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PIONEER ONLINE

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Teams have formed for the semester for 5-on-5 basketball. Play starts Feb. 3 but players can sign up through Feb. 10. For more, turn inside.

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OCCC has a multitude of clubs for students that cover the gamut of interests. See more on page 10.

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 3, 2012

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Study time



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Nursing major Debbie Callicoat studies on the first floor of OCCC's Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. Students may check out books, and use periodicals, computers and textbooks in the library. For more information, visit the library or go online at www.occc.edu/library.

Plan can help restore financial aid

Financial Aid dean says OCCC offers individual academic plans to those needing help

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

editor@occc.edu

Students who have lost their financial aid under the new satisfactory academic progress regulations do have options that will help them get that funding back, said Harold Case, Student Financial Support Services dean.

Case said the changes in financial aid aren't in the requirements themselves, but in the way those requirements are implemented and enforced.

Before, colleges had more latitude for handling students who weren't making satisfactory academic progress. The new rules remove much of that flexibility, he said.

"But as part of the SAP regulations, schools have an option to do an individual academic plan," Case said.

The plan, which OCCC decided to call a Financial Aid Academic Plan or FAAP, is offered to students who have already fallen below satisfactory, said Mary Turner, learning support specialist.

"This is pretty much a last opportunity for students to work with us, so we can help them get back in good standing," she said.

Students who are offered an FAAP don't have any other option, she said.

"This is what they have to do to get back into satisfactory academic standing."

Turner said a student on an FAAP has to agree to come in to Student Support Services and build a plan to get back on track.

"While it's not a guarantee that they will do what they need to, it does give them an outline of what resources they can use, what directions they should take, and what we strongly encourage them to do each semester."

Turner said the Student Support Services

VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF BOOTHS UNTIL APRIL 17 TAX DEADLINE

Free tax assistance available

MORGAN BEARD

Multimedia Editor

pioneergraphics@occc.edu

Starting Feb. 6, OCCC will host a service that offers students and the general public help on their taxes every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday until April 17.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is for qualified taxpayers looking for guidance on their 2012 tax return preparation and filings.

"The VITA program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$50,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns," according to the IRS website.

The VITA program also will offer assistance with various forms of tax credit such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled.

Marcy Roll, Student Life assistant, said

“The VITA program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income people ... who cannot prepare their own tax returns.”
—IRS.GOV

the VITA program has a long history with OCCC, having visited the campus for the past 17 years.

Roll advises students to sign up as soon as possible.

"Depending on how many volunteers are present, the wait for assistance will vary," she said.

According to a flier advertising the VITA program, sign-up for assistance will be open

See **VITA** page 9

See **FAAP** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says Oklahoma making money in every way possible off of citizens

Fees and taxes part of everything

Fees and taxes. They are everywhere. Seems nothing is free or without a catch anymore.

The state of Oklahoma has found a number of ways to get a few dollars from its citizens.



**YVONNE
ALEX**

This year, taxpayers who opt to receive a refund from the state of Oklahoma via the mail this year will receive that refund on a debit card.

This may not seem like a big deal except that our hard-earned money is being returned to us with conditions.

Taxpayers will be charged \$1.50 per month if the card isn't used at all within the first 60 days, a \$2 fee if more than one withdrawal is made on that

card at a bank and 75 cents if a taxpayer personally transfers the balance to their account online as reported on KFOR, news broadcast Jan. 23.

This made me ponder — what other fees are Oklahoma citizens being charged?

Did you forget to renew an auto tag? There is a one-month grace period following the expiration date but then, the fees start adding up — \$1 per day penalty with a maximum charge of \$100.

That's big bucks for a college student who may be

barely eking out a living.

Maybe a garage sale could help pay those fees. Oh wait. There are fees there as well. There's a form to fill out and taxes to pay on the total amount of revenue you collect. Revenue is a bold word for the small amount most people bring in from a garage sale but you get the point.

And those goodies you buy online? The state will ask you to pay a sales tax on those items.

You can't even walk down the aisle with the one you love without having to open your wallet for blood tests, a marriage license and the optional marriage counseling.

Oh, and if you want extra copies of those documents, there's another fee.

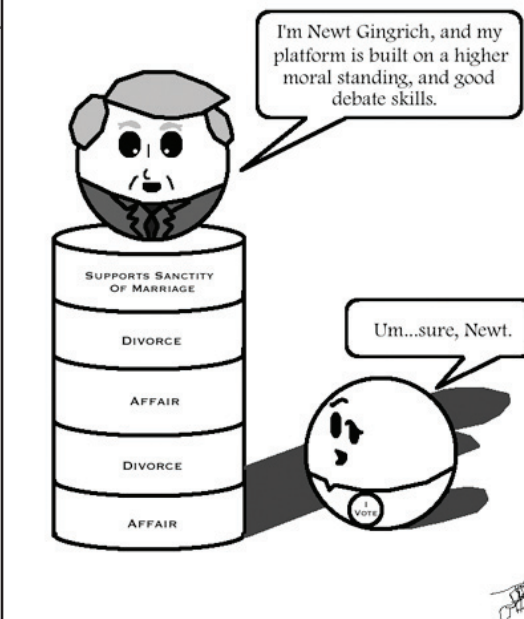
Tax season is upon us and it comes with a stiff penalty to married couples in Oklahoma.

