

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

REPRESENT YOURSELF WELL AT ALL TIMES

Staff Writer Priscilla Colley says you never know when you're meeting your next boss so dress and act the part. Read her thoughts.

OPINION, p. 2

CAMPUS LIFE

JULY 4 A TIME FOR SAFE FUN

The Fourth of July is a time when families celebrate with food and fireworks. Turn inside to find out where the best celebrations are and how to stay safe when using fireworks this holiday.

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RECREATION

TEEN XTREME CLASS HELPS COMMUNITY

Those in the Teen Xtreme camp visited a retirement home. The residents there joined the class in dancing and other fun activities. Read about the trip inside.

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CAMPUS LIFE

EMPLOYEES DISASTER READY

Thirteen OCCC workers recently took part in disaster training. Turn inside to find out what the training entailed.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

PIONEER

JUNE 24, 2011

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

College has room, lacks professors

Increased enrollment has created a need for more help than OCCC can afford

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER

Editor

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Increased enrollment during recent years is creating a new potential problem for OCCC: some students may have to be turned away.

State budget cuts to higher education has left OCCC without the money needed to hire new faculty as more students than ever are enrolling in college courses.

"Our enrollment, generally in fall and spring, is related to employment," said Stu Harvey, executive director of Planning and Research.

"When there's high unemployment, which there has been through the recession, then there's higher enrollment."

Felix Aquino, vice president for Academic Affairs said the lack of faculty is the largest constraint on growth.

"We have room for students. It is absent new full-time faculty that we will not be able to grow."

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Greg Gardner clarified that there are certain time slots that are at or near capacity.

Teamwork 101



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Health and exercise science major Lisa Hinkle performs an accuracy in density measurement of water while exercise science major James Barnes records data in Professor Yongyao Zhou's General Chemistry I lab June 14. The science lab is located in the Main Building.

"Where we're really constrained, facilities-wise, are 9, 10, and 11 o'clock. Those are our peak usage times," Gardner said.

"We still have capacity at alternative times. Our constraint now is availability of quality instruction. That hampers us sometimes more so than availability of space.

"Availability of space at those three times, either Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday, at 9, 10, 11 o'clock, is really tough to find an opening. That's an issue.

"We still have capacity," Gardner said. "We're not at 100 percent all the time."

OCCC President Paul Sechrist said aca-

demic buildings have been the priority in the past when OCCC expanded by adding the Robert P. Todd Science, Math and Engineering building; the Health Professions Center; and phase one of the Visual and Performing Arts Center, the classroom portion.

"We built three buildings... pretty quickly, dramatically expanding our classroom and lab space," Sechrist said, "primarily because we wanted to make sure we had enough capacity, physical capacity, for a growing

See **CAPACITY** page 9

GROUNDBREAKING ON NEW THEATER COULD BEGIN IN JULY

Bids taken, considered for theater construction

HEATHER WOOD

News Writing Student

Eight contractors submitted bid offers June 16 for the new theater to be constructed in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Bids opened at 2 p.m. in the Al Snipes Board Room, one more step in the process of selecting a contractor for the project.

Construction could begin as early as July, said J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director.

The eight bids will be reviewed and a recommendation made to the OCCC Board of Regents in a special meeting June 27, said Janice Phillips, executive administrative assistant to college President Paul Sechrist.

"If approved by the Oklahoma City Community College Board of Regents, a contract will be awarded to the lowest and most responsible bidder," Messer said.

It is projected that, if approved, a contract could be written in July to move forward on the project.

"We'd like to start ... the process of construction the day after the board approves the bidder and the contracts are signed," said Walt Joyce, architect for Triad Design Company.

Joyce said construction is anticipated to take between 20 and 24 months.

Ruth Charnay, Communication and the Arts director, said she hopes to see events happening in the theater by fall 2013.

See **BIDS** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Students should conduct themselves professionally at all times

Attitude in college makes an impression

"Every day is an interview," said Student Employment and Career Services Director Debra Vaughn.

If this is the case, many college students are up the creek without a paddle.



Priscilla Colley

Many times students don't realize the way they present themselves on campus affects them now, and more importantly, in the future.

Whatever career path one chooses, an important factor across the board is networking — the ability to make good connections that will further one in his or her field. Networking is crucial.

The entire point of college is providing the tools needed to enter a career. Realistically, you never know with whom you're interacting. That person may be your future employer or have the

connections to help you further yourself.

Appearances are everything, as proven by Vaughn's last few student worker hires.

"In this office, since I have been here, I have hired four student workers, and they were students that came in here to get help in finding a job," Vaughn said.

"They didn't come in here to apply for a job in this office but because of the way they conducted themselves with me and my staff, we hired them nearly on the spot."

People do pay attention and remember those who show professionalism just as much as they remember those who behave like 2 year olds. This is why it's vital to be wise when you interact with people — other students as well as professors and faculty.

As cliché as it sounds, it really is prudent to treat others the way you would like to be treated — with respect and kindness.

—PRISCILLA COLLEY
STAFF WRITER

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

YOUR VOICE | Public invited to attend panel on health literacy concepts

OK Department of Health to host health literacy panel

To the Editor:

The Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign partners will meet to discuss "Health Literacy Concepts" at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 30, in Room 314 at the Oklahoma State Department of Health, 1000 NE 10th St. in Oklahoma City. Panelists will present on topics ranging from the education of health professional students to health literacy and its impact on patient beliefs. The public is invited to attend.

The keynote speaker will be Richard Perry, director of the Oklahoma

Area Health Education Center program for Rural Health. Perry will present "Real Facts of Life: Teaching the Social Determinants." Social determinants of health are life-enhancing resources, such as food supply, housing, economic and social relationships, transportation, education, and health care, whose distribution across populations effectively determines length and quality of life.

Perry will be joined by two other panelists from OKAHEC, Toni Hart and Denna Wheeler. Hart is the Program Man-

ager for the Rural Cancer Survivorship Education Program. Wheeler is Coordinator of Research and Evaluation for the Center for Rural Health at the OSU Center for Health Sciences.

