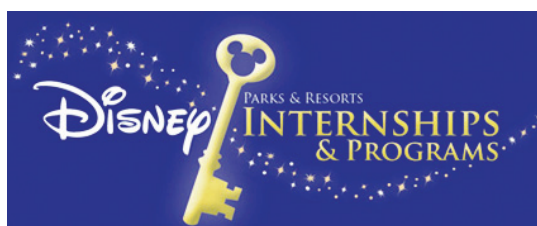
The program is open to all college students at least 18 years of age, regardless of major or academic level.

Sodowsky said all majors would find career options and training at Disney.

"If students choose to do the internship, they can stand out," said Debra Vaughn, Student Employment and Career Services director.

Today, the national unemployment rate is at 9 percent, meaning five people are applying for just one job, Vaughn said. She said a Disney internship can give an applicant the edge.

While living at the resort, students would be able to choose from one of the three different fully-furnished apartments, Sodowsky said.



Transportation also is offered as one of the many amenities.

The American Council of Education, or ACE, has granted official collegiate credit for a variety of classes that are not major-specific, she said. So students could potentially earn up to six hours of credit per semester.

"Students should check with a career services adviser to determine whether their institution will offer credit for participation," said Lindsay Broadhurst, Disney Media Contact.

The classes offered as part of the internship include hands-on learning, Sodowsky said.

Seminars are held on topics from organizational skills to public speaking and professionalism.

"The reason I came to Disney was to take productive time off from college and find myself," Sodowsky said.

"I wasn't really sure of what I wanted to do after taking my basics so I enrolled in the fall '09 and spring '10 internships.

"I loved my classes at Disney. They were absolutely wonderful because they helped me figure out what I was good at and really wanted to do."

Before accepting the Disney internship, Sodowsky said, she had changed her major from nursing to business but still wasn't settled with her decision. Now she is happily pursuing a degree in public relations.

The resorts also offer in-

terns a wide variety of roles to play, including food and beverage, hospitality, lifeguarding, merchandizing, animal kingdom and much more.

"Whatever you're looking for, they've got it," Sodowsky said.

Most of the time Disney hires from within, she said, and offers many opportunities to move up in the company.

The vice president of Epcot Center actually started out with this same college internship.

"The leaders at the resort are always there to help you," Sodowsky said. "They are extremely invested in the company and you, and they are always willing to provide the opportunity to network with the head honchos of the company."

For more information, contact Vaughn at [dvaughn@occc.edu](mailto:dvaughn@occc.edu).



## AQUATIC CENTER RECEIVES MUCH NEEDED RENOVATION

# Swimming pool closed for required maintenance

MOLLY MOHR

News Writing Student

OCCC's swimming pool will reopen March 27 after being closed for required maintenance for most of the month, said J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director. At that point, all classes will resume as scheduled.

The pool had to be drained in order to reapply stripes to the pool bottom.

The stripes separate the swimming lanes for competitions, Messer said.

This is the first time since the pool opened in 1989 that the lines have had to be re-done. No one knows for sure why the lane stripes faded. Messer said he hopes this will be the last time they will have to drain the pool to fix this problem.

Before draining the pool on March 7, the 665,000 gallons of water was chemically neutralized, an hour-long process, said Gary Belcher, building maintenance and operations supervisor.

They started at 7:30 a.m. and began draining at 8:30. Two hours later, the water line had dropped only 18 inches.

To drain the pool, long hoses with suction pumps on the opposite end are put into the water, explained Belcher. Then, suction brings up the water and the hose takes the water to a storm drain on the east side of the Aquatic Center.

From there, the water enters an underground holding tank until it can be pumped outside into the drainage channels that surround the college.

Belcher said it can take anywhere from 36 to 48 hours to fully drain the pool.

Once it was empty, workers began welding black PVC lane markers to the bottom, Belcher explained.

"They will be installed by a heat welding process," he said. The college chose to weld the black lane markers to the bottom instead of repainting to minimize the need to repeat the job.

OCCC lifeguard Megan Davis said maintenance work has modified her duties and reduced the hours she was permitted to work.

"I'm still allowed to work, but instead of guarding I'll be cleaning for two to three hours and then leaving, so my paychecks will be much smaller."