I've always had the mindset that it pays to be single when it comes to personal taxes as the average married couple pays an exorbitant amount of taxes each year. It's almost as if the state is penalizing the decision of holy matrimony.

If the state of Oklahoma has an issue with collecting taxes from businesses, then they should take it up with their corporate attorneys and leave the working class alone.

Over the years I have heard one state official after another acknowledge that the state's tax system is

BALLIARD BILL



JEREMY CLOUD

outdated and needs to be revised.

Perhaps the state officials can go back to the drawing board with the leeway to create a more functional tax system. We can collectively move forward to being a state of no state taxes or simply lower state taxes.

Now I'm not trying to pick on the pioneers of the system.

I'm just asking if we can get it reviewed and moving in the right direction.

Who knows, with those improvements, we may entice vacationers to pay us a permanent visit.

—YVONNE ALEX
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Good deed speaks volumes of college community

Letter writer witnesses camaraderie in OCCC students

To the Editor:

With the start of the new semester at OCCC, the halls are once again filled with the uncertain, occasionally lost faces of new students wandering around in search of classes.

As campus becomes flooded with both new and returning students, it is often easy to feel alone in a crowd of people.

However, I witnessed a scene Thursday night that proves that is not the case.

“Times like this remind us that we are all connected, as a community, of OCCC students”

—NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

When I left my classes late that night, I saw one of my classmates ahead of me. As she dug through her purse for her keys, the wind gusted sending all of her papers scattering across the back

parking lot.

As she rushed to try and collect the [nearby] pieces, many blew clear to the other side of the lot. Out of nowhere a car drove up and a group of men jumped out and began quickly collecting

the papers, some even running to the other end of the parking lot to catch the farther straying pages. Once the papers were returned, they all climbed back

into their car and drove off without a word.

Times like this remind us that we are all connected, as a community of OCCC students.

—NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

Comments? Opinions? Let us know! email editor@occc.edu, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675 or drop by 1F2 AH

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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, 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.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Reader says certain state bills up for vote will 'raise eyebrows'

Student asks voters to be informed

To the Editor:

State Sen. Ralph Shortey, the Senator from Senate District 44 that OCCC falls into, has a few bills on the floor of the state Legislature that may raise some eyebrows this session.

One of those bills calls for the removal of the power of judicial review from the state Supreme Court.

For a little refresher civics lesson, the power of judicial review lets our Supreme Court review laws passed by the Legislature and make sure that they do not violate

“The power of judicial review is a check on the state Legislature just as much as the governor's veto power is.”

—KENNETH MEADOR
OCCC ALUMNI

the Oklahoma State Constitution.

They ensure that all citizens of the state are represented equally under the law and according to the state constitution. The power of judicial review is a check on the state legislature just as much as the governor's veto power is.

Needless to say, or at least I thought it was, until I read Senate Joint Resolution 84.

The power of judicial review protects all the citizens of Oklahoma from all unconstitutional laws.

Of course, if someone wanted to pass laws that disenfranchise people

and blatantly violate our constitution, they might first try to pass a law that ensures no one will be checking to make sure they are acting in their proper capacity as a representative of ALL citizens.

Remember this in November during election years.

You and I are paying Sen. Shortey's salary so he can be the laughingstock of anyone and everyone who has a basic understanding of the constitution.

—KENNETH MEADOR
OCCC STUDENT

TELEVISION REVIEW | 'All-American Muslim' riles some Americans

Reality show drama really nothing new

TLC's nearly new reality show, "All-American Muslim," causes controversy.

Shocking? Not really.

The show follows the daily lives of five American Muslim families in Dearborn, Mich., which has one of the densest Muslim communities in the U.S.

Most simply assumed that people of the Islamic faith would like it and people of other faiths wouldn't when, in fact, it was surprisingly a little of both, plus some.

Obviously, there are Muslims who were excited for what they viewed as a step forward for them in society, and there were non-Muslims who were concerned about their set ways being threatened.

However, there are also Muslims who are worried about the show portraying Muslims as too liberal. Meanwhile, there are non-Muslims who were intrigued to learn more of what the commotion is all really about from a source other than a biased news station.

All in all: drama.

The next thing you know, everyone's updating their Facebook statuses, either bashing or bragging

about the show on the night of its premiere.

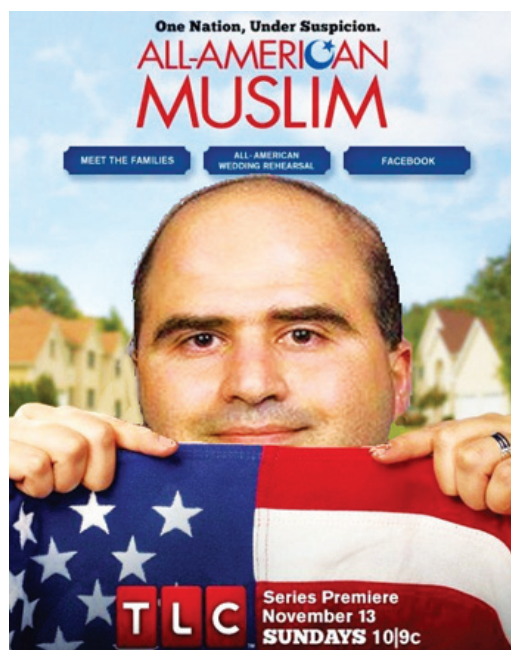
The uprising phenomenon finally gained the attention it so badly wanted when Lowe's, a national home improvement chain, along with other companies, decided to pull their advertising from the show after receiving some negative criticism from the Florida Family Association, a hardline evangelical group.