This is an opportunity to participate in discussions on health literacy that can help design and implement health programs and delivery systems to improve the quality of life in Oklahoma.

To participate, please RSVP by calling 405-271-9444, ext. 56543, or contacting taran@health.ok.gov. If you live outside

the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, you may join a videoconference from another county health department locations. Please call 405-271-9444, ext. 56543,

before Friday, June 24, to check on its availability.

To learn more about upcoming HERO events, contact Marisa New at marisan@health.ok.gov.

—S. MARISA NEW

**HEALTH EQUITY
AND RESOURCE
OPPORTUNITIES
DIRECTOR
OKLAHOMA
STATE HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

Reader not sold on MiO

To the Editor:

(MiO liquid enhancer, reviewed in the June 17 Pioneer,) sounds like a good thing, especially when someone gives it an A+ rating.

But what about the fact that it contains a form of Aspartame, which is a definite cancer-producing item?

This has been noted by the medical field for a long time and yet people are so concerned with the idea that it may help "lose weight, reduce calories, et cetera," that they overlook that part of it.

I guess it is just what some people consider the lesser of two evils. Try to drink your way to

alighter body as opposed to actually doing a little bit of walking, steps or other physical activities.

Maybe that is one of the reasons that Oklahoma is one of the highest-ranked states in the country for obesity.

—NAME
WITHHELD BY
REQUEST

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

Vol. 39 No. 36

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The **PIONEER** is a publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the **PIONEER**, the college or the publisher.

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.

Color printing this semester is paid for, in part, from a grant from OPUBCO Communications Group.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

REVIEWS | Pansies need not apply

‘Duke’ not for the faint of heart

I started playing “Duke Nukem Forever” expecting a highly action-packed shooter, heavy with sci-fi themes and killer boss fights. The game did not disappoint.

On the other hand, the game itself pushes way past the edge set by “Duke Nukem 3D” 15 years ago.

While the action stayed the same and the graphics are incredible, the game itself is somewhat juvenile, bordering on sexist.

The M rating is well justified this time with all the exposed skin everywhere, racy humor and situations. It almost deserves an X rating, in my opinion.

The women are extremely detailed for a video game that isn’t blatantly hardcore pornography, though about 10 years ago, this game could easily be considered softcore porn.

As for the near X rating, it shows through rather prominently in the hive stages, where the scenery involves wall fixtures and



doors that look extremely like female genitalia and exploding pregnant women.

The world is really very destructive as well. Sometimes you have to blow up corners to destroy something without getting killed yourself.

The commentary by the staff in this game as well as the tips during the loading screens is fairly informative and funny.

All in all, the game is great — if you’re into filthy humor, explosions and flagrant nudity.

This particular game is not for the faint of heart nor the very sensitive, due to the nature of the game itself.

It’s really funny though. I usually regret buying games, especially after I beat them. This is one game that I don’t regret. I love it and I’m only three bosses in.

I have to give this game two ratings. I give it a personal rating of A, because I can handle the raciness of the content including the blatant sexism, nudity, and overly

aggressive maleness of the game. If you enjoy that kind of thing, this game is for you.

For the faint of heart or those who have more delicate sensibilities, the game gets a C. The overly sexual themes might be a bit of a turnoff for some, as well as the chauvinistic turn Duke took this time around.

And remember: The only size that matters is the size of your gun.

Rating: C

—ROBERT BOLTON
ONLINE WRITER

ADVISER'S 411

Advisers on hand to help during summer

Have you ever been told that the class you wanted to take needed to be approved by your faculty adviser?

Do you sometimes feel like you are spinning your wheels, taking classes that you’re not sure will count?

Are you wondering what you will do with your major?

Well, you’re in luck!

Faculty advisers have taken up residence in the Office of Academic Advising for the summer. Faculty Advisors from Art and Humanities, Biology, Business and Social Science are here to help and answer your questions.

The new additions to Academic Advising will be in the office for all of June and July and are available primarily by appointment.

They will be on hand to approve faculty approved electives and will offer academic and career planning advice.

Any student wanting to meet with a faculty adviser should call 405-682-7535, or stop by Academic Advising to set up an appointment.

And make sure you specify that you want to meet with a faculty adviser!

—MELISSA AGUIGUI

TRANSFER AND ACADEMIC ADVISING
COORDINATOR

REVIEWS | ‘Terra Nova’ set to premiere on Fox this fall

After multi-million dollar pilot, series looks promising

It’s 2149 and our planet has been destroyed by overpopulation.

Cities lay in smoky ruin, citizens grasp oxygen masks to combat air depletion and families must adhere to a law limiting them to two children.

Don’t worry. That’s not the latest prediction made by Harold Camping — it’s simply the premise of “Terra Nova,” a new series produced by Steven Spielberg and set to air this fall on Fox.

In a desperate bid to

save our dying Earth, scientists discover a crack in the space-time continuum that leads to a prehistoric era.

A thousand citizens travel 85 million years back in time, landing in a military-led, jungle-surrounded colony that recalls the planet Pandora in “Avatar.”

However, instead of aliens and six-legged horses, the colonists of “Terra Nova” have a different kind of beast to contend with: dinosaurs.

The show stars tele-



vision veteran Jason O’Mara as Jim Shannon, a devoted dad who joins the tenth pilgrimage of settlers to Terra Nova — meaning “new land” in Latin — with his wife and their three children.

By the numbers, it’s

easy to see that Fox is confident “Terra Nova” will strike gold.

The two-hour premiere episode required more than 250 sets and cost \$16 million, a number unrivaled by cable TV shows since “Lost” de-

buted in 2004.

But based on the three-minute trailer that hit the Internet last month, it’s money well spent.

From the apocalyptic visages of a deteriorating Earth to a charging carnotaurus whose flesh-tearing teeth seem to swallow the screen whole, the special effects in “Terra Nova” are enough to make any geek swoon.

Combine that with an intriguing storyline plus a well-rounded cast and most importantly, dino-

sours, “Terra Nova” is set to become the next big hit of the television season.

To view trailers and clips for the upcoming series, visit Fox’s official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/FoxBroadcasting.

