

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

NO EXCUSE FOR INEQUALITY

Priscilla Colley says all humans have the same rights when it comes to pursuing happiness, and naysayers need to get over it. Read her thoughts.

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CAMPUS LIFE

COLLEGE FOR KIDS, FILM INSTITUTE IN FULL SWING

Summer at OCCC is hopping with kids theater and film students honing their craft. Find out how to get involved and what is offered.

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RECREATION

SUMMER FITNESS PASS AVAILABLE

There's still time to get in shape or ramp up your physique this summer. The college offers an affordable way to get involved in a variety of classes.

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CAMPUS LIFE

PROFESSOR FINDS JOY IN GARDENING

Inspired by First Lady Michelle Obama, one OCCC professor is growing a garden that is catching the eye of all passersby.

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PIONEER

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Program helps with completing degree

Reach Higher geared for busy adults who have some college

SEAN M. TOLBERT

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Returning to school after a long absence can be daunting and raise several questions — especially for those needing a degree to secure that lucrative promotion or get a better job. OCCC has stepped up to help through its Reach Higher degree-completion program.

Reach Higher is for adults who “have already earned some college credit and want to finish their degrees,” according to the college’s website.

The program offers flexibility through a variety of classes for those who have busy lifestyles that prevent them from pursuing a degree in the traditional manner, the site states.

Jon Horinek, Recruitment and Admissions director, said, today, it’s more important than ever to have a degree.

“These are the days when a college degree is the key to getting yourself promoted or becoming qualified to secure a new job,” Horinek said.

Eye of the beholder



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Student Jonathan Gardocki reflects on Nahum Tschachbasov’s “Isle of Birth,” an oil-on-canvas painting on loan from the Sheldon Museum of Art in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This and more is part of the “Flow” exhibit currently on display at the Visual and Performing Arts Center that runs through Aug. 11.

“Many students can return to college with a number of varying or specialized credits — some from multiple institutions — and that may leave them unsure as to whether or not they are all viable in the pursuit of a degree.

He said that’s where the Reach Higher program can help.

“We can look at their transcripts and see whether or not they would be able to take classes and qualify for a customized degree through the program or if they would

qualify for a Liberal Studies degree,” he said.

“In reality, many students are much closer to a college degree than they think.”

Student Development Dean Liz Largent said the Recruitment and Admissions Department is emphasizing the Reach Higher program to prospective students with “Make it Mondays,” a two-month program designed to meet the needs of working adults whose schedules may not allow them to visit

See **REACH HIGHER** page 9

OCCC REGENTS COMMISSION FITZPATRICK AT JUNE 20 MEETING

College police chief officially named

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER

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At the OCCC Board of Regents meeting June 20, James Fitzpatrick was officially commissioned in the role as Chief of Police of OCCC’s Campus Police Department.

Fitzpatrick was actually hired at OCCC last December but this made

his title official.

“I was hired into a job classification of chief of police,” he said. “I was still in some aspects ... Coordinating Director of Safety and Security, but my title was Chief of Police.”

Fitzpatrick was the first member of the new campus police department to be commissioned by the board.

The announcement that OCCC would switch from a campus se-

curity office to a police department was made last August. Since that time, Fitzpatrick said, the area has been undergoing changes.

“The process of actually hiring patrol officers for the department is under way now,” he said.

Fitzpatrick said he expects the transition from security force to full-fledged police department to



James Fitzpatrick

See **CHIEF** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Personal convictions have no place in politics

Equal opportunity and rights for all

Certain political hot-button issues are unavoidable not only in politics but popular culture in general, creating deep running divisions between sides.

One such topic is gay marriage — in particular, New York legalizing gay marriage.



Priscilla Colley

The battle for New York waged on, laden with closed discussions and the promise of a conclusive decision.

Whichever way, it is demoralizing for one side and a victorious leap for the other.

Since New York legalized gay marriage, it is the sixth and easily the most influential state to join the cause.

Frankly, the fact that it's such an issue is insulting to our U.S.

Constitution. It is the height of hubris to think one has the right to tell another what they can or can't pursue in their own pursuit of happiness.

It is not the place of any human to attack or condemn another's way of living.

Every breathing person is entitled to his or her perspective. It is only logical to live by your own standards and moral code. It's also one's prerogative

to believe homosexuality is wrong just as it's one's prerogative to live a homosexual lifestyle.

What is nobody's right is to legislate personal, moral agendas and impose those convictions on others.

Unfortunately we live within the bounds of human nature and it is our nature to judge what is different and reject someone's "other-ness," exemplified by David Tyree, former New York Giants football player, who in a CNN interview spewed controversial bigotry, "If they pass this gay marriage bill ... it will be the beginning of our country sliding to anarchy. It will eventually lead to lawlessness."

A statement such as this only highlights ignorance. Realistically, it's time to step back and re-examine our political and moral tirades.

What actual damage will be done to someone's heterosexual relationship if a homosexual couple has a marriage license?

It's hard to see what the fear is here. Are we afraid if we legalize it, everyone is going to "catch the gay?" Maybe it will spread like wildfire or be like the black plague, infecting all society and destroying life as we know it, leaving civilization on its knees at the mercy of the homosexual community.

Blatantly put, as a whole, it's all absurd.

Religious and personal convictions aside, it should



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

be the pursuit and hope of all society that everyone has equal opportunity and rights — mainly because no one wants to be on the other side of inequality.

—PRISCILLA COLLEY
STAFF WRITER

YOUR VOICE | Drought could continue through September, according to latest data

No end in sight to Oklahoma's dry summer, drought

To the Editor:

The extraordinary heat and wind during June has taken its toll on the western half of Oklahoma, allowing the drought that began last fall to intensify and spread.