Facebook statuses were quickly updated, and controversy was born because of the show once again.

Many came together to either support or condemn the advertisers — one side saying all the common negative stereotypes about Muslims, while the other side debated whether it was an uncalled-for act of bigotry.

All in all: drama. Again.

Personally, I think the hubbub of it all has simply made me indifferent.



I've watched the show a couple of times and neither loved nor hated it. In other words, if I really want to watch Muslims being Muslims (which essentially, just like every other reality show, simply comes down to humans being humans) with a hint of controversy, I can do so pretty much anytime, anywhere — live.

Rating: B-

—NADIA J. ENCHASSI
ONLINE WRITER

JOB & CAREER POWER

Job and Health fair great place to land work

Dear OCCC students, alums and community members,

The OCCC Job Fair & Health Job Fair is near.

This largest employment event in the Oklahoma City metro area is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, with general employers in the general dining area from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and health employers in CU 2 and 3 from noon until 6 p.m.

Please dress professionally and bring extra résumés as the job fair attracts more than 100 employers from a multi-state area. A wide variety of job recruiters from numerous career fields will be on campus and many hire on the spot.

Be prepared to interview and hopefully, land a new job.

Don't forget to also visit the office of Student Employment & Career Services in room 1G7 of the Main Building to create or update your résumé and to print those on provided résumé paper. Also, be sure to register for the 32" flat-screen TV drawing.

The following companies have registered to be part of the fair:

Apple Inc., Integris Health, Association of OK General Contractors, Norman Regional Health System, Bank of Oklahoma, Wolfe Living Center, Braum's, Girling Health Care, CCA-Cimarron Correctional Facility, Aspire Home Care, Dell Inc., Comanche County Memorial, Fox 25 & CW 34, Frito-Lay Inc., Duncan Regional Hospital.

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, HCR Manor Care, High-Tech-Tronics Inc., Mays Home Health, O'Reilly Auto Parts Distribution Center, Meridan Senior Living, Office of State Finance, Oklahoma Department of Pioneer Library System, Rehabilitation Services, ProDrivers, Sooner Medical Staffing, Rent-A-Center.

St. Mary's Regional Medical, Sitel Center, Steven's Trucking Company, Total Medical Personnel, Tinker Federal Credit Union Staffing, United Parcel Service, Aspire Home Care, US Cellular, HealthBack & Faith Hospices.

Employers are being added daily so visit the Student Employment & Career Services office for updates, or call 405-682-7519, employmentservices@occc.edu

—DEBRA VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER
SERVICES DIRECTOR

Does your club have an exciting event or meeting coming up? If so, call Robert Bolton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410, or email Robert at communitywriter@occc.edu.

MOVIE REVIEW | African-American pilots' story told in Hemingway film

'Red Tails' lacking in crucial back story

The movie "Red Tails" is an exciting movie with many different ups and down, literally. Unfortunately, the director of this film, Anthony Hemingway, left out crucial details that would have taken this movie to a different level.

"Red Tails" is based off the true story of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American fighter pilot group during World War II.

At the time, there were still racial conflicts in America and especially in the military. Unfortunately, the viewer does not get a proper visual of this rampant racism.

There were only two occasions where moviegoers see the Tuskegee Airmen really confront racism head on. It's mentioned often that no one believes in them because of their color but the movie never shows the struggle an aspiring African-American pilot had to go through to even pass the flying test.

Furthermore, "Red Tails" missed a key opportunity to really grab the audience in the beginning by showing the background.

How did they start the Tuskegee training program? What did African-American pilots have to go through to pass the flying test?

None of these questions were remotely answered.

The movie throws you right into the air battle against the Germans or "Jerrys" as the Tuskegee airmen constantly called them.

It seems like a movie you would have to walk into already knowing some background about the story.

The area where "Red Tails" really excels is in the action in the air. There are many great visuals of planes from many different angles. Filmmakers used outstanding visual effects to convey how much the pilots maneuver in the air.

The casting of the movie might have been the biggest drawing point.

They chose many different actors who are at different stages of their career. The cast included Cuba Gooding Jr., Terrence Howard, Ne-Yo and Tristan Wilds.

Don't get me wrong. "Red Tails" is a good movie with great actors but there is definitely a lot to be desired.

Hemingway should have taken the time to introduce the background and dive into the racial problems the airmen experienced.

Rating: B-

—BRANDON WILLIS
SPORTS WRITER



ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW | 2012 tour highlights same antics as previous years

Harlem Globetrotters still have all the right moves

When the Harlem Globetrotters 2012 Championship World Tour came to Oklahoma City recently, our family lined up with the scores of other basketball fans to watch the famous team compete against the International Elite.

We purchased tickets for the pre-game presentation, which included a meet-'n'-greet and a few of the players signed autographs. We made our way to the floor to purchase our commemorative basketball.

We jumped on the chance to meet the players, collected a few signatures and a quick photo.

We then happily returned with broad smiles to our seats.

The players enlisted the help of children to bring their creative style to life. Players taught the children simple tricks and joked.

Each child walked away with a glossy group photo.

We were thoroughly amused for the 30-minute exhibition.