The previews are rated for all ages, but be warned: watching them may induce a serious desire for the fall television season to come on and get here, already.

Rating: A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

BOOK REVIEW | Vampire hunter has polyamorous romances with vampires and shape-shifters

Book in series sparks interest in new readers

When choosing a book to take to the beach, or to read on the front porch as the sun goes down this summer, look no further than Laurell K. Hamilton's latest Anita Blake novel, "Hit List."

Released June 7, "Hit List" is one of the best Blake novels to hit shelves in some time.

The series follows the life and adventures of Blake, a vampire hunter who has become romantically involved with a master vampire.

The romance has, by this point, spread out to include a massive polyamorous relationship comprising a couple dozen characters that are intimately or romantically involved with Blake.

And all of them are vampires or shape shifters.

In previous books, Hamilton took a few shortcuts, focused more heavily on the sex aspect of Blake's polyamorous relationship, and solved problems by slowly turning her main character into deus ex machina.

At the same time, Hamilton ignored many of the personal issues that made Blake a sympathetic character, causing

the character to slip slowly into being a two-dimensional sociopath with god-like powers.

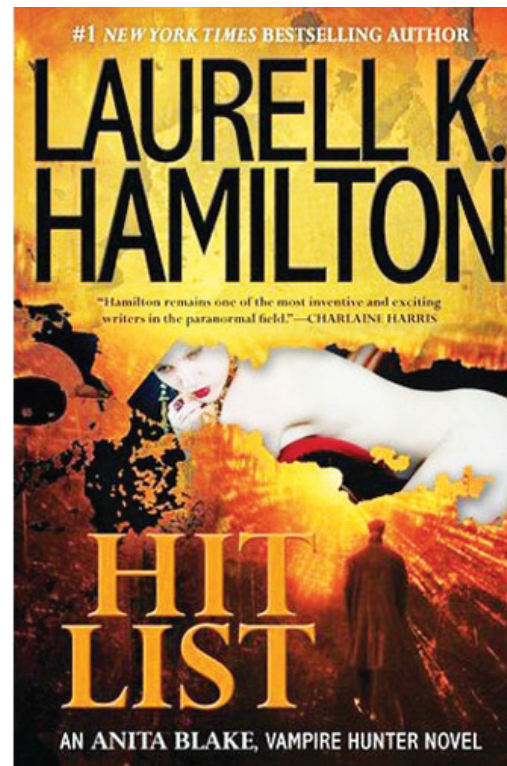
Fortunately, Hamilton seems to have come to her senses, because "Hit List" is everything fans of the series love.

This novel follows Blake as she works in her official capacity as a U.S. Marshal to hunt down the Harlequin, an ancient order of supernatural spies and assassins who are killing were-tigers to allow for the rise of the series' greatest threat, the Mother of Darkness.

Blake's personal issues come back into the picture, though with a mature and melancholy acceptance that she has them, instead of the sometimes whiplash mood changes and angst that marked the character's problems in previous novels.

Edward, the bounty hunter and hitman that the vampires call "Death," comes back into the picture and we get to see new depths and sides of the character that keep him fresh, and allow him to grow.

The powers that make Blake deus ex are downplayed for the most part,



and it's usually Blake's allies that save her bacon.

That makes "Hit List" one of the first novels in the series in some time that doesn't showcase the character power-

ing up and stomping on everything while the supporting cast twiddles their collective thumbs.

All in all, this is one of the best novels to come from Hamilton's pen in a while.

Fans of the series can breathe easy knowing that it's getting better and Blake won't just become a goddess.

First-time readers can definitely kick off with this one, as it makes enough explanation of what's going on to avoid losing someone who's never read the other books.

But new readers be warned: "Hit List" may have you wanting to read the rest of the series and there are a total of 19 books before it.

Still, Hamilton has once again penned an exciting and heartfelt novel that reminds readers why they love her work.

And it's about damn time.

Rating: A

—JEREMY CLOUD
SENIOR WRITER

MUSIC REVIEW | Artist writes music which questions own mental stability while promoting self awareness

Madd lyricist continues powerful flow

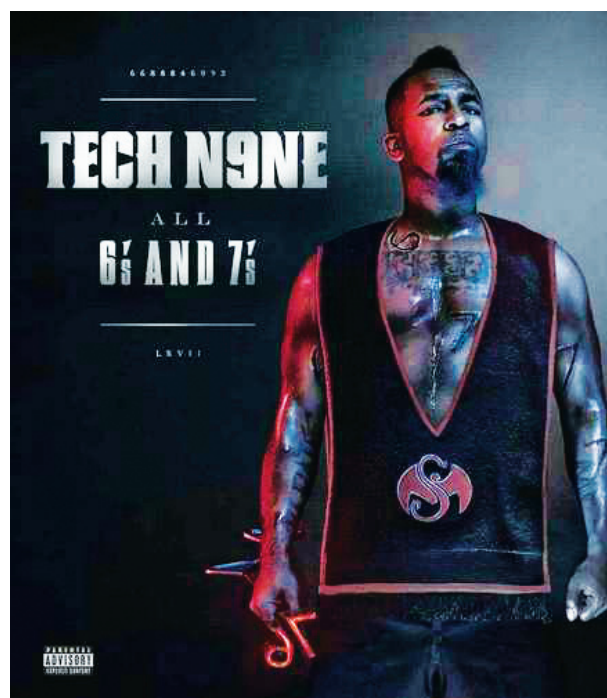
Tongue-twisting, endless-flow-of-the-color-red sporting, clown-make-up wearing, crazy-as-hell-so-and-so, Tech N9ne is definitely keeping up with his reputation of being a "madd lyricist" on his latest CD "All 6's and 7's."

Track two "Technicians" starts out with classic Tech N9ne which is a good thing. He lets listeners know that although he's evolved, he is still Tech N9ne.

Tech seemed to have picked the right artists, B.O.B. & Hop-sin, for this great collaboration for track four "Am I a Psycho?" This song is sure to be a favorite among Tech N9ne fans, especially those who struggle with trying to figure out, mentally, who they are and where they belong.