She said she is glad this will be the last time the pool will have a scheduled closing this semester.

For more information on swimming hours and classes, contact the Recreation and Fitness offices at 405-682-7860.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Above: Contractor Twann Garrett with the pool contracting company Nature heats the plastic liner in the welding process March 11 during racing lane renovation.



Above and below: 665,000 gallons of water from the Aquatic Center's pool makes its way through a series of pump hoses, underground holding tanks and finally to the drainage canal outside near the south parking area in front of the maintenance building March 7. It takes 36 to 48 hours for the pool to be fully drained in preparation for wire-welding and re-texturing of the lines at the bottom of the pool.



Above: As the pool sits empty the plastic liner is overlaid then heated with a heat gun to complete the Aquatic Center striping renovations.





## GRADUATE INSPIRES MEDIA STUDENTS

# OCCC broadcasting alumna makes name for herself

**JEREMY CLOUD**  
Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Talented and hardworking, OCCC alumna Lacey Lett is swiftly becoming a force to be reckoned with in the media world.

"Lacey is what I call a triple threat," said OCCC broadcasting professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert.

"She can do radio, she can do television, and she can write.

"She's had her own radio show. She's had her own TV show. She writes for the Oklahoman, and she does a program called '7 in Seven' (for Ackermann McQueen)."

Lett got her start in broadcast media while still at Southeast High School, working on the school's newscast.

"They picked me to be the anchor because there was nobody else to do it," Lett said.

"And I ended up becoming producer for the high school newscast and then the anchor, and then the editor, and then the

shooter, and it ended up being me doing everything."

Today, Lett maintains that high energy pace. She hosts a local music show on TheSpyFM.com, and writes a twice-monthly nightlife column, "A Look at OKC" for the Oklahoman.

In addition to that, Lett has recently taken on a full time job at Ackermann-McQueen Advertising, working with their online media.

Adding on to what most would consider a full workload, Lett also is a spokesperson for OCCC, a hostess for Remington Park and participates in a fitness boot camp.

"My boyfriend started the boot camp and then I joined in. I mean if he's sick, I'll teach it. But it's just a fun thing we do for free."

Though her work life is busy, Lett always seems to find the time to help students, Faulconer-Lippert said.

"Whenever I've had her come speak to classes, she inspires so many OCCC students because they can relate to her. They can



Lacey Lett

look at her and see that with talent and hard work you can be very successful."

Lett said, in many ways, she's been lucky. "All of my jobs have been very flexible," she said.

"It helps all of these jobs are kind of within the same realm. It's either music or broadcasting or media of some sort, so they all kind of work together. So, it's hard, but it all works out."

To students who are coming up within the field of broadcast



PHOTOS COURTESY LACEY LETT

Lacey Lett and crew set up for her show "7 in Seven." The show features seven topics in seven minutes and is broadcast every Friday morning at 9 a.m. on [www.am.com](http://www.am.com).

and media, Lett said the key is to be prepared to work hard.

"Be willing to do what it takes,

in terms of time and effort, to not just get the job done, but to do it well."

## FORMER STUDENT GIVES ADVICE ON GETTING A JOB AFTER COLLEGE

## Graduate said job seekers must be 'aggressive'

**LOGAN KENNEDY**  
News Writing Student

OCCC graduate Jason Kimball bought a new suit to wear to interviews until he found his dream job after college.

Now, almost two years later, Kimball has yet to put on the suit even though he's found his position.

On March 3, Kimball spoke to a class of OCCC journalism students about the changing face of the job market and how people must leverage their skills to find the job they want in today's world.

Kimball was both witty and clever as he leaned over the podium speaking about the relatively new world of online résumés and telephone interviews.

"It's rare today to even apply for a job on site ... most of it is done online," he said.

"My job search was 100 percent online."

Many were stunned to discover that, to this day, Kimball has never met any of the people responsible for hiring him.

He informed students that in today's era of limited face-to-face contact with potential employers, they must be aggressive in figuring out a way to market themselves.

"The first thing I did to make myself stand out was create a website where employers could find my résumé," Kimball said.