There was a full hour before the game started which gave us enough time to hit the food vendors for a bite to eat.

Our party of four ordered burgers, a bottle of water and, in a futile attempt to save a few bucks, we shared an order of fries and onion rings. Total: a little more than \$50.

The International Elite were introduced to a shal-



low welcome from the crowd.

Then as smoke billowed from the entrance of the Harlem Globetrotters, the crowd let out cheers.

Big Easy, with the Globetrotters, wore a mic and joked about the competition and others throughout the game.

At one point he brought a young woman onto the court. "Where are you from?" Easy asked. "What was that? Guthrie? That's too long." After a bit of joking he presented her with a wristband, complete with the sweat from his brow, and a wrapped gift. He, along

with another player, tried to make her think it was dangerous, but once opened, she had a lovely purse. As the skit finished, Easy walked her back to her seat and began teasing her boyfriend, whom he brought onto the court and queried about how much money he must have for them to be able to sit where they were.

"I will give you something to take back to your girlfriend," Easy said, and planted a kiss on him. The young man walked away, laughing it off.

An employee with the Globetrotters gave the couple a token of appreciation.

This was a fun, family oriented game full of entertainment. There were a number of groups in attendance that included Girl and Boy Scouts, ball teams and a few birthday parties.

The kids were clapping at the comedic antics of the Globetrotters.

There was uproarious laughter at a seemingly endless supply of jokes.

They had most of the crowd on their feet for a fun round of "YMCA."

The pre-game began at 12:30 p.m. with the main event at 2 p.m. We were out the door by 4 p.m.

Rating: A

—YVONNE ALEX
STAFF WRITER

College becomes even more green

From Dream Machines to recycle bins, OCCC urges environmental awareness

EMILY SCHORR
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Ecological changes are in motion at OCCC via the Green Task Force.

The Green Task Force, formed three years ago, is an organization with the mission to increase awareness and environmental responsibility throughout OCCC, said Lisa Teel, Emergency Planning and Risk Management director.

The Task Force committee is responsible for several initiatives, Teel said, including the bottle and can recycling machines that can be found in the Student Union.

"Each year the Task Force adopts initiatives that fit within its mission," Teel said.

One of the initiatives the task force has implemented in the last three months is the 85 paper recycle bins, she said.

Teel said the goal for the bins is to reduce the waste that is taken to landfills.

She said the Task Force came up with vision for the recycle bins but it was Facility Management workers who found and ordered the bins.

Facility Management selected the locations for the bins that were purchased, Teel said.

She said the bins are for paper products only.

The Green Task Force is asking that everyone on campus participate by recycling paper products.

There are not enough paper recycle bins to place in every classroom or office on campus, Teel said, so locating the bins or walking to them to recycle the paper products might pose a hassle for some.

Teel said she hopes students will make the effort, suggesting forming a routine that includes taking paper products to the recycle bins.

"If there is no paper recycle bin near, save paper products in an old box and empty it once a week in the blue bin," Teel said.

For more information about the Green Task Force, volunteering and further initiatives, contact Teel 405-682-1611, ext. 7148.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Construction continues on OCCC's new John Massey building Tuesday, Jan. 24. Construction on the facility began after the Child Development Center was relocated.

John Massey Center almost complete

SARAH HUSSAIN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

The new John Massey Center, currently being built on the southeast side of the campus, is nearing completion. Project Manager Larry Barnes said finishing touches will likely be made on the new building by the end of March.

The building houses Human Resources, Finance, Purchasing, Planning and Research, and Institutional Effectiveness.

The first John Massey Center, located off campus, was sold and the revenue from that sale was used to build the new center.

"This new building will be quite different from the former one," Barnes said. "We inherited that building so we just utilized it."

Throughout the planning and construction of the new building, Barnes said, the crew has had to follow a strict schedule.

Once completed, he said, the project will need to get approval for substantial completion from the OCCC Board of Regents.

"Right now we're planning on going to the Board of Regents on March 26," he said. "In the meantime, of course, construction is ongoing."

After the Board meeting on March 26, the move from the former building to the new one will take place, Barnes said.

"March 27 to 30 is the scheduled moving time," he said.

"Come April 2, [John Massey Center employees] have got to come in and sit down at their desks like nothing has ever happened."

Barnes said he is very hopeful that the April 2 will be opening day of the new center.

"It's going to happen. It has to happen."

“Come April 2, [John Massey Center] employees have got to come in and sit down at their desks like nothing has ever happened.”

—LARRY BARNES
PROJECT MANAGER

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www.occc.optimalresume.com

Students' access ID is their OCCC email address
example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu

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U.S. PRESIDENT MOST WIDELY RECOGNIZED DUE TO POSITION

Black History Month: Students speak up on most influential African-American

YVONNE ALEX

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

February is Black History Month. It's an opportunity to pay tribute to the generations of African-Americans who courageously dealt with difficulties to secure freedom and citizenship.

A couple of journalists walked the campus, asking students' opinions on "Who do you think is the most influential African-American today?"

After polling numerous students, the individual receiving the most recognition was President Barack Obama.

Many conceded it was mainly due to his position which provides a lot of exposure, but one student went a step further to clarify her response.

"I would say President Barack Obama," said Jo Burris, kinesiology major.

"As a woman of color, [it's] just seeing the change he's trying to bring to our country and what it shows the new generations."

Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa, is tops for one student.