Exceptional drought, the worst such designation in the Drought Monitor's intensity scale, increased in coverage from 10 percent of the state last week to 33 percent this week. In ad-

dition, extreme to severe drought has shifted back to the east.

The state has missed a substantial amount of its normal rainfall. According to data from the Oklahoma Mesonet, the May 24 to June 22 statewide average rainfall total was 1.24 inches, a deficit of 3.23 inches and the driest such period in Oklahoma dating back to 1921. Southwestern and south central Okla-

homa suffered through similar rankings, receiving a scant 12 percent of normal rainfall over that period.

The tremendous early summer heat accelerated the drought's eastward progress. The statewide average temperature for the month thus far stands at 82.7 degrees. High temperatures across the state averaged 95.7 degrees through the 22nd, 8.6 degrees above normal.

The Oklahoma Mesonet station at Grandfield has recorded a high temperature of at least 100 degrees 20 times during June.

The drought's impacts have been enormous, especially in western Oklahoma where damage to this year's winter wheat crop was widespread. Fire danger, which normally subsides in early spring as vegetation greens up, has continued through spring unabated.

Damage to the state's cotton crop in southern Oklahoma is continuing as those plants begin their growth cycle in desperate need of moisture. Livestock operations have been particularly hard hit due to the loss of stock ponds and feed.

Very little relief is in sight as summer continues. The latest outlooks from the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center

call for increased chances of warmer- and drier-than-normal conditions through July. The latest U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook sees persistence or intensification of drought through September for the western half of the state.

—GARY MC MANUS
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PIONEER

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The **PIONEER** welcomes **letters** to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The **PIONEER** will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing. The **PIONEER** has

the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the **PIONEER** office, located 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

REVIEWS | New gaming system delivers promised 3-D experience

3DS soars, 'Street Fighter' sinks

I recently played "Super Street Fighter IV" on the new Nintendo 3DS system, and I noticed several things about the experience.

First and foremost, the 3-D was astounding, though if you move the system from side to side, it has the effect of one of those holographic stickers.

The second thing I noticed was that "Super Street Fighter IV" can be insanely difficult or ridiculously easy depending on the difficulty and the setting.

You can either have your good combos at your fingertips or have to manually input them.

It's unfortunate that I'm a purist when it comes to "Street Fighter" games, because I suck at them.

For this new game, I suggest you only try it if you're good at fighting games. It's that unforgiving.

As for the 3DS, the graphics are incredible.

The characters look as realistic as over-muscled and extremely powerful video game characters can be.

Overall, the 3DS seems to be worth the high bill of roughly \$250.

You can still get all the nifty apps from the Nintendo store that were created for the previous DSi model.

Fair warning though: Do not use cheat devices on the 3DS.



The console will keep track of it, and Nintendo will cut the system off from the Nintendo network, completely screwing over updates in the future.

It's just not worth it.

Super Street Fighter IV: C
Nintendo 3DS: A

—**ROBERT BOLTON**
ONLINE WRITER

REVIEWS | Stephanie Plum returns in new novel

Evanovich delivers a smokin' sequel

Stephanie Plum, bounty hunter non-extraordinaire, blasts back onto the scene in Janet Evanovich's "Smokin' Seventeen."

Stephanie is in for more trouble than ever when it comes to her romances in this latest book.

Unable to decide between the sexy, hard cop Joseph Morelli and even hotter professional bad boy Ranger, what will happen when high school football player gone soft, Dave Brewer, is added to the mix?

Between lust spells placed on her by Morelli's crazy Italian grandmother Bella and her own family's attempts at matchmaking, Stephanie is farther than ever from making a choice about who's "the one."

And that's aside from all the zany happenings as Stephanie, along



with her sometimes-loyal sidekick Lula, chases a fugitive vampire, a Russian drunk with a dancing bear named Bruce, and more.

But, more importantly, Stephanie has a killer after her.

Again.

Actually, there are three of them.

Bodies start turning up and Morelli and the police scramble to find a connection, especially when the killer starts

addressing the bodies to Stephanie.

On top of all that action, a ghost from the past returns to haunt Stephanie. And a crazy ex-wife with a Lexus rounds it all out.

Memorable characters that would drive any one of us nuts if related to us make the story fly by with humor.

Lula is a cheeky favorite, but can never compete with the infamous Grandma Mazur. She's sorely lacking in scenes, as compared to previous books.

This time, though, Stephanie seems more apt to realize just how crazy her life is.

Unfortunately, that doesn't forgive that the storyline is completely unrealistic.

It's just inconceivable how Stephanie manages

to get herself into these situations time and time and, yes, time again.

If you can get past that and just enjoy the crazy plot as it comes, then this is a great book.

Comedy abounds, there's a little, well, not romance exactly, but some semblance to it with Ranger, and there's even some suspense.

And Stephanie handles it all like a champ.

The book is easily enough read even if you haven't read any of the prior novels. But you may find yourself backtracking just to hear more about Grandma Mazur's crazy antics.

"Smokin' Seventeen" retails for about \$15 at your local book retailer.

Rating: A

—**HOLLY DAVIS**
WALKER
EDITOR

COUNSELOR'S Corner

When faced with adversity, be a butterfly

Butterflies appear to be among the most fragile and delicate creatures on earth.

Yet, some species are strong enough to migrate thousands of miles each year to find warmer climates.

The life cycle of a butterfly is also interesting.

Butterfly eggs hatch into little caterpillars that eat everything in sight for about two weeks until they are ready to encase themselves in cocoons and transform into butterflies.

Emerging from these cocoons is a slow and strenuous process for the butterfly.

It works hard to force its wings to unfold through the tiny opening from which it will escape.