He said the website he created had brief information about his educational background and about his personal background as well.



Jason Kimball

"You have to remember that you are competing with 15 million unemployed people ... You have to make yourself stand out to employers," Kimball said.

"The longer they spend on your website, the less competing résumés they are getting to."

Kimball spoke passionately in

**"The first thing I did to make myself stand out was create a website where employers could find my résumé."**

—JASON KIMBALL  
OCCC GRADUATE

his message about the changing job market.

He was adamant that there is no special secret to getting a job today.

"You have to develop a strategy and then start your hunt ... then modify your strategy as you go along" Kimball said.

He said if a company you applied to doesn't contact you, don't be afraid to call them and ask what went wrong during your application process.

"You'd be surprised at how many of these people want to tell you what went wrong"

Kimball told his attentive audience that they must not give up in their job search.

He said with enough patience and the proper strategy, the job you want will come along.

Kimball now enjoys a work-at-home job as a curriculum developer for VIPdesk, a nationwide company headquartered in Virginia.

Kimball chuckled as he told the audience he has not been affected by the gas prices, since the furthest journey he ever makes is from his home office to the refrigerator.



## SPORTS

SPORTS | Former student succeeds on and off football field

## OCCC graduate lives for football

JACOB CHAMBERS

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

Chris Knight knows he has lived more than his fair share of lifetimes in just 35 years.

He recently reflected on his accomplishments over a couple of beers on a warm Friday afternoon at a southside restaurant in Oklahoma City.

Knight, now Marketing and Sales director for the Bricktown Brawlers indoor football team in Oklahoma City, is a former OCCC student who made a name for himself in football while also advancing academically.

Knight started his career at U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City, playing defensive noseguard and tight end for their football team. His team went 0 and 41 in a four-year span. He said it was the fourth longest losing streak in high school football, according to Sports Illustrated.

"I started playing my freshman year and broke the [Oklahoma City] record for sacks in one season," Knight said.

During the spring of his senior year, Knight enrolled in OCCC's Upward Bound bridge program.

He said his goal was to earn a transferable degree to the University of Oklahoma while attending OU and OCCC concurrently.

Knight, the very first graduate from OCCC's Upward Bound program, credits Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner as one of his mentors who helped him eventually earn two associate degrees from OCCC — one in science, one in liberal studies.

Turner said she remembers Knight well. "I credit him as one of our biggest success stories," she said.

While Knight was busy academically, he also was busy making a name for himself in football.

It was during this time that Knight got back into football — first as an offensive lineman for OU and later for the Oklahoma Bad Boys, a semi-pro team.

Not only did Knight play for the Bad Boys, but also did most of the recruiting himself.

"This Oklahoma Bad Boys team had bar none the most talent on one single team I have ever played with," Knight said. "I would do my recruiting through



PHOTO COURTESY BRIAN K. DENTON/2000

the Pioneer in the ads section and we got 90 percent of our players from OCCC."

Knight also sang with the OCCC Chamber Choir for three years and played on the college's chess team.

The former Chess Club champion said he achieved a master level ranking of 2000 out of 2200.

"I would much rather play a game of chess than read a book because you can just let your mind go and get lost in the board," Knight said.

Knight got his start with the Brawlers early this spring when owner Dale Morris called him and asked him to replace the existing director of Marketing and Sales one month before the season started. "I came in with a mop and a

bucket, and cleaned house," Knight said.

Morris brought in 2003 Heisman Trophy Winner Jason White as co-owner and public relations representative.

Knight said he felt up to the challenge, since he had done the same in the past and put together championship teams.

In total, Knight played for more than five semi pro teams, and for three years, returned to his alma mater U.S. Grant, helping coach the team to the high school state playoffs two of those years.

Knight said he still lives his life for football.

"When your heart is in it, you're 100 miles an hour, bro," he said.

"I can step outside and smell the air and know its football season."