"I love how he used Dr. Martin Luther King's principles to end apartheid in South Africa and changed the status quo," said Zach Sumner, business major.

Ian Baker, petroleum and engineering major, had two picks.

"Herman Cain and Barack Obama, mainly because of the publicity and Cain is a strong voice on the other side



COURTESY BARACKOBAMA.COM

Most students name Barack Obama as the most influential African-American living today. Some students accredit it to his position of power. Others recognize Herman Cain, Nelson Mandela, and even Denzel Washington.

“As a woman of color, [it's] just seeing the change he's trying to bring to our country and what it shows the new generations.”

—JO BURRIS

KINESIOLOGY MAJOR

of the issues of Obama.”

A number of students had no response. David Henson, networking and technician major, was one.

“No one currently,” Henson said. “Most are idols like NBA stars, rappers and musicians.”

Other prominent figures chosen were Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington, Jennifer Hudson, Michelle Obama, Morgan Freeman, Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Still others, such as OCCC student Rebekah Davis, took a different approach, saying she knew most would say President Barack Obama, but for her, the most influential are her parents.

Community holds events during Black History Month

Many events are being held in Oklahoma City to recognize and celebrate Black History Month. Below is a partial list of these activities and for more, visit our website at www.occc.edu/pioneer. All events are free and open to all ages unless otherwise noted.

Black History Month Trivia (Feb. 1 through 29)

Ralph Ellison Library

2000 NE 23 St.

405-424-1437

Throughout the month of February, visitors of all ages can stop in the Ralph Ellison Library to answer Black History Month trivia questions. Visitors who answer all questions correctly could win a special prize. Visitors can participate in the trivia contest whenever the library is open. For more information or for hours of operation, call 405-424-1437.

Celebrate Black History Month (Feb. 13)

Southern Oaks Library

2914 SW 59 St.

405-631-4468

Southern Oaks Library will be hosting a read-in from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, by sharing books authored by an African American writers. Books, reading lists, and educational materials will be provided. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited. To register, call 405-631-4468 or stop by the reference desk.

History of Black Music Display (Feb. 1 through 29)

Ralph Ellison Library

2000 NE 23 St.

405-424-1437

For the month of February, the Ralph Ellison Library in Oklahoma City is featuring a display on the rich and varied history of black music in America. The display will highlight artists like Scott Joplin, Duke Ellington, and Ray Charles. Display is up for viewing whenever the library is open. For more information or for hours of operation, call 405-424-1437.

Rhythmically Speaking Presents: Sitting in with Clara (Dates vary) Various metropolitan libraries

In this hour-long presentation, visitors aged 8 and up can attend this history lesson in honor of civic leader Clara Luper. This event will be held at various Metropolitan libraries throughout the month of February. For a complete list of times and locations, visit www.mls.lib.ok.us.

DINNERS AND GIFT IDEAS TO GIVE YOUR VALENTINE

Valentine's Day doesn't have to be costly

MARY MCATEE
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

With Valentine's Day getting close, many people are planning a way to commemorate the holiday without breaking the bank.

Valentine's Day dates and gifts don't need to be fancy. In fact, simplicity may be better than extravagance some students said.

Cody Delano, a music theory major, said his perfect gift was simple and delicious.

"For me personally, I'd love Pop-Tarts," Delano said.

Some students think an outdoor date can be enjoyable.

Student Angel Icenhour suggests taking a walk around Bricktown.

Abi Nurick, finance major, said she enjoys walking around the park and having a picnic.

Zach Summer, business major, said

he will be taking his girlfriend on a romantic camping trip.

"We're going to camp out all night, watch the stars, and then watch the sunrise," Summer said.

For sports fans, there are a couple options for spending the day.

"I'm going to the OU-Texas basketball game," said Kenneth Meador, a political science major.

Meador said he would be taking his wife and son to the game with him. Tickets for the OU-Texas game start at \$18 a seat.

Gift cards can also be a good gift option. Student Cindy Delano suggested an iTunes gift card, because of the versatility gift cards offer.

"Everyone likes free music," Delano said.

Delano also said creating a digital scrapbook can be a fun way to share memories with family members.

Some students prefer traditional gifts over non-conventional ones.

"I like flowers and chocolates," student Deanna Davis said.



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Offers Mexican cuisine. Most entrées under \$10.

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405-521-8087

Offers Vietnamese and South Asian cuisine. Most entrées under \$10.

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3009 Paseo

405-602-2002

Offers soups, salads, pizzas, and meat dishes. Dishes range from \$8 to \$12.

www.urbanspoon.com

VALENTINE'S DAY ORIGINS SAID TO BE FROM A FERTILITY FESTIVAL

Legend claims holiday deep in pagan roots

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor
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Ah, Valentine's Day. Chocolates, roses, diamonds, fine wine, cherubs and ... martyrs?

Yeah, martyrs. As in, a person who dies in the name of his or her faith or cause, generally in some horrible manner.

In this modern consumer culture, St. Valentine's Day has taken on the trappings of all other holidays on which gifts are offered.

There are mad dashes to obtain the choicest treats and trinkets; vast amounts of overspending; and the ritual judging of a person's merit as a human being based on the scope of his or her wallet.

What has all this to do with dead people?

"It's one of those holidays that had pagan roots, and was adopted by the Catholic Church, much like Christmas and Easter," said Pamela Stout, folklore professor.