At that moment, it will unfurl its wings and allow them to dry and set so that it can float gracefully in the breeze.

The adversity and strife that the butterfly must go through is a necessary part of its life cycle.

Without the force exerted on the wings by the chrysalis, the wings would not get enough blood flow and thus, would not form properly.

The butterfly would then be a hapless meal for any predator that happened by.

Adversity can be just as powerful and important in our lives, too.

As much as we don't like to suffer, experiencing difficult situations helps us develop coping strategies that can help us endure the ups and downs of life.

If we're never tested, we never know what we're capable of.

Worse, we are ill prepared for those life events that may metaphorically cripple our wings and threaten our well-being.

As you move through your academic endeavors, I encourage you to meet challenges head on.

Difficult classes don't have to equal defeat. Make up your mind to master the knowledge and skills presented in the class.

If you need guidance and support, come see us in Student Support Services, (located on the first floor of the Main Building, near Student Life. Counselors are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.)

In addition, you can call Student Support visit www.occc.edu/support, or call 405-682-7520.

—**MARY TURNER**
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

'RED EAGLE' ROBBINS SENDS IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO NATIVE YOUTH

Native American student has grand future

SARAH HUSSAIN

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Jesse "Red Eagle" Robbins, 25, is an OCCC student who will transfer to the University of Oklahoma next spring to study Native American Studies.

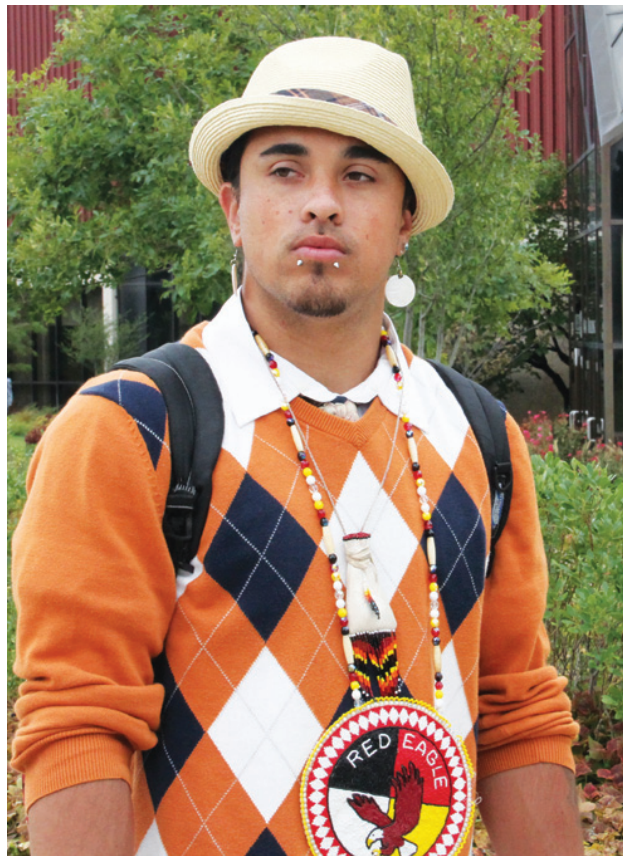
With his degree he plans to go into the culture preservation department with his Choctaw Nation tribe.

So, how is Robbins different from any other student with aspirations?

Seven years ago, he was as far away from college as a person can get.

At 18, Robbins said he was arrested for dealing drugs when he was in a gang and charged with a felony.

"I was looking for a clan, a warrior society," he said. "I thought I found it in the gang, but through my growth and



Jesse "Red Eagle" Robbins

transcendence above that brought on by my tribal identity, I started going to ceremonies, started learning what

"I was looking for a clan, a warrior society. I thought I found it in the gang ..."

—JESSE ROBBINS
OCCC STUDENT

it truly was."

Robbins said he will be the first college graduate in his family.

"The only person in my family to ever graduate high school was my dad," he said.

"He never pressured me to do anything. I just saw what he did with it, I liked how he talked and how intelligent he was."

Robbins said, these days, he uses his talents to keep others from making the same mistakes he made early on.

He is part of the group Native Nation, with a fellow Choctaw hip hop artist Chris Taylor and Anthony "DJ Pyro" Mnic'opa, a Dakota/Seminole.

"I learned about storytelling and our ceremonial songs," he said.

"Through that, I started seeing that our native youth weren't that attracted

to the old ways. They looked at it as corny or something that the elders did and not them.

"I learned I could trick the kids into understanding how amazing our culture is. I put the elders'

message into the youth form.

"By learning my tribal identity, I saw the songs and storytelling went with that. I used that to elevate myself and now I am trying to elevate the youth above assimilation and conformity ...

"At my shows there will be kids that come up to me and I can see the spark in their eyes to change. That's what I hope they use.

"Even for me to give them four minutes of a different idea, a different way out, it allows them to think a little differently, give them a different perspective," Robbins said.

Robbins said his father has to be his biggest influence.

"Through time, I grew and matured enough to see he was a good person. He always stood by me, he never judged me. He just showed me alternatives and eventually — luckily — I woke up."

NATIVE AMERICAN CLASS AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR YEARS

New literature class offered for fall semester

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER

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Students this fall will have the opportunity to take Native American Literature, a course that hasn't been offered at OCCC in four years, said Michael Snyder, English professor.

The class will focus mostly on twentieth century Native American prose, but there also will be some poetry, Snyder said.

"Poems will actually correspond with the novels or prose text that we use," he said.

"For example, we're reading one book that's kind of unconventional for a Native American literature class."