For those who are unaware, Tech N9ne's lyrics are often filled with his self doubt and of him questioning his mental stability.

His is aware that he may be a bit unstable which is probably why he is so



popular among young people.

Tech N9ne is the artist who definitely put Kansas City on the hip-hop map.

Track five "He's a Mental Giant" is vintage Tech N9ne without being considered a rewind of his former music.

Mr. N9ne definitely called the best of the best to collaborate on track six, "World Wide Choppers."

He seemed to have had these particular artists in mind for this certified head banger.

Tech is assisted by Busta Rhymes, Yelawolf, D-Loc, Twista, Twisted Insane, U.S.O., J.L.B. Hood and Ceza.

All deliver powerful, quickly-spitted, deep verses that combine well with the flow of this song.

The rest of the songs on this CD have great beats and more-than-great lyrics.

This is one of Tech N9ne's best CDs and could probably be the best next to his album "Everready" from 2006.

For those of you who prefer to actually pay for your CDs, this one is well worth the money.

Rating: A+

—CHRISTY JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of June 17 through 19
www.yahoo.com

1. *Green Lantern*
2. *Super 8*
3. *Mr. Popper's Penguins*
4. *X-Men: First Class*
5. *The Hangover Part II*
6. *Kung Fu Panda 2*
7. *Bridesmaids*
8. *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*
9. *Midnight in Paris*
10. *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*
11. *The Tree of Life*
12. *Thor*
13. *Fast Five*
14. *The Art of Getting By*
15. *Rio*
16. *Beginners*
17. *Water for Elephants*
18. *Soul Surfer*
19. *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*
20. *Born to be Wild 3D*

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Oklahoma City Thunder Girls hold audition

EMILY SCHORR
Staff Writer
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Women 18 and older are invited to audition for the Thunder Girls dance team beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Cox Convention Center.

The Thunder Girls are looking for dancers who have a high school diploma or equivalent and are physically fit, according to www.thunder.nba.com.

According to the website, the process to become a Thunder Girl is extensive. The many steps include: the application, preliminary audition, semi-final audition, personal interview, written questionnaire, and the final audition.

Knowledge of the National Basketball Association (NBA), Thunder organization, and the community also is vital for the written questionnaire.

Other things needed at the audition



are: a valid photo ID and a 5x7 headshot. Those auditioning are required to wear a two-piece attire with skin-colored tights and hair down. They also are asked to cover visible tattoos and piercings, and to bring water, snacks and extra competition attire.

According to Thunder's website, there will be a series of dance combinations to be learned, and the finalists will be chosen at the end of the day.

The preliminary round of the audition on Saturday, Aug. 6 is closed to the public. The new Thunder Girls dance

team will be announced later that week in front of a live audience on Thursday, Aug. 11, at Riverwind Casino, according to a press release issued by the Thunder.

Once accepted to the Thunder dance team, a Thunder Girl will perform at all 41 home games, make more than 100 appearances throughout the region, and act as ambassadors for the Thunder at community and sponsorship events.

Thunder Girl hopefuls are encouraged to submit their application and \$20 registration fee before Aug. 6. Walk-ins are accepted the day of auditions for an increased application fee of \$30.

Registration forms are now available at www.thunder.nba.com.

For any questions or further information go to www.thunder.nba.com or by e-mail thundergirls@thunder-nba.com.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES OFFERS ONLINE RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE ON CAMPUS

Free career workshops available Thursdays

PRISCILLA COLLEY
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

The easily overlooked Student Employment and Career Services Center may be the best weapon in a student's arsenal as he or she prepares for the workforce.

Every Thursday throughout the summer the office will hold workshops to help students preparing for a career.

The Career Services Center walks students through each step of the process. "We help students find jobs and decide on career paths," said Student Employment and Career Services Director Debra Vaughn.

Career exploration, one of the many programs offered, is a questionnaire that can help students decide which career path is right for them.

Vaughn said they also teach the proper way to construct a résumé, the best language to use in an application, interviewing tips, and appropriate

can search jobs around the country, post their résumés for employers to search, and apply for positions.

"On this site students have the option to attach a résumé, a cover letter and your transcripts.

"For some students this is the first time," Vaughn said. "So if they will attend the workshop, we can help them, we believe, be a stronger

"We help students find jobs and decide on career paths."

—DEBRA VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES DIRECTOR

behavior and attire in an office setting.

In addition, the Career Services Center provides links to websites that can help students. Those are:

- Optimal Resume, where there is literally a template that formats résumés and cover letters, and coaches interviewing skills.
- Greatergrads.com, where students can search internships that are updated monthly.
- Collegecentral.com, where students

candidate."

If students can't make it to the workshops, they can visit the Student Employment and Career Services Center in the Main Building.

"We can help students with any of these topics," Vaughn said. "They can just come by anytime and we can discuss options."

The workshops are from 12:30 to 1 p.m. every Thursday in room 1G7, and are free to all students.

For more information, call 405-682-7519 or e-mail employmentservices@occc.edu.

Chris Kattan to star in college's first feature film

SARAH HUSSAIN

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

When the Visual and Performing Arts Center produces OCCC's first-ever feature film on campus this summer, heads may turn.

Chris Kattan has been signed to star in the film "Just Crazy Enough," said Sean Lynch, the film's producer and Film and Video Production equipment coordinator.

Best known for his characters on "Saturday Night Live," Kattan also has starred in "A Night at the Roxbury," and "Undercover Brother," and is currently playing Bob in the television show, "The Middle."

Lynch said the film is a comedy.

"It's about twins separated at birth," he said. "One is a psychiatrist and one is a mental patient, and they get swapped so it's kind of a zany, fun '80s-style comedy."

Production begins July 1 and will wrap July 22, Lynch said. The film will be shot in various locations around the college, he said.

Students in Film and Video Production professor Greg Mellot's class are producing the film.

The 30 film students began class June 20, he said.

"This is how they get the hands-on experience," Mellot said.

"The students sign up for specific positions and they receive instruction during this production time."

Sophomore Nathan Milam is one of those students.