UPCOMING  
INTRAMURALS  
EVENTS

**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](http://www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration). For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **April 7:** American Red Cross Lifeguard Training in the OCCC Aquatic Center room. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **April 4:** Private Swimming Lessons, one class: \$25 and four classes: \$80. No refunds after class has started. Students receive discount. Classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays. Start times are 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **April 23:** American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Course from 8:30 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Must be 16 years old, able to swim at level IV skills. Will be required to pass swimming skills test on first day of class. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **April 23:** Junior Guard lessons. Ages 11 to 15. Classes designed to give teens a foundation of lifeguard skills. Must be able to swim 25 yards front crawl, tread water for one minute and swim underwater 10 feet. Fee is \$60 for the course. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **May 2:** Abs Express class, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:05 to 5:25 p.m. in the Wellness Center. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Have sports news?**  
E-mail Jake Chambers at [sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu) or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676



## SHINE: Former student teams with OCCC on community project

*Continued from page 1*

added.

Jerry Steward, executive vice president, said OCCC has demonstrated its commitment to the community through various programs.

Steward also acknowledged Maughan as an OCCC graduate and one of his former students.

"[His] program is an excellent example of servant-ship," Steward said.

"It's a great program. We need to contribute to something greater than ourselves."

President Paul Sechrist said the college is happy to participate.

"We're always excited and interested to be a part of the community," Sechrist said.

"We hope that many students will get involved in this

“

**We're always excited and interested to be a part of the community. We hope that many students will get involved in this program."**

—PAUL SECHRIST  
OCCC PRESIDENT

program."

Three students were recognized for completing 100 hours of community service, and received a certificate and

a cord they can wear at their graduation ceremonies.

OCCC student Amanda Allen was recognized for her involvement with Children's hospital and for her work in various political campaigns.

"I've known Brian for awhile," Allen said. "When he told me about the program, I joined in."

Another recipient, Rachael Scott, was singled out as the first person to complete the requirements for the award.

The Santa Fe High School senior completed 131 hours of community service with the Spanish club, humane society and animal rescue groups.

Midwest City High School

student Stacia Lancaster was recognized for her efforts with Special Olympics, food drives, holiday toy drives, and sending care packages to military personnel overseas.

Representatives of the Watchful Eyes Association, located in southwest Oklahoma City, said they came to learn more about the program initiatives.

They said they hope to encourage more volunteers with their association, which functions as a kind of neighborhood watch group.

Jessica Bullock, with Francis Tuttle Career Technology Center, said she came to learn more about SHINE.

For more information or to get involved, contact Maughan at 405-713-1502.

## Appeal: Changes may be coming

*Continued from page 1*

student's permanent record.

As it stands now, the Grade Appeal Committee is composed of three faculty members instead of the proposed six and two students instead of the proposed three.

• Currently, both the instructor and the student have the opportunity to present their positions on the issue, and the committee submits its recommendations to the Associate

Vice President for Academic Affairs.

• The Associate Vice President then reviews the committee's findings and makes a recommendation to the instructor.

• The instructor is encouraged to carefully consider the associate vice president's recommendation, but is under no obligation to do so.

Changes in the policy are not likely to come before the end of this academic year.

For more on OCCC's Academic appeal process, pick up a copy of the Student Handbook at the Welcome Desk on the first floor of the Main Building or visit the college's website at [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu).

Watch the Pioneer for updates.

## Military fair March 30

LISA GILCREASE  
News Writing Student

The Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and Air National Guard will be at the Military Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the general dining area Wednesday, March 30.

The event is open to the community.

"Each branch of the service has different terms of enlistment," said Debra Vaughn, director of Student Employment and Career Services. "They also offer different educational benefits."

For more information, contact Vaughn at 405-682-1611, ext. 7362 or by e-mail at [dvaughn@occc.edu](mailto:dvaughn@occc.edu).

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Oklahoma City Community College and  
The State of Oklahoma Office of Personnel Management

**CAREER DAY**

Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>  
Noon - 1:00 PM  
College Union III

For more information, call OCCC Student Employment & Career Services at 405.682.7519



# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Love is in the air



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Energy major Beau Baurenschmitt and elementary education major Amanda Leatherbury share a laugh during a break from class.

**COMMUNITY** | Students can learn about DISCOVER test during workshop April 20

## Office helps undecided majors

ALYSSA MCCAIN  
News Writing Student

OCCC graduate Mary Shea said she loves working with students who come into Student Employment and Career Services looking for help in choosing a college major.