"Stallion Gate" by Martin Cruz Smith, a historical thriller, looks at the effects in New Mexico of the atomic research and testing done there, and how it affected the Navajo Indians and other tribal people that lived there, as well as the landscape, Snyder said. The book

"Native American literature and culture is a specialty of mine."

—MICHAEL SNYDER
OCCC ENGLISH PROFESSOR

engages history and Native American tradition.

He said poetry by Simon Ortiz, a famous pueblo poet and writer, will tie in thematically with "Stallion Gate."

The Ortiz poems will be read in conjunction with the Smith text to look at different perspectives of resistance against that technological research, Snyder said.

This will be the first Native American literature course Snyder has taught, although he said he has used Native American texts in other courses he's taught at the University of Oklahoma as a lecturer.

"I got to teach a lot of literature and I would sneak in or work in Native American texts," Snyder said, "but this

is my first time that I've had an opportunity to teach an entire class. I'm very excited about it."

When Snyder realized the class had been offered at OCCC in the past, he presented a case to Arts and Humanities Dean Susan VanSchuyver.

"Native American literature and culture is a specialty of mine," Snyder said.

"I have several publications in this area so I asked them if there was any chance I could teach this class."

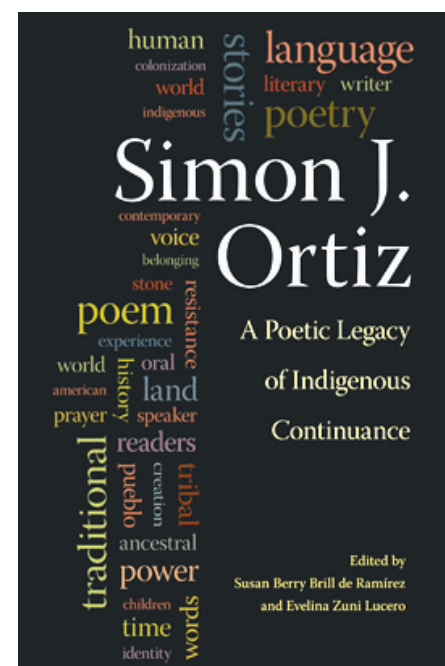
Snyder said although it is a 2000-level course, it is open to any student.

English Composition I is the only prerequisite, he said, and the course satisfies a humanities requirement, according to the college catalog.

Snyder said he hopes students will develop new ideas about Native Americans during his course.

"There's so many stereotypes and perceived ideas out there," he said.

"I think this could be a gateway ex-



perience for a lot of people where they might get deeper in this."

For more information about this course, e-mail Snyder at msnyder@occc.edu.

DEE DYMOND ONE OF TOP THREE RADIO NAMES IN OKLAHOMA CITY MARKET

Student by day, hip hop DJ by night

CHRISTY JOHNSON
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In 2001, Oklahoma's first and only African-American radio station, KVSP Power Jammin', added a new flavor of female DJs that includes OCCC's own Dee Dymond.

Dymond is one of three of Oklahoma's first female hip hop radio DJs, working alongside top names such as Vana Lucci and Karo.

Her life is a busy one. From DJing to running a non-profit, Dymond stays on top of the game.

"I want to do all that I can to make things better for Oklahoma entertainers, while helping others in the community as well," she said.

She has worked for the

Perry Broadcasting Company for a total of five years — two at 1140 AM and three at 103.5 FM.

In a field still mainly dominated by men, Dymond stands out among many as not only a hip hop-loving DJ, but also as an all around go getter.

Dymond said she writes and consults for the Local Heat-Urban News and Entertainment Magazine.

"We bring together different affiliates of talent, including rappers, singers, producers, graphic designers, and we also do media consulting and promotions as well," she said.

Dymond also is affiliated with the Power Group, a local establishment that represents local artists such as



Dee Dymond

Kurt Dogg, Mista Cain and Tramee.

In addition, Dymond has a company called Rising Sun Consulting and Media Services.

"I specialize in offering

"I want to do all that I can to make things better for Oklahoma entertainers, while helping others in the community as well."

—DEE DYMOND
KVSP POWER JAMMIN' DJ

media services to small businesses, independents and non-profit organizations," she said.

If that weren't enough to keep Dymond busy, she said she has a hand in several other projects as well.

She and several other women run a non-profit organization called the Rare Rose Society.

"In this organization we serve the community by planning fundraisers for worthy causes such as breast

cancer awareness," Dymond said.

The Rare Rose Society recently hosted a "Think Pink-Eggs and Issues" brunch.

"I was proud to be a part of this special event," she said. "It was held at Cafe Nova to honor survivors of breast cancer."

Dymond is currently working toward a degree in Graphic Communications.

For more information, e-mail deedymond@yahoo.com.

OCCC student running for Senate seat

MIKE WORMLEY
News Writing Student

OCCC student and political science major Kenneth Meador is the only Democratic candidate running for a state senate seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Reynolds, who will resign July 1 to become Cleveland County treasurer.

Reynolds is a Republican who represents District 43, which includes southern Oklahoma County and northern Cleveland County. This special election will be for a one-year term.

Meador, 30, will face the Republican candidate who wins the primary election on Aug. 9. The general election will be Oct. 11.

Meador said his campaign will focus on the middle and working classes. Also, he said, he will work against the "attack on senior citizens" that he feels has been going on at the federal and state levels.

In 2009, after eight years of service in the U.S. Army as a combat medic and three tours in Iraq, Meador said he enrolled at OCCC at the urging of his wife.

Shortly thereafter, he became active in the student leadership by revitalizing the College Democrats, a student organization that had declined prior to Meador becoming its president.

Meador also joined The Leadership Council, OCCC's equivalent to a student council, for which he was elected to chair this fall. He is a member of



Kenneth Meador

Phi Theta Kappa honor society for two-year colleges.