"I myself am a boom operator," Milam said. "I do the dialogue sound over the actors. I've already got three years experience working in other productions but the classes themselves have helped us with dialogue

“It’s about twins separated at birth. One is a psychiatrist and one is a mental patient, and they get swapped so it’s kind of a zany, fun ’80s-style comedy.”

—SEAN LYNCH
FILM PRODUCER

and knowing what certain terms are.

"The professionals that have been hired to help us as far as what they do for a living are going to come help each one of us in our job requirements and show us how to do it properly and effectively," Milam said.

Lynch said his job is to make sure everything goes smoothly.

"Putting it together, that's my whole job — just making sure nothing goes wrong, everything's right, we have all the right locations, we have the cast taken care of, all the forms and insurances — basically making sure this thing doesn't fall apart," he said.

Lynch said he produced a feature film in the past at Oklahoma City University.

Mellot said it took longer to do the same at OCCC because of funding constraints.

He said, at OCU, the students were charged \$4,000

to take the film production course, which is where the money to make their film came from.

At OCCC, students pay around \$300 for the course, he said, so the money to make the college's film had to be raised mainly through donors.

Lynch said it will take three to five months to post-produce the film.

Then, he said, the college plans to sell the movie in order to get the donated funds back and fund future films.

For updates about "Just Crazy Enough," read the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

OCCC employee lands role as actor's double

JEREMY CLOUD

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Beginning July 1, OCCC's first-ever feature film "Just Crazy Enough" will start shooting at various locations around the OCCC campus — and one of OCCC's own will play an integral on-screen role.

Shawn Stawicki, Pioneer lab assistant, will play body double to the film's star Chris Kattan.

Stawicki said he got the role by being in the right place at the right time.

"I got a phone call on June 15 from our lab director," Stawicki said.

"She asked me if I had to pick one celebrity that I looked like, who would it be? And I said, 'Chris Kattan.'

"She started laughing and told me that (OCCC Film and Video Production Equipment Coordinator) Sean Lynch had seen me through the window of our offices the day before and thought I looked a lot like Kattan.

"[He told her] they were making a film with [Kattan], were going to need a body double, and was I interested in the part?"

Lynch, producer and co-writer for the film, said the role of body double is especially important for this film.

"Because the movie is about twins,



Chris Kattan

there'll be times that we have to make it look like they're both on screen," Lynch said.

"With a body double, we can have the camera looking over the double's shoulder, or looking in from the side, and still make it look like the actor, without using green screen or other expensive effects that would break our budget."

Stawicki went in for an interview with Lynch on June 15, and found out he'd gotten the role the next day.



Shawn Stawicki

Lynch said the film is going to be completely G-rated, citing a lack of family-friendly comedies on the market today.

"It's about twins separated at birth," Lynch said, describing the movie. "One's a psychiatrist and one's a mental patient.

"There'll be no violence, no swearing, no drug use, no smoking," he said. "It's pretty much a nice, 80's-style comedy.

"A lot of the films we work on are

horror films, they're R-rated," Lynch said. "We wanted to fill a niche that's being overlooked.

"You know, I have kids, and a lot of the people [who] work on it have kids, and we wanted a film we could watch with our kids."

Stawicki agrees, and said he looks forward to being able to watch the film with his own children.

He said he's also looking forward to expanding his film credentials.

"I've got a little bit of movie experience, not with anything this high-budget of course. I've done some work for small, short films, and I've made a few of my own short films and music videos while I was in film school.

"So I'm excited to see everybody in action, not just about doing my part for the film, but also seeing all the other members of the cast and crew doing their jobs."

Lynch said he's hoping the school will continue to be supportive of the film.

"We're going to be shooting lots of different locations around the school because this is our mental asylum.

"We'll be shooting about 10 days out here at the school."

For updates to this story, visit the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

FIREWORKS, FOOD, CAR SHOWS, PARADES ALL PART OF ENTERTAINMENT

July Fourth celebrated all across the state

- **BETHANY’S FREEDOM FESTIVAL**
The Festival takes place July 4 beginning at 9:30 a.m. with a car show. A parade starts at 10 a.m. followed by all-day live entertainment. Fireworks start at 9:55 p.m. The Centennial Freedom Festival takes place at Eldon Lyon Park, the park is located just south of NW 39th Expressway between Council and Rockwell. Parking is available on the north end of the park on NW 39th Expressway.
- **BRICKTOWN’S RED WHITE AND BOOM**
Begins July 3 in Bricktown at the Coca-Cola Bricktown Events Center. All concerts are free admission beginning with the OKC Philharmonic playing “Patriotic Pops” followed by a fireworks display. On the 4th the fireworks extravaganza will commence at roughly 10 p.m., immediately following the RedHawks game.
- **EDMOND’S LIBERTYFEST**
Begins June 25 and continues through July 4. Highlights each day include car shows, concerts and food festivals with a fireworks presentation at 10 p.m. July 4. The festivities are held in downtown

- Edmond from Broadway Extension to Edmond road, the best view of fireworks is from the UCO campus.
- **MIDWEST CITY’S JULY 4TH EVENT**
Midwest City’s event is held on July 4, with music from 6 to 10 p.m. The fireworks begin shortly after. Midwest City’s July 4 event is held at Joe B. Barnes Regional Park, located near Reno Avenue and Midwest Boulevard.
 - **MOORE’S ART IN THE PARK: A CELEBRATION IN THE HEARTLAND**
The City of Moore will host Art in the Park, from noon to 10 p.m. July 3 and July 4 at Buck Thomas Park, located just east of Eastern Avenue on 12th Street. The two-day event will feature a truck and bike show, a variety of arts and crafts, food, entertainment, and a carnival. Musical entertainment will include Bad Monkey at 7 p.m. July 3 and Johnny Lee and his Urban Cowboy Band at 7 p.m. July 4. For more information, visit www.cityofmoore.com/community/art_in_the_park.