"I believe its origins were in a fertility festival, in

ancient Rome."

That festival was known as Lupercalia, according to an article on www.history.com. The festival had more than a few elements working against it in the Christians eyes, but the final straw was the ritual pairing of eligible young Roman men and women, according to the article.

"Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman.

"These matches often ended in marriage. Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed."

But who was this Valentine, anyway?

"Valentine was a priest who performed illegal marriage rites for soldiers," Stout said.

"The Roman emperor at the time didn't want his soldiers to be married. He wanted them devoted to serving him, going into battle, dying for their country,

stuff like that.

"But Valentine kept performing ceremonies for the soldiers, and when the emperor found out, he was executed for his trouble."

Actually, a few of the more popular elements of the holiday, like Cupid, are just Christianized versions of the pagan symbols and deities involved in the old festivals, Stout said.

"The fat baby with wings, the cherub, is actually a watered down, Catholicized version of Cupid, who was the Roman god of love.

"A lot of the mythic characters were watered down and turned into something manageable," Stout said.

"For instance, Cupid is depicted now as a little baby, instead of a being with some real power, who could make people fall in love and do things that might not be in their best interest, just for sport."

So the next time someone says, "Will you be my Valentine?" just remember: Valentine died for love.

And the only reason anyone still knows his name is because the young church needed a way to control those pesky pagan parties.

SPORTS

Work it out



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Community member Otto Kling, 82, participates in the Total Body Workout class at OCCC's Recreation and Fitness Center, Jan. 26. Kling said he has been working out in the Wellness Center for over 29 years.

SPORTS | Intramural sport expected to start Feb. 3

5-on-5 basketball begins this month

BRANDON WILLIS

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Intramural 5-on-5 basketball begins this week in the Wellness Center.

Intramurals are free to participate but students must first register for a team.

Students can register at <http://imleagues.com> by Feb. 10, said Eric Watson, Recreation and Sports Specialist.

Watson said intramural basketball is one of the most exciting activities to look forward to in the spring semester.

"I'm very excited about this upcoming intramural season," he said.

"In intramurals, you get to put a team together to go compete versus your peers.

"This year, the season will be between Feb. 3 and Feb. 24."

Watson said last semester a basket-

“I’m very excited about this upcoming intramural season,”

—ERIC WATSON
RECREATION AND SPORTS SPECIALIST

ball tournament was cancelled because of the lack of sign-ups.

He said this will not be the fate of the OCCC intramural 5-on-5 Basketball League.

"I expect a better turnout in the spring," Watson said.

So far, he said, the league is projected to have about five teams, yet to increase the number of those enrolled, sign up has been extended another week until Feb. 10.

Each team will be graded by their sportsmanship during and after the game.

Those not meeting the sportsmanship requirements will face consequences, Watson said.

At a Jan. 25 meeting, Watson outlined the rules of the league:

- Students must bring valid OCCC IDs to every game to be able to play.
- Each player must wear a jersey with a number.
- If a team is five minutes late, it will automatically forfeit.
- There will be no 5-on-4 games, he said, because each team has to have five players minimum.
- No fighting will be allowed. Any team member who fights during, after or before the game will be ejected.
- Referees also will not deal with rowdy players, he said. Any player or coach who degrades the referee may be called on a technical foul.
- There will be two 18-minute halves. For the last two minutes of the game the clock will run continuously.

Watson said the team that makes it through the gauntlet of games to win the championship will receive OCCC intramural T-shirts.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Feb. 3: Intramural 5-on-5 Basketball season begins. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 8: Badminton League begins. Also last day to register. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 10: Last day to register for the OCCC Hot Shoots Contest: 3 point contest. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 10: Last day to register for the OCCC Intramural 5-on-5 Basketball League on imleagues.com. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Mar. 2: CoRec Intramural Volleyball. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue.
email
sportswriter@occc.edu.



THE PIONEER SPORTS PODCAST

WITH
MORGAN BEARD
AND
BRANDON WILLIS
LISTEN TUESDAYS AT
WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

For more information about OCCC's Intramural programs, visit their website at www.occc.edu/RF/wellness, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

WEIGHT ROOM ACCIDENT SENDS MAN TO HOSPITAL, IPHONE STOLEN

Police respond to variety of calls

SARAH HUSSAIN

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On Jan. 19, a man who suffered a head injury while on campus was taken to an area hospital after First Responders called EMSA to the scene.

Officer Brandon Wheeler reported Charles Dixon, 63, was doing crunches in the weight room when weights slid off of the piece of equipment he was using and fell on his head.

According to the report, EMSA arrived on scene and transported Dixon to St. Anthony's Hospital where he was treated and released that same day.

In a phone interview, Dixon said he is having "unusual headaches and my neck is feeling funny." He said he plans to

follow up with his doctor.

The machinery Dixon was using at the time was tested for functionality and reported to be properly performing, according to the report.

In another report filed by Officer Gordon Nelson, on Jan. 17, student Nguyen Tran Pham reported his iPhone had been stolen out of the men's restroom located inside the SEM Center, Entry 1.

Pham said he left his phone behind when he left the restroom and when he went back two hours later it was gone, according to a report.

After reviewing surveillance camera footage, Nelson was unable to determine the identity of anyone who may have taken the phone.

Pham said he does not want to press charges. He said he just

wants his phone back.