Shea and other assistants explain the DISCOVER test, which can help students choose a major geared towards their interests, abilities or values.

It's a quick 15- to 20-minute survey on the computer, Shea said. The answers are completely personalized, as the students are the ones entering their likes and dislikes.

After signing up for the test, students are provided a username and password. The DISCOVER website also offers other useful information on careers, salaries, degrees and more.

Shea said it helps when students have someone who can assist them on deciding their future careers.

"It's very fun to look at other careers and options," she said. "It all depends on your goals, where you want to live and what's important to you."

About once a week, Student Employment and Career Services hold a workshop to help students with undecided majors.

Student Rene' Rula said she has changed her major twice and is currently working on a degree in sociology.

She took the test and the results informed her she

was interested in technical careers and social sciences.

After talking to Shea, Rula said she learned that careers involving the arts and social sciences were her best match. Rula said she agrees with these results.

Student Parker Smith said the test provided unexpected results.

"Right now I would love to be a firefighter but the interest test showed that I might be interested in a baking career which I thought was really funny because I can't cook at all," Parker said.

When students get results that don't make sense to them, they can retake the test, Shea said. The user name and password are valid for 90 days.

"Some questions will require more thought," Shea said. "Results can also display your true personality and other things you might not know about yourself."

"There are countless numbers of options to investigate, some of which you may not have even thought about."

For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519 or attend the next workshop from 12:30 to 1 p.m. on April 20 in room 1G7 in the Main Building. There is no need to register.

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

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### OCCC Service Day

Students looking for an opportunity to volunteer for a worthy organization are invited to attend the Habitat for Humanity service day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26. Contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by the Student Life office in the Main Building to reserve a spot or for more details.

### Money Matters — Identity Theft

Students can attend a workshop that will teach attendees how to recognize and prevent identity theft. The workshop will take place at noon on Monday, March 28, in CU1 in the College Union. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by their office in the Main Building.

### Degree Check it Out

Advisers will be on hand to meet with students to check their progress toward graduation from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, and Wednesday, March 30, across from the Coffee Shop on the first floor of the Main Building. "Degree Check it Out" offers informal meetings on a drop-in basis. For more information, contact Voegeli by phone at 405-682-7537 or by e-mail at kvoegeli@occc.edu.

### Brown Bag series-Transfer Basics

Attendees will discuss the steps to take when transferring to another college in this workshop at noon on Wednesday, March 30, in CU1 of the College Union. Participants should bring their own lunch. Drinks are provided. Contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by their office in the Main Building for more information.

### Ambassadorial Scholarship Applications

Applications for the 2012-2013 Ambassadorial Scholarship are due Friday, April 1, to the downtown Rotary Club. The scholarship provides \$26,000 for one academic year of study in another country. Criteria and applications can be found at [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org). For more information, visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), or contact Donna Lawrence at 405-476-3455 or [donna@successredesign.com](mailto:donna@successredesign.com).

### Tuition Fee Waiver Information

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

**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.

ELECTRONICS

**FOR SALE:** 19" Samsung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. \$35 Call: 405-501-8777.

EMPLOYMENT

**PART TIME CLERICAL WORK:** Insurance office needs bilingual person, fluent in Spanish, to do clerical work. Send resume to: larazains@yahoo.com.

**NOW HIRING**  
Tuxedo Junction in Moore is looking for a part time sales person. Assist our clients in the selection, rental/sale of tuxedos for proms, weddings, and black tie affairs. Six months sales or customer service experience needed. Primarily evening and weekend hours. Hourly wage plus commission after training. Call: Beth Adkins at 405-793-0330 or email resume to tuxedojunctionok@aol.com

FOR RENT

**ROOM FOR RENT:** Large room with access to entire house; all utilities included. Large yard and parking. No pets. No smokers. \$450 per month. \$100 deposit. Contact: sharon.richard@ymail.com or call 405-795-0163.