- **36TH ANNUAL NORMAN DAY FESTIVAL**
The City of Norman will host the 36th annual Norman Day Fourth of July Celebration Monday, July 4, at Reaves Park on Jenkins Ave. Activities including moon bounces, a baby crawl, pony rides, free watermelon and food booths. Giveaways begin at 4 p.m. There will be live music from Full Circle from 5 to 7 p.m. followed by Mama Sweet from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The fireworks start at 9:45 p.m. For more information, contact the City of Norman Parks and Recreation at 405-366-5472.
- **YUKON’S FREEDOM FEST**
Beginning July 3 there will be a family triathlon, car shows, children’s carnival, and a sand volleyball tournament. The fireworks will be on both the July 3 and 4 starting at 10 p.m. The events take place in two spots in Yukon. Concerts are at the gazebo in Chisholm Trail Park (500 W Vandament) while the July 4 outdoor events are at Yukon City Park (2200 S Holly).
—For more information, visit www.visitok.com or contact your local city office.

Local citizens urged to use caution with fireworks

CHRISTY JOHNSON
Staff Writer 3
staffwriter3@occc.edu

Oklahoma has banned the private use of fireworks in certain areas of the state, but for those areas where it is legal, people should still be aware of the dangers, said Mustang Fire Department Captain Mike Carroll.

Carroll said while it is legal in Mustang for private citizens to shoot off fireworks, people still need to use caution when using them.

“Please do not let small children handle fireworks alone and people should keep water near at all times, whether it be a bucket or a hose,” Carroll said.

He said Mustang is a popular hot spot for those who want to create their own fireworks fun.

“We are also encouraging people coming in from out of town who want to do their own fireworks to go behind the Community Center to Wild Horse Park,” he said.

“We want to keep folks together so if something were to happen we can keep it contained to a small area.”

Carroll said, even in the areas

“Please do not let small children handle fireworks alone.”
—CAPTAIN MIKE CARROLL
MUSTANG FIRE DEPARTMENT

where using fireworks are allowed, people should be aware there are certain time frames in which they can use them.

In Mustang those are from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. June 27 through July 3, and from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4, Carroll said.

Amber Jones, a psychology major, said she plans to take her children to Bricktown for their Independence Day celebration.

“Since my children are small, I am just going to take them downtown to see the fireworks,” Jones said. “I feel it’s much safer that way.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave the fireworks displays to trained professionals.

For more information on areas that allows personal fireworks and allowed times of use, contact your local fire department or police station.

Independence document founder wanted holiday celebrated July 2

Independence Day, also known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday that celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, by the Second Continental Congress.

The document was drafted largely by Thomas Jefferson, with the help of four other men, as a means to formally justify separation from Britain. Although July 4 was the day the document was adopted, the legal separation of the 13 colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve the resolution proposed earlier in June of 1776 by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia.

On July 8, 1776, the declaration was read in public for the first time in Philadelphia. Upon completion, the crowd reacted positively by shooting muskets, starting bonfires, playing music and setting off fireworks. This celebration was — oddly enough — behavior adopted from the King’s birthday celebration in Great Britain. This would soon become the custom for Fourth of July celebrations across the nation.

The first actual Fourth of July Celebration was celebrated July 4, 1777, in Philadelphia. Congress did not adopt the fourth as a national holiday until 1870. With the Revolutionary War still ongoing, in 1778 and 1781, George Washington issued double rations of rum to his troops on July 4 to celebrate the anniversary. In 1941 Congress expanded on the holiday by allowing federal employees holiday pay.

John Adams, a member of the five-man committee that drafted the declaration, believed July 2 should in fact be the day our nation celebrated its independence, as written in a letter to his wife, and would reportedly turn down invitations to celebrations as a means of protest. Adams and Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, 50 years after adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

—www.history.com



SPORTS

Round the bases



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Undecided major Steven Plumlee plays kickball at the OCCC soccer field on the south side of the campus June 10 during a kickball game. The game was coordinated by Christ Community Church of OKC service learning and hosted by OCCC Student Life.

SPORTS | Youth camp building tomorrow's leaders

Teens reach out to community

SEAN M. TOLBERT
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

The aim of OCCC's Teen Xtreme summer camp and volunteer program is to build character and foster youth involvement in the community, said Sports and Recreational Specialist Eric Watson.

Camp Supervisor Lisa Barnum said with activities ranging from interpersonal development to traveling to locations such as a local animal rescue, as well as a Stillwater-based retirement center, the camp is an attempt at developing teens into future leaders.

The students, ranging in ages from 12 to 15 years old, also act as junior camp counselors for other summer camps that are hosted by the college, she said. They also are given the opportunity to act as youth leaders and develop their organizational skills.

"It's an attempt at fostering leadership at a young age and contributing

to [the student's] overall character development."

The chance to mentor younger campers and take a leadership role is what resonated most with 12-year-old Zachary Mayes of Moore.

"I like it because you meet new people every week and help out with the little kids," he said.

Taking off-campus trips have been a rewarding experience for students like 12-year-olds Matthew Searle and Mason Williams of Mustang.

"It's not just the fun of going places but you also have a lot of fun while you're helping people," Searle said.

"You get a really good feeling after you've done something good."

Williams said the experiences that students get to share with the people they meet make the camp something to look forward to.

"The birthday party at the nursing home was awesome because we were around 80-year-olds who were singing Soulja Boy with us," he said.

Williams said he was surprised by the level of enthusiasm the residents had.

"They already knew some of the words to the song," he said.

Grace Living Center Activity Director Cecilia Perich said the residents all enjoyed spending time with the teens.

"They were all just so energetic," she said.

"If you ever needed a high-energy group that is a lot of fun, then they are the group to have."

Businesses interested in having the camp visit can contact Barnum through e-mail at tor2galover@yahoo.com.