A burglar alarm was set off on Jan. 22 at the Family and Community Education Center, located off campus, according to a report filed by security officer Jeffrey Porter. He said a call from Simplex alerted the college to the alarm.

Porter called the Oklahoma City Police Department to assist him, according to his report.

Before OCPD arrived at the scene, Porter said he made a basic check of the center after silencing the alarm. He noted an open window and reported he believes wind may have blown through the window, pulled a door open and set off the alarm.

According to a report, Porter informed OCPD of this and all officers went back in service.

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GIVE AN HOUR.
GIVE A SATURDAY.
THINK OF US BEFORE ME.
REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND

INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION OF ALL.

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FAAP: Students who fall behind can still get money

Continued from page 1

office offers the same services to any student seeking help.

"We meet with any student who is afraid for their academic well-being or financial aid well-being.

When we go into (Success in College and Life) classes, we encourage students to come see us, sooner rather than later," Turner said.

Another key component of a FAAP is that it's offered to students who have already passed the point of losing their

funding, Case said.

"These are not students who are going to be able to make it back up to standard in one semester. If you can get back to Satisfactory Academic Progress in one semester, there's no Financial Aid Academic Plan involved," Case said. "We just put you on probation.

"So these students don't have an option, because they don't have a way to continue getting (federal) funding otherwise."

To get a FAAP, students who have fallen below satisfactory first need to take the step of

filing an appeal online, said Meghan Morgan, Financial Aid assistant director.

"On the appeal, you have to explain what caused you to not meet Satisfactory Academic Progress, what happened to get you to the point of being on financial aid suspension," Morgan said.

She said students also have to explain what has changed that they can now meet academic progress standards.

"You have to submit documentation to our office, and you have to agree to the stipu-

lations laid out in the appeal, including the FAAP," Morgan said.

Unlike a FAFSA, a new appeal does not need to be filed with every financial aid year, said Linette McMurtrey, Financial Aid assistant director. "We'll evaluate the FAAP every semester, but if (the students are) making satisfactory every semester, then we can approve them to continue," McMurtrey said.

"If they don't meet the standards, or if they sign up for a FAAP and don't meet with

Student Support, then they will be ineligible for next semester."

Turner said Student Support wants to be clear that FAAP is not a punishment.

"We're trying to educate them about how to be responsible, successful students.

"If they're on a plan, that's a good thing. It means they still have a chance to redeem themselves."

For more information, contact Student Support Services at ext. 7520, or Student Financial Support Services at ext. 7525.

VITA: Low-income tax assistance offered to public

Continued from page 1

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Those interested will need to bring last year's (2010) tax return form, W2 forms from all employers, a Social Security card for everyone included on the return and a driver's license.

Chase Bartlett, OCCC student, said he's impressed with the income tax help

offered at the college.

"This program is especially good if the person is a first timer or has no clue what they're doing, much like myself two years ago," Bartlett said.

"At first doing your taxes is intimidating. There's a lot of stuff to fill out and it's stressful because every single thing has to be done correctly."

Roll said VITA volunteers will be on the first floor of the Main Building

outside the Student Life office at Main Building 3 entry.

"It's first-come, first-served, so you should get out there early," she said.

The VITA program uses certified volunteers representing multiple organizations, according to the IRS website.

"Each year hundreds of thousands of returns are delayed in processing or credit/deductions are disallowed because names and Social Security

numbers do not match Social Security Administration records.

To prevent processing delays in paper returns and rejected electronically filed returns, volunteers check the accuracy of each Social Security number, as well as the spelling of the name associated with the number," according to the IRS.

For more information, visit www.irs.gov and look for the link to VITA or www.irs.gov/individuals/students.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY | Campusgroups.com allows students to join organizations via Internet

Joining a club is simple



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Students get acquainted at club fair. Premed majors Kim Ndong and Jessie Yepdjub, along with computer science major Ramzan Dawood talk to Jorie Hemphill about the Multicultural Club at the Student Organization Fair on Jan. 26. The fair offered students an opportunity to speak with members of various campus groups. More than 400 students joined various clubs. Students can sign up for a club anytime by going to occc.campusgroups.com and registering with a student email.

ROBERT BOLTON

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

More than 407 students signed up for various clubs when Student Life hosted the recent Student Organization Fair said Student Life Student Programs leader Candice Parker.

According to fair sign up sheets, those clubs which drew the largest number of new members were The Nursing Student Organization with 52 new members, The Black Student Association with 51 members, Health Professions with 49 new members and The Gamer Guild with 46 new members.

Those who missed the fair can still join a club, Parker said.

"You would go to www.campusgroups.com. Once you register with your student email, the list of all the clubs and organizations at OCCC comes up," she said.

"You can pick which clubs to join, or request to join. From there, the officers will validate you as a student, and then you will receive emails and updates about everything that the clubs are doing," Parker said.

“Once you register with your student email, the list of all the clubs and organizations at OCCC comes up. You can pick which clubs to join, or request to join.”

—CANDICE PARKER

STUDENT LIFE STUDENT PROGRAMS LEADER

She said campusgroups.com has a calendar of events, a listing of all of the available clubs and organizations, and links to their websites and notifications for website updates.

There also is a scroll bar detailing upcoming events such as Chi Alpha's "Bible Study Wednesday" in room 3K3 of the Main Building, or Student Emergency Medical Sciences Association's CPR training.