In February, Meador was invited to speak at Higher Education Day at the state Capitol.

"OCCC is a place that will give you opportunities for leadership with its student organizations and great work in the community," Meador said. Despite the campaign, Meador said he does not intend to drop the 10 credit hours he is enrolled in for the fall semester, should he win.

Conversations with fellow College Democrats about Meador's character centered on leadership. "Everything about him says he's a great leader," said Jorge Krzyzaniak.

Heather Nicole Poile, College Democrats vice president, said Meador "... works crazy hard and is always doing something. We go to school and we have these dreams about a future and Kenny is reaching for those dreams now."

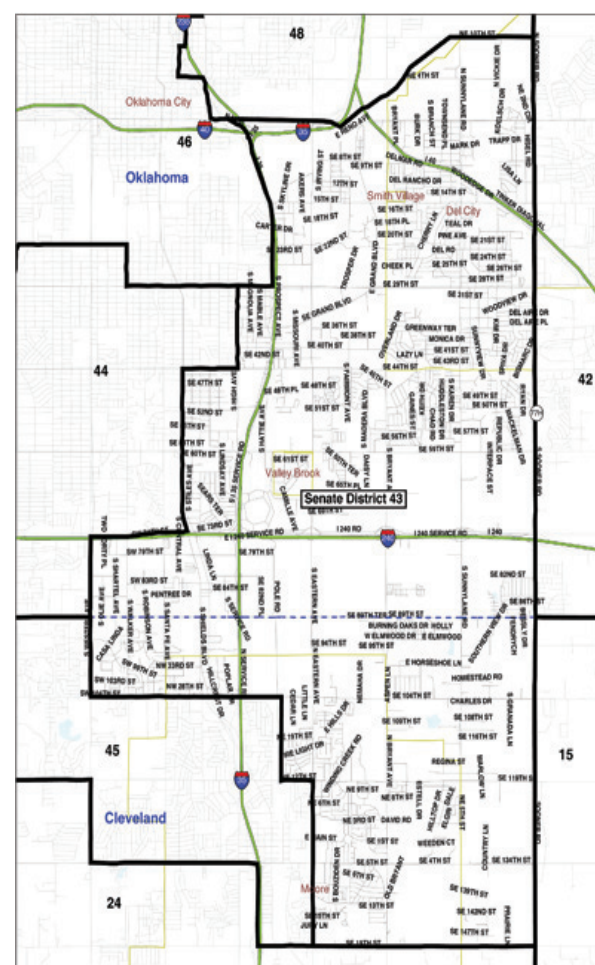
Javier Mabrey, OCCC political science major, said he supports Meador.

"He is qualified for the position, a great representative and a good voice to have in the senate," he said.

For now, District 43 is bordered by NW 10th Street and Reno Avenue on the north, SW 104th Street and SE 19th Street in the south, Sooner Road to the east and a gerrymander list of streets to the west, going no further west than Western Avenue.

The district has been redrawn and will no longer

exist in its current boundaries after the 2012 elections, according to the Oklahoma State Election Board website.



SUMMER CLINICS TEACH THE INNER WORKINGS OF MAKING A MOVIE

Film Institute focus on area of expertise

EMILY SCHORR

Staff Writer

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OCCC offers a series of clinics during the summer that brings film students in.

The Oklahoma Film Institute is led by Academy Award-winning film producer and OCCC Artist in Residence Gray Frederickson (“The Godfather” trilogy, “Apocalypse Now”).

Teaching with him is Emmy Award-winning writer/director and producer/screenwriter Greg Mellott, also chairman of the Film and Video Production program at OCCC.

Frederickson and Mellott guide students through the process of filmmaking from pre-production to script writing, directing and editing final products.

The series of clinics at one time were more like summer classes that were three weeks in length, costing \$1,500 for the entire three-week session, Frederickson said, but that has now changed to three-day clinics costing \$100 a day.

By offering more classes, students can achieve more of a focus on an area of expertise and have the opportunity to choose the class that appeals most to them, Frederickson said.

Frederickson said the students learn a lot of valuable information during the clinics.

“A student told me he learned more in three days at the OFI, than four years at the University of Texas.”

After completing the clinic, students are more compelled to enroll in credit classes with OCCC, Frederickson said.

For more information about the OFI, e-mail gfrederickson@occc.edu or gmellott@occc.edu.

“A student told me he learned more in three days at the OFI, than four years at the University of Texas.”

—GRAY FREDRICKSON
PRODUCER/ARTIST IN
RESIDENCE



Above: Oklahoma Film Institute Summer student Dane Schoelen holds his camera atop the set and waits for his cue to shoot during the directing clinic in the OCCC VPAC studio. The OFI Cinema Clinic Series which ran June 2 through 18 offered a three-part training series: Production, Script Writing, and Directing.



Above: OFI student Matt Prueitt on camera and student actor Alex Henriquez take direction on set during the Directing portion of the film clinic June 17. The Oklahoma Film Institute Cinema Series ran from June 2 through June 18.



Left: OFI student Jaylie Piatt directs on the set while Jason “Snake” Gwynn waits to slate the scene during the directing portion of the summer clinic series in the VPAC June 17.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

CLASSES RANGE FROM THEATER CAMP TO ASTRONAUT CAMP

College for Kids offers summer memories

EMILY SCHORR
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With summer here, OCCC offers College for Kids for children in grades one through eight. And, with a majority of the classes costing around \$39, it can be quite affordable.

Youngsters can enroll in a variety of classes from Jr. Astronaut and Intermediate Guitar to musical theater class.

A recent theater class performed the musical “Bugz.”