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example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu  
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MISCELLANEOUS

**GOLF CLUBS FOR SALE:** Complete set of men's Ram golf clubs with bag. Good condition. \$65. Call: 405-470-3446.

**DIVING SUIT FOR SALE:** Red on black, Oneill brand; wet/dry #291; XXL; height 6'3"; 3mil thick; style 9073. Also have one pair of XXL "Slippery When Wet" ski trunks. Neither used. \$600 for both. Contact; masmith405@gmail.com or call 405-532-6991.

**FOR SALE:** This space for only \$8 a week. With a weekly circulation of 3100, reach thousands of potential customers by advertising your business here. 405-682-1611, ext. 7674.

**HIGH CHAIR FOR SALE:** Good condition. \$10. Also have student desk and coffee table. \$10 each. Moving. Call: 405-501-8777.

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 e-mail cshutt1@cox.net.

SERVICES

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

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

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5 Chelsea's cat  
10 Movie dog  
14 Baseball family name  
15 Approximately  
16 Go very fast  
17 After-dinner candy  
18 Truck, in London  
19 Choir voice  
20 Ken, to Barbie  
22 Sheen  
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24 "Ciao!"  
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	SYNOD	PIG
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MATT	RANGE	ROVE
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RESPIRE	STATELY	
	USE	MAORI
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OLEO	RILEY	NAVY
SPAN	SCENE	TWAS

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# Bones, brains normal part of student's life

JASON ABBOTT  
News Writing Student

Growing up in a house filled with animal skulls and bones has left its mark on student Josh Villemarette, a business major at OCCC.

His father's collection of bones occupied every nook and cranny of their den until his father's passion finally spilled over into a store and later found a home in their museum, he said.

Villemarette's family founded the business Skulls Unlimited in 1986, before Villemarette was born.

Skulls Unlimited got its claim to fame by making use of the European mount, which involves placing the cleaned animal skull onto a display board.

Most often it is used for hunting trophies, he said.

Skulls Unlimited was the first to employ this mount which is now used throughout the world by many hunters and collectors.

The most common European mount involves taking an American whitetail deer head, removing the skin and flesh so that the skull is clean and the antlers are still intact on the head of the deer, Villemarette said.

This is a contrast to the taxidermy practice of preserving the skin and attaching the head or entire body of the trophy animal to a display board or foam exo-skeleton.

On Oct. 1, Skulls Unlimited extended its business and opened the Museum of Osteology. Osteology is the study of bones, skulls, and skeletons, according to the pamphlet found at the entrance to the museum.

The museum was a dream Villemarette's dad had as long as he could remember. It was a dream that started in the den of their house and eventually expanded into the museum it

is today.

"As a little kid I actually had nightmares of the skeletons coming alive," Villemarette said about growing up in that environment. Among other animal skeletons in the collection is an adult gorilla.

He would imagine the gorilla skeleton that's in the museum now coming alive with red eyes.

"My dad would come to school and give class talks. I was known as 'Skull Boy,'" Villemarette said.

Luckily most of his classmates found the subject fascinating and would come to ask him about it, rather than think it to be strange and run from it.

Villemarette said he started working for his dad at the age of 12. He would clean out the brains from the skulls.

He also emptied the trash bins that contained the leftover meat and skin not used in their mounts.

In the few months that the museum has been open, it

“My dad would come to school and give class talks. I was known as Skull Boy.”

—JOSH VILLEMARETTE  
OCCC STUDENT

has attracted more than 6,000 visitors, Villemarette said. In addition, many national television shows have covered their museum and store.

The shows include "Dirty Jobs," "Ripley's Believe It or Not," "MSNBC," "Weird True and Freaky" on Animal Planet.

He said the museum will be featured on an upcoming



Skulls unlimited museum is located at 10313 S Sunnyslane. The museum has been featured on several shows including "Ripley's Believe It or Not."

broadcast of "Modern Marvels."

After his father's 30 years of collecting, the museum has many specimens that include monkeys, apes, humans, penguins, and a 40-foot humpback whale that hangs in the center of the museum.

Villemarette said he is studying business so he can do more to market the business and museum and hopefully take over and run the family legacy one day.

For more information on Skulls Unlimited or the museum, call 405-814-0006 or visit at 10313 S. Sunnyslane just two miles south of Interstate-240.

Admission is \$5 per person, and children 3 and under are free. The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

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For additional information 682-7519