The bar shows meeting times, where the meetings are being held, and the date of the events.

In addition to general information about clubs, the website also has statistics and will show the latest pictures taken by club members and posted on their individual websites.

For more information about club activities, club meetings and student organization, call Student Life at 405-682-7523 or visit occc.campusgroups.com.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Musical Auditions

OCCC's Theater Department and Music Department are holding auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at 7 p.m. on Feb. 6 and 7 in the Bruce Owen Theater. Auditions are open to all, but applicants need to prepare a 16-bar score to sing and a 2-to-3 minute long comedic monologue. For more information, call Brent Noel at 405-682-1611, ext. 7246.

Christians on Campus Bible study

Christians on Campus is hosting Bible study sessions on at noon on Monday, Feb. 6, and 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7 in room 2P7 in the Main Building. The topic of study will be the book of Romans. For more information, send a text to James Kennedy at 405-314-7739.

Brown Bag: Online Learning

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7 in CU1. The discussion topic is "Online Learning." Bring your own lunch. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Musician Maurice Johnson to perform

Jazz musician Maurice Johnson will be playing for students at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, in the General Dining area of the union. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Service Day: Regional Food Bank

Student Life is holding a service day from 12:30 through 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Personal Strengths to be explored

OCCC will host Strengths Quest seminars at noon during the last three Mondays in February. The Strengths Finder Assessment is on Feb. 13 in Room 2F2 of the Arts and Humanities Building, and is required to attend the other two seminars. "Exploring Your Strengths" is on Feb. 20 in CU1, and "Implementing Your Strengths" is Feb. 27 in CU1.

OBI Blood Drive

The Oklahoma Blood Institute is hosting a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday Feb. 15 and 16, in the General Dining area of the College Union.

Brown Bag: Cake Decorating

Student Life is hosting workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22, in CU1. The discussion topic is "Cake Decorating." Bring your own lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue.

**Email your event to
communitywriter@occc.edu.**

CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1993 GMC Conversion Van. Explorer Phantom Hightop. V8, television, DVD, new tires. Clean. \$2995. Call: 405-818-5827 or e-mail lori.a.colbart@occc.edu.

FOR SALE: 2008 Dodge Avenger. Black. Fully-automatic. \$8000. Call 405-512-3540 for more information.

ELECTRONICS

STUDENT LOOKING FOR A LAPTOP TO PURCHASE: Need a good, used, and reasonably priced MacBook Pro. Please contact me at: whiticu21@aol.com.

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Shakespeare: Hamlet

Find and circle all of the words relating to Hamlet that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Hamlet quotation.

Z	M	D	E	O	P	H	E	L	I	A	T	H	Y	D	E	A	T	H
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AMBASSADORS	FRANCISCO	MARCELLUS	REGICIDE
BARNABO	GERTRUDE	MELANCHOLY	REVENGE
CASTLE	GHOST	MESSANGER	REYNALDO
CHALICE	GRAVEDIGGERS	MURDER	ROSENCRANTZ
CLAUDIUS	GUILDENSTERN	OPHELIA	SKULL
CORNELIUS	HAMLET	OSRIC	SWORD
DEATH	HAUTBOYS	POISON	THE PLAYERS
DENMARK	HORATIO	POLONIUS	TRAGEDY
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PENN STATE COACH DIES WITH NATION DIVIDED ON ITS FEELING ABOUT HIM

Political Science professor discusses Paterno legacy

MORGAN BEARD

Multimedia Editor

pioneergraphics@occc.edu

When Joe Paterno, long-time head coach of Penn State football, died Jan. 22 at the age of 85, the nation was divided on its feelings.

Paterno spent more than 46 years at the position where he became heralded as one of football's all-time greatest coaches but just before his death he also was the coach who was fired after one of college football's biggest scandal came to light.

Sexual assault allegations against former Defensive Coordinator Jerry Sandusky shrouded Paterno in the midst of controversy and ridicule, eventually leading to his firing.

Paterno's firing led to a firestorm of debate regarding his legacy.

OCCC student and former flag football team captain said Victor Quezada said he is torn on the subject.

"Paterno was spectacular with how he took a school 60 years ago and turned them into a powerhouse on the football field.

"His dedication was like no other," Quezada said. "But sadly, after the Sandusky incident, his reputation was tarnished."

Max Kelton, political science professor at OCCC, said Paterno's legacy varies by the individual

"His legacy will always be based on an individual's opinion," Kelton said. "No two people will always agree on what he will be remembered for."

Kelton compared the Paterno legacy to another divisive situation involving an icon of different sorts.

"Some people love Michael Jackson while others despise him for reasons quite similar," Kelston said.

"The one thing I can guarantee about Paterno is he will never be placed in the same stadium as anyone who commit[ed] [the acts] Sandusky has been accused of."

Paterno won more football games than anyone in major college football history, totaling 409 wins. He also led Penn State to two national titles in 1982 and 1986. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2007.

Those in the Penn State family have expressed their sorrow at the loss of Paterno. Penn State President Rodney Erickson echoed those sentiments.

"We grieve for the loss of Joe Paterno, a great man who made



us a greater university," Erickson said.

"His dedication to ensuring his players were successful both on the field and in life is legendary, and his commitment to education is unmatched in college football.

"His life, work and generosity will be remembered always."

At his memorial service, more than 12,000 people attended to show their respect for a man who was the face of Penn State for more than half a century.

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