Cristi Cary Miller and Jay Ferguson, co-directors for “Bugz,” said they enjoyed the time and interaction with the kids.

“The camps are fantastic, affordable, and the kids get so much,” Ferguson said.

“It’s cheaper than daycare.”

He said the cast of “Bugz” ranged from kindergarten to fourth grade.

“The camps are fantastic, affordable, and the kids get so much. It’s cheaper than daycare.”

—JAY FERGUSON
COLLEGE FOR KIDS
MUSICAL THEATER
CLASS INSTRUCTOR

Miller said, when musical theater camp started, the kids had no experience. Now, she said, they know six songs and dances.

The campers learned about the inner workings of theater, she said, and were able to take what they were taught and put it in motion.

“It has been a great week,” Miller said.

The next Musical Theater Camp is “Godspell” which takes place July 18 through 22 and July 25 through 29.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

“Bugz” cast (front row left to right): Hailey Huang-Page, Adam Pham, Liam Corbin, Simone Pico, Ross Brady, Deacon Woodie. (Second row left to right): Cassie Coffman, Bailey Corbett, Anna Pham, Danny Park, Sierra Shaw, Ashley Willoughby. (Back row left to right): Aiden Howery, Jenny Park, Fayleen Dodd, Abigail Rogers, Gracie Woodie, Kylie Weldon, Sophia Kim.

To enroll in College for Kids, call 405-682-6222. Children also can be enrolled at the Family and Community Education Center located at 6500 S. Land Ave. in south Oklahoma City.

The final College for Kids camps of the summer will be July 25 through July 29.



Abigail Rogers unfurls her butterfly wings on stage during rehearsal for the College for Kids musical theater class June 24. The participating children performed “Bugz” in the Bruce Owen Theater June 24.



Simone Pico gets in character as “Bug MC” during rehearsal for the “Bugz” musical in the Bruce Owen Theater June 24. “Bugz” was part of the OCCC-hosted musical theater camp included in College for Kids.

SPORTS

Point of service

Psychology major Steven Tran serves a volleyball in the OCCC sports and recreation gym. The gym is free to students with a current student ID. Visit www.occc.edu/rcs for more information.



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

SPORTS | Program offers variety of classes at an affordable price

Summer fitness passes a bargain

SEAN M. TOLBERT

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC's Recreation and Fitness Center is offering students and community members an affordable way to keep in shape this summer.

Students who present a valid student ID or individuals who present a valid membership may purchase Group Fitness Passes that will allow them to participate in all group fitness classes over the entire summer semester for \$35.

OCCC Wellness Attendants Jessica Hughes and Alex Savage said the passes present an opportunity for everyone to sample various classes and see what may work for them.

"If you're only looking at one or two classes, it probably isn't going to be worth it for you," Hughes said.

"But people can enroll for the entire summer and it saves you a lot of money."

Savage said there are a wide array of activities members can take part in.

The selection of classes include body sculpting, spin classes and the highly popular Latin-dance aerobics program Zumba.

For anyone who might be looking to begin their first true work out regimen, Savage said, Zumba with its musical emphasis is a great place to start.

"Everyone likes music," he said. "Zumba is always packed. Sometimes you can barely squeeze a person in there in the evenings."

The diverse selection of classes that come with a Group Fitness Pass allows even the most casual of members to find their own niche and see what classes suit them, Savage said.

"Yoga is brutal," he said. "I could

“Yoga is brutal. I could do arm curls all day, but the constant stretching is brutal. I think I died three times that day.”

—ALEX SAVAGE

WELLNESS CENTER ATTENDANT

do arm curls all day but the constant stretching is brutal. I think I died three times that day."

Those interested in purchasing Group Fitness Passes can do so at the Wellness Desk, just outside the gymnasium.

Information on times and locations can be found in the summer camp catalog provided by the Wellness Center and posted at their website www.occc.edu/rf, by visiting the Recreation and Fitness Center Office located just inside entrance WC1 near parking lot E, or by calling 405-682-7860.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **July 7 - August 11:** Beginning Golf ages 12 and Up, 5:30 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. 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.

• **August 1 - 5:** FITKIDS Camp "Wet n Wild", ages 6 to 12, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 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**

Reach Higher: Finish the degree you started in a short time

Continued from page 1

the college during typical office hours.

Largent said there are no problems unique to a particular student age group and she encourages any one pursuing a degree to use Reach Higher to their advantage.

"All students at all ages can run into problems when entering or returning to school," she said.

"Incoming freshmen can be working

40-plus hours a week while attempting to get their degree and can also benefit from Reach Higher."

OCCC graduate Carol Jones, who earned a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership through Reach Higher, said the program made the difference in her pursuit of her degree.

"I'm 100 percent behind the pro-



gram," she said.

"Had it not been for them I might have said that it wasn't worth it."

Jones is effusive in her praise of the program and advises others who may find themselves in a similar position to use it to their advantage.

"They realize that you may have more time constraints than the typical teen-

age college student," she said.

"It would have taken about two and a half years to get my degree [without Reach Higher]; I finished mine in a year and a half."

Make it Mondays will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every Monday through July 25.

For more information, call the Recruitment and Admissions Office at 405-682-7580, e-mail Horinek at jhorinek@occc.edu or e-mail Largent at llargent@occc.edu.

Chief: It's expected to take three years to transition to police force

Continued from page 1

take three years or more.

"When we have completely transitioned into the plan, there'll be 17 commissioned personnel," he said.

Fitzpatrick said there also will be six civilian positions in the department, including dispatchers.

Currently, he said, OCCC employs 12 full-time and five part-time security officers.

Fitzpatrick said there are no plans to let go of any current security officers.

However, he said, the decision as to whether those security officers will be maintained as they are or be commissioned as police officers hasn't been made yet.