Teen Xtreme is open weekly and classes run through August 5. There is a maximum capacity of 15 students per session so early enrollment is recommended. Parents may either enroll at the Recreation and Fitness Center Office, enroll online at www.occc.edu/rf, or by calling 405-682-7860.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **June 27 - July 1:** Basketball girls ages 9 to 11 and 12 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **June 27 - July 1:** Track and Field ages 9 to 11 and 12 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **July 11 - 15:** Karate ages 6 to 11 and 12 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **July 11 - 15:** Swimming ages 9 to 11 and 12 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **July 18 - 22:** Volleyball ages 8 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **July 18 - 22:** Soccer ages 6 to 11 and 12 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **July 25 - 29:** Cheer and Dance age 6 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **July 25 - 29:** Flag Football ages 6 to 11 and 12 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **August 1 - 5:** Multi-Sport ages 6 to 11 and 12 to 14, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Have sports news you wish to share?
e-mail Sean at sportswriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676

OCCC SAFETY AND SECURITY RESPONDS TO REPORTS

Library reports visitor looking at porn

JEREMY CLOUD

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC Security officers have responded again to inappropriate computer usage in the library.

On June 8, Officer Jacob Roby took a report of someone viewing pornographic material in the library.

Library staff pointed the person out and Roby confirmed he was viewing explicit material, accord-

ing to a report filed.

When Roby confronted the individual, listed in the report as Albert Red Hat, 30, the man closed the browser window showing the material.

When Red Hat showed his ID, it was discovered he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Oklahoma City Police arrived and took him into custody.

Red Hat could not be reached for comment.

On June 12, Officer Jeffrey Porter was on routine patrol at the Capitol Hill Center, according to a re-

port, when he discovered graffiti near the front door. Graffiti also was found "on a light pole on the corner of the intersection."

Pictures were taken and filed with the incident report.

"The graffiti on the traffic light pole appears to be older than what is on the wall of the building," Porter said in his report. "But photos [were taken] just in case."

No other vandalism was found.

Capacity: Officials look at future space for increased enrollment

Continued from page 1

student population.

"Now the downturn in the economy, which we did not predict and no one anticipated, caused our enrollment to shoot up much more than anticipated."

Sechrist said the college is likely reaching capacity, although, he said, college officials could probably look at managing classrooms more effectively.

"After we get the theater up and running, you will probably see in the master

plan some new academic building that will be classrooms."

Sechrist speculated that the old Child Development building could be renovated in the future to house some of the administrative offices from the main buildings, opening up more space for classrooms.

Future expansion plans are a moot point, though, if OCCC can't find the money to hire more quality instructors to fill those positions.

"Last fall, we were at capacity," Aquino

said.

"There were no more adjunct faculty. We had completely tapped out the supply of adjunct faculty, especially during the day."

"Most of the students want to take courses between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.," Harvey said.

"That is typically... how a college can meet new enrollment gains," Aquino said, "is through hiring adjuncts, but we're tapped out."

"Many of our adjuncts have full-time

jobs and teach," Harvey said.

"When students want to take courses between 10 and 2 o'clock, but the adjuncts are only available at night, it creates some issues."

"Really, at our existing level for fall and spring, we're close to capacity," Harvey said.

Aquino is inclined to agree.

"[Enrollment] can't increase.

"It will be maintained, but we cannot take more students than we did last fall," Aquino said.

Bids: Theater construction to start soon

Continued from page 1

The eight contractors present at the event submitted primary bids, plus 23 alternate bids on the project, Joyce said.

All of the contractors are based in the local area, Messer said.

Bid participant Wynn Construction Company has completed several other projects at OCCC — including the Health Professions Center and the Visual and Performing Arts

Center.

"Our job is to go out there and bid the jobs that look interesting to us," said Tyler Bahner, office manager at Wynn Construction Company. Bahner said this project fit the profile they look for.

Joyce said the existing Visual and Performing Arts Center is intended to be open during the construction period.

He did add, however, that some classes may need to be relocated temporarily while

dangerous operations are taking place at the facility.

In addition to Wynn, other bidders were Atlas General Contractors, Boldt Construction, Downey Contracting, Lippert Brothers, Manhattan Construction, Timberlake, and WL McNatt, according to the bid tabulation report.

The existing VPAC structure was built in a U shape to allow the theater to sit in the middle and connect to the back of the existing structure, Messer said.

The 1,000-seat theater project includes a curvature design extending out past the two wings of the existing building.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Do you have news
you'd like to share?
Maybe you know of an OCCC
student worthy of a mention?
If so, contact Holly at
editor@occc.edu
or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675.



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www.ppfa.org/ppfa

Planned Parenthood
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CAMPUS COMMUNITY



ROBERT BOLTON/PIONEER

OCCC employees pose for a class picture after completing training for the Campus Emergency Response Training Team. Thirteen workers took part in the federal-sponsored program. Those included, from left to right: Gina Perry, Pam Simonds, Brandon Isaak, Michael Barber, Virgil Teter, Cynthia Gary and Sheri Kingsbury.

COMMUNITY | Sixteen employees trained for emergency management

Employees on the ready for disaster

ROBERT BOLTON
Online Writer
onlinewriter@occc.edu

OCCC recently trained 16 employees to be ready for disaster.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security sponsored the Campus Emergency Response Team training June 1 through 3.

Participation was completely voluntary for the training, though participants had to be chosen to take the class.

"We chose certain positions around campus to be floor captains, and asked if they wanted to take the classes," said Emergency Planning and Risk Management Director Lisa Teel.

The goal of the class was to prepare people for emergencies, she said.

Many times, Teel said, if there is a catastrophic disaster, first responders might not get there immediately.

"We wanted to make sure that we were self-reliant; to have people trained so they could help out immediately," Teel said.

"You need to be able to rely on yourself."

Those who opted to take the course were trained in how to respond to catastrophic emergencies.

Training included basic emergency awareness skills, search and rescue, triage, first aid, cribbing and shoring, and learning how to put out fires both inside and outside

"It was very informative. I'm looking forward to more training."

—SHERI KINGSBURY
OCCC FINANCE EMPLOYEE

of a building.

The CERT checklist for search and rescue is a nine-step process, Teel said. She said it includes fact gathering, damage assessment, considering probabilities, situation assessment, establishment of priorities, decision making, plan development, action, and

progress evaluation.

Participants received a backpack with emergency supplies.

OCCC Finance employee Sheri Kingsbury said she enjoyed the course.