The jurisdiction of the new campus police force will include the campus and all campus facilities, including the location of the FACE Center on Land Avenue in south Oklahoma City, as well as the parts of May Avenue and SW 74th Street that adjoin campus property, he said.

Fitzpatrick said this corresponds with what the Oklahoma Campus Security Act outlines for campus police departments.

More resources also will be available to the campus police department than there were for the security force, he said.

One of those resources is the state-run CLEET training academy, available to all state law enforcement agencies.

As it stands now, Fitzpatrick

said, officers are on their own when it comes to CLEET training.

"I cannot sign up my security officers for CLEET training," Fitzpatrick said. "When they're police officers ... I can sign them up for training."

Fitzpatrick said, despite that, the department is still more likely to hire applicants who already have CLEET certification because hiring non-certified candidates would require OCCC pay them while they are enrolled in the academy.

"We posted our openings for people that already have CLEET certification," Fitzpatrick said.

"They're already working for a police department or already have worked for a sheriff's office, police department or state agency that required them to have CLEET certification and they still have it.

"So the day they come to work here ... they're already CLEET certified and can go to work.

"As the transition moves along, we may do a combination of both. It just depends."

Under the Oklahoma Campus Security Act, campus police departments make agreements with local law enforcement agencies, but Fitzpatrick said none have been made yet with the Oklahoma City Police Department. However, he said, they will be.

"There will still be a lot of

"... This campus is served by some pretty doggone good people."

—JAMES FITZPATRICK
OCCC POLICE CHIEF

interaction with the Oklahoma City Police Department," Fitzpatrick said.

"We don't have all the bells and whistles that a large police department has.

"If there's evidence, we don't have a crime lab. We don't have forensic technicians.

"Although those types of crimes rarely occur here, (if one did) we would probably yield that case over. We'd detain the individuals until Oklahoma City got here and turn that case over.

"We would not make arrests. We're not going to muddle it up for them."

There will be other instances where the campus police will make arrests, though.

Minor thefts, auto burglaries, and public intoxication cases will be the kinds of cases that the campus police force will handle, Fitzpatrick said.

With the authority to make arrests for violations of state and city laws under a fully commissioned police force, OCCC officers will be able to arrest and transport detainees to holding facilities such as the Oklahoma County Jail.

Fitzpatrick said the transition to a campus police department is an improvement of what was already established at OCCC.

"There's delineated arrest power," he said. "There's a delineated power of authority whereas it is not so clearly defined when you start talking about security officers.

"But this campus is served by some pretty doggone good people. The fact that they were not peace officers ... did not diminish the service level that they (provided)."

"I've been very impressed with their attitudes, their attentiveness, their availability."

"These individuals are used to following policies and procedures and taking care of all the ... security needs and medical needs that ... arise

on campus.

"We're (not) getting rid of some negative thing ... It's just an improvement on what they had here."

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a dog's
fault**

by TheShelterPetProject.org

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•**ONLINE
EXCLUSIVES**

**www.occc.edu/
pioneer**

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Novice green thumb

Modern Languages professor Abbie Figueroa poses for a picture beside her raised bed pepper garden. She is holding a tomato, onion, potato and cucumber she picked out of her other beds. Even in the blistering heat, she keeps her vegetables, fruit and flowers alive by watering them every day at 6 a.m.



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

COMMUNITY | Taking advice to grow and eat more locally grown produce

Prof's garden inspired by First Lady

SARAH HUSSAIN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Modern Languages professor Abbie Figueroa has been the highlight of the news recently with her successful vegetable, fruit and flower garden, growing right in in her front yard.

Figueroa said she started planting a garden late last summer that contains carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, beans, peppers, strawberries, corn, lettuce and much more.

"I'm such a novice gardener, I was just amazed at the success that we have had," Figueroa said.

She said her inspiration to start gardening came from First Lady Michelle Obama.

"She put in a vegetable garden at the White House and has been saying we should eat more locally grown produce."

When Figueroa first bought the house, there was no landscaping. She said she started growing flowers and had mixed results.

Then, she got more serious and realized if she really wanted to grow vegetables, it couldn't be in her own soil.

"I researched raised bed gardens and this book popped up — 'All New Square Foot Gardening' by Mel Bartholomew.

"It's like my Bible," she said. "I've done a lot of reading and tried to figure it all out."

Figueroa said the book details the process.

"I was just amazed at the success that we have had."

—ABBIE FIGUEROA
MODERN LANGUAGES PROFESSOR

"They're four by four squares, and you put grids on them which helps to keep everything organized," she said.

According to Figueroa's reading, the most important part of the garden is the soil mix. The soils are custom mixed, she said. It is composed of one-third compost, one-third peat moss and one-third of another ingredient that acts as the mineral.

"I actually started getting a lot of attention from people who are good at gardening.

"It's very fun to do, to watch the things grow,"

she said. "The kids have been involved in it too."

Figueroa said she chose to have the garden in her front yard because her backyard is too shady.

"I'm so glad it's there because the book says if you put your garden in the back by the fence, then you just ignore it.

"With it being in the front you can play with it, harvest it. I pulled some things from the garden today and had a salad for lunch."

She said she has thought about expanding but she would have to go into her mother's

yard, who happens to live next door.

"We have probably about as much as we need," she said. "Unfortunately, my kids are like all kids that don't eat their vegetables."

Figueroa said she would recommend this project to others. "I think this is easy to do.

"It was a little bit of work in the beginning to build the boxes ... then mixing the soil."

Figueroa said there is some investment such as lumber for the boxes and, of course, time.

"... But once it's up and

running, it's great.

"It's great water conservation, too, because you're watering right on the plants in the box and there's no excess water running off into the grass and it's very little weeding.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

New Student Orientation

Student Life is currently providing many sessions of New Student Orientation. Upcoming sections will be at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 5, at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 6, and at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 7 — all in in CU 2 and 3. To register, go on MineOnline or contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Job Search Workshop

Student Employment and Career Services is having power workshops located on the first floor of the Main Building in room 1G7. On July 7 will be "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 exhibit "Flow" 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.

EMPLOYMENT

MOM NEEDS HELP: Need

responsible, clean female to help with light housework in exchange for room and board. No babysitting. NW 122nd and Council area. Good personal references a must. Call: 405-728-1710.

MISCELLANEOUS

NEED 10 STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ROCK CLIMBING: In order to petition to start a rock /climbing club I need students, and 2 faculty or staff sponsors. Con-


tact James: 405-694-7779, or jamessepear@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged: \$200; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, \$150. 405-818-0083.

FOR SALE: This space for your business ad. Reach thousands for just \$8 a week. Call Cynthia at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674.

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 "Them" author

6 Shade of blue

9 Derrick

14 Football-shoe part

15 Montreal's prov.

16 Type of space

17 April 15 document

19 Very very

20 Toronto's prov.

21 Peruse a book

22 Fashion

23 Chief

24 Part of TGIF

25 Sailing vessel

27 Kind of pepper

31 Dart

32 Smell

34 Downpours

36 Singer McEntire

37 Pamphlet

39 Presidential prerogative

40 Lofty nest

42 Cruising

43 Pantyhose color

44 Frozen dessert

46 Life of —: easy street

48 Shark part

49 Rests

50 Made a dress

53 Couch

54 Harem room

57 Amusing
- 58 Type of seeds

60 Full-grown

61 M.D.'s group

62 Dunne of films

63 Ships' poles

64 Neither's partner

65 Dollar fractions
- DOWN
- 1 Prefix meaning "eight"

2 Actor Alda

3 Schoolbook

4 Play it by —

5 Music-buff's purchase

6 Team

7 Asian native

8 Urge

9 Messenger

10 Act like a king

11 Business-letter abbr.

12 Social misfit

13 Historical period

18 Pitcher with a spout

22 Endeavor

23 Kind of balloon

24 Mockery

25 Slumber

26 Zodiac sign

27 Beach

28 Seedless oranges

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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- 8-3-98 © 1998, United Feature Syndicate
- 29 Sibling's child

30 Vestibule

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33 Empty (the tub)

35 Old French coin

38 Duty

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49 Sub detector

50 Fizzy drink
- 51 Ostrich's cousins

52 Droop

53 Japanese wrestling

54 Western author

55 Car blemish

56 War god

57 Machine part

58 — Antonio

59 Crude metal

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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. You never want to see me coming, but you're always relieved when I arrive.
2. I can be found where they swear to do no harm.
3. I am mobile, but I go nowhere at OCCC.



OCCC GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE PARTICIPATES IN PARADE

Pride weekend draws thousands, despite heat

LINDSAY MALICOATE
News Writing Student

Thousands gathered on The Strip at NW 39th and Pennsylvania Avenue to celebrate the 24th annual Gay Pride parade hosted by OKC Pride Friday, June 24.

The three-day block party kicked off with a live performance from The Pointer Sisters, a group well known for such hits as "I'm So Excited," "He's So Shy," "Jump (for my love)," and "Slow Hand."

In addition to enjoying the popular singing group, Pride goers enjoyed many vendor booths, beverages and food options.

OCCC student Logan Hilterbrand said the weekend was a great opportunity for all types of people to support one another.

"To me, Pride Weekend is just a really great chance for everyone to get together to show our support for equal rights and awareness," Hilterbrand said. "The heat can't interfere with that."

Among the many locally sponsored floats in the parade was one sponsored by OCCC's Gay Straight Alliance.

"The float looked great and it was great to see the school supporting such a positive message of diversity," Hilterbrand said.

Popular stand-up comedian ANT was one of the many well-known people who helped attract people to the Parade when he rode through at the beginning, waving and smiling.

OKC Pride estimated more than 70,000 people would gather for the three-day event, a figure that seemed accurate as spectators crammed together, cheering and high-fiving parade marchers.

Though a local news station reported the temperature to be roughly 100 degrees when the parade kicked off on Sunday, those attending found ways to

"... It was great to see the school supporting such a positive message of diversity."

—LOGAN HILTERBRAND
OCCC STUDENT

beat the heat.

"Everyone tried to stay cool with water guns, pop-sicles and kiddie pools," said Taylor Collins, OCCC student and Pride supporter. "The heat ended up adding more fun to the events if anything."

Parade participants shouted calls of "equality now" and "peace now," and displayed signs, T-shirts and banners all intended to promote equality and acceptance.

This year, event goers were encouraged to make a \$10 donation that, according to the OKC Pride website, will help fund the future construction of a community health center.

Tarah Forbes, who attended the parade on Sunday, said she strongly believes in the benefits that will come from the new health center's construction.

"I know of many transgendered individuals who have very difficult time gaining access to certain types of health care in Oklahoma, and I believe the new health center will make it much easier for a large number of people to access the health care they need," Forbes said.

Mary Turner, OCCC GSA sponsor, also voiced her support for Pride Weekend and the future health center.

"Not only is it important that we have more health care available in Oklahoma, but with all levels of access," Turner said.

OKC Pride has not yet released a statement of how



LINDSAY MALICOATE/PIONEER

Local Oklahomans in full costume show support and provide entertainment at the 2011 OKC Pride Parade.

much was raised for the health center this weekend. For more information, visit www.okcpride.org.

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



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