"It was very informative," Kingsbury said. "I'm looking forward to more training,"

Contents of the backpack included:

Reflective vests with names on them
Leather gloves • Hard hats and goggles
Flashlights • Whistle and compass
Duct tape • Marker • All purpose axe
Note pad • Water bottles
First aid kit • Space blankets

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

OCCC Foundation Scholarship

The Chesapeake scholarship is available for the Fall semester. The scholarship is for \$500/semester, with applications due June 30. Applications are available from the OCCC Foundation office in 1A4 in the Arts & Humanities building. For more information, contact Jennifer Harrison at jharrison@occc.edu or 405-682-7591.

Job Search Workshop

Student Employment and Career Services are having power workshops located on the first floor of the Main Building in room 1G7. June 30: Career Exploration (Discover). July 7: Applying for Jobs on and off Campus. For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519 or e-mail employmentservices@occc.edu.

Flow Art Exhibit

The Flow exhibit will be on display from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 17 to Aug. 11. Admission is free. The exhibit is located in the Visual and Performing Arts Center in The Gallery. For more information, contact the OCCC Cultural Programs office at 405-685-7576.

Tuition Fee Waiver

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the fall 2011 semester are now available in the Financial Aid office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. July 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Limited edition wakeboard, still pack-

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Employment and Career
Power Workshops

Location:
Student Employment & Career Services
Room 1G7 — Main Building — 1st Floor

Thursdays 12:30 p.m.–1 p.m.

June 09 – Job Search Strategies (Websites)
June 16 – Resume Creation
June 23 – Cover/Application Letter Creation
June 30 – Career Exploration (DISCOVER)

July 07 – Applying for Jobs on & off Campus
July 14 – Internships (Greater Grads)
July 21 – Optimal Interviewing
July 28 – Professional Dress for Interviewing

For more information call 405.682.7519 or email employmentservices@occc.edu

TODAY'S
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

65 Bean —: tofu
66 Dash
67 Frostier
68 Brink
69 King's address
70 Ridge
71 Bambi, e.g.
72 Mounts (gems)
73 Ejects from power

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

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

MIRAGE PEA OPTS
ISABEL REV BAIL
SHEENS ERE ONTO
TRAFFICLIGHT
PLATE LEE ESSES
SOME OAR SAT
HOUDINI YAK TUG
ANS SIR OPE ONA
WYE SOS UPDRAFT
SUN BAY ODIE
ERNIE AIL FASTS
THUNDERCLOUD
HIDE AGE REMOTE
ANEW SUP CLAWED
NOISY YES ASPENS

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29 Writer Murdoch
31 Edible grains
34 Jules Verne's captain
36 Coffee containers
37 Retainers
38 Bill of —: menu
39 Beer: slang
41 Quick kiss
43 "Hi!"
46 Parvenu
49 School period
51 Alloy used for magnets
52 Ran
53 Avoid adroitly
54 Flat-bottomed boat
55 Beneath
57 Sea eagles
60 Nastase of the courts
61 Light tan
62 Fibs
63 For fear that
64 Music and sculpture

JOIN THE PIONEER
SCAVENGER HUNT!

In each issue through July 22, readers will be given clues to a location at OCCC. Solve the clue, take a picture of yourself at the location and upload it to our Facebook at www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer. The first three participants to solve the clues and upload photos of all five locations will win a prize!

THIS WEEK'S CLUES:

1. I have 8 lanes and am 50 meters long, but I'm not a street.
2. I'm to you what a bathtub is to a Rubber Ducky.

PIONEER
SCAVENGER HUNT

SMOKING BAN GOES INTO EFFECT AUG. 1

OCCC ready to help employees kick habit

SARAH HUSSAIN

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

Starting Aug. 1, OCCC will be the 17th Oklahoma college or university to go tobacco free.

Because of that, the college is working with the Oklahoma City-County Health Department to provide smoking cessation classes this summer and into October for employees.

Cessation classes for students will be offered in the fall.

Professional Development Director Penny Hampton went through training with the American Lung Association in March and will teach the

classes for employees.

"It's eight sessions," Hampton said. "But you do it in seven weeks."

Hampton said the classes are divided into eight sessions that are completed in seven weeks.

"The first four are preparing the individual to quit," she said. "... The fourth session is called quit day and then you have a follow-up session a couple of days later to check-in with everybody."

"Then the rest of [the sessions] are once a week. That's why [there are] eight sessions but only seven weeks."

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner is part of the Tobacco Task Force on campus.

She said she hopes employees and students alike take an active role in making the transition easier on themselves.

"My greatest concern is for those individuals who are not ready or who do not want to quit because, with them, it's going to be a matter of helping them track their usage and schedule around it, so that's going to be a very personal kind of thing."

Turner and Student Life Director Erin Logan also have taken the ALA training.

Once the fall semester starts, Turner said, cessation classes will be offered to students.

"Because we're constantly getting new students in, it was decided that the fall would be the best time for us to begin our student campaign," Turner said.

"What will probably happen is there will be an initial cost for the materials and once the student completes (the course), we refund that or credit it toward a class."

"I do encourage individuals who want to quit to contact 1-800-QUITNOW, get smoking cessation products, get a stop coach, all of those kinds of things."

She said OCCC's goal in going tobacco free is to support the community in becoming



cleaner which "will benefit many."

For more information, contact Turner at mturner@occc.edu or 405-682-7544, or Logan at elogan@occc.edu.



Hundreds of children have been injured or have died because of dangerous power windows in vehicles. The average power window has the power to cut a cucumber or a carrot or a grapefruit in two. And, today, too many cars on the road have "rocker" or "toggle" switches that are too easy to push and windows that do not automatically reverse when encountering resistance. A child in a car, with their head out of the window, a knee inadvertently pushing the switch, is a disaster in the making.

The message to parents is clear: Never, ever leave a child alone in a car. Not for one minute. The message to auto manufacturers is also clear: Every single car should have the safer switches that must be pulled up to raise the car window. And, just as garage doors, every car should come with "auto-reverse" mechanisms on all power windows. Power windows have the power to kill.

Never ever leave a child alone in a car alone. Not for one minute.

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