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EDITORIAL

SPORTS MEDIA USES HYPE TO SELL STORIES

Staff Writer Morgan Beard says sports writers look for infractions then play them up to sell their stories. See what he has to say.

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CAMPUS LIFE

WEATHER SCHOOL SET FOR MARCH

KFOR Weatherman David Payne will visit OCCC to talk about Oklahoma's ever-changing weather on March 30. To find out where he will be, turn inside.

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SPORTS

OCCC SOCCER CLUB LOSES FIRST MATCH

OCCC's soccer team lost to the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Bulldogs at an away game. For the score and details, look inside.

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CAMPUS LIFE

TRANSFER WITH TOTAL CONFIDENCE

Transferring? Now is the time to find out if you are ready and how the college can help. Turn inside for more information.

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# PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MARCH 16, 2012

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Study duo



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Landon Buettner, architectural engineering major, helps Ian LookingGlass, business major, with his algebra homework in the OCCC Student Union. OCCC students can find study areas in the student union, library and at various locations throughout the campus.

## A BETTER ECONOMY EQUALS FEWER STUDENTS

# College predicts lower enrollment

MARY MCATEE

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The good news is, employment in the Oklahoma City area is looking up. However, a positive trend in the jobs sector correlates with a negative trend in student enrollment, said Stu Harvey, Planning and Research director.

Simply put, a good economy means decreased enrollment.

Harvey said registration and enrollment is expected to go down slightly for next semester.

He cited a healthy economy as the reason. "As the economy improves, our enrollment tends to soften as people go back to work and take fewer credit hours."

An enrollment report presented to the Board of Regents illustrates this trend.

According to the report, the number of students enrolled for this semester decreased by almost one percent compared to a year ago.

There also has been a 3.5 percent decrease in enrolled credit hours. This suggests students reduced the number of hours they took this semester.

Harvey said he expects the trends to apply

“As the economy improves, our enrollment tends to soften as people go back to work and take fewer credit hours.”

—STU HARVEY

PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIRECTOR

to next semester as well. OCCC also may see a rise in part-time students.

"It's hard to tell, but with the declining credit hour per student, it probably indicated a trend toward more part-time students," Harvey said.

The enrollment report shows this decrease in student numbers and credit hours coincided with a decrease in unemployment in the Oklahoma City area. Unemployment is currently at 5.6 percent, down from 7 percent at its highest.

Despite the projected decrease in enrollment, Harvey encourages people to enroll early while there is still space.

He said students who enroll early tend to do better than students who wait until the last minute to sign up for classes.

Apart from the decrease, other aspects

See **ENROLLMENT** page 9

# Bursar office investigation continues

Additional unauthorized credit card transactions uncovered through FBI probe

JEREMY CLOUD

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An investigation is ongoing into the unauthorized use of funds in the Bursar's office last year, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist.

The issue consists of multiple unauthorized credit card transactions spanning a period of several years, Sechrist said.

"From what I know, I believe the exact total amount of the transactions will be significant," Sechrist said.

"But the exact amount is still under in-

See **BURSAR** page 9

# Police arrest knife-wielding student

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Isaac Ward Jr.

An OCCC student faces two felony charges of assault with a dangerous weapon after allegedly threatening his classmates and professor with a knife.

Isaac Ward, Jr., 28, remained in the Oklahoma County Jail as of March 15. The

See **WARD** page 9

# OPINION

## EDITORIAL | Writer says certain outlets push own agenda

# Sports media guilty of news hype

Being a sports fan your entire life, you start to notice a few trends. You become aware of how players are likely to act, predispositions of certain teams, tendencies in certain sports, and especially how the media likes to operate.

Recently, one trend that seems to stick out above the rest is that of the media. I mean all media: print, radio, television – essentially, they all work the same.



**MORGAN  
BEARD**

Let's think about the biggest athletes of our generation. Names like Brett Favre, LeBron James, and Tiger Woods may come to mind. Think back to a time not too long ago — these guys were on top of the world at one point. All are household names and all once were the shining example of how a famous athlete should be.

Favre was heralded as one of the best quarterbacks of all time, and more importantly, one of the NFL's most fun-loving and likeable players. Woods was being called the world's best golfer and exemplified the role-model status as his endorsements and media coverage never stopped growing. Then, there's LeBron. Even in high-school, James was anointed the king of basketball and even the heir-apparent to the NBA's greatest player, Michael Jordan.

Now? Anywhere you look, the images you get of these once iconic athletes probably isn't anywhere close to what it was just a few years ago. Favre is considered a self-involved, attention-seeking prima donna. LeBron is an immature kid who can't win. Tiger Woods doesn't even need an explanation.

After years of media coverage, years of hype, and

years of being built up — all of that comes crumbling down in an instant. As we all know, there's no better story than one that has elements of good and evil. The classic tragedy from ancient Greece is alive and well in our world today, and we don't have to visit the theaters to see it anymore.

Now this isn't to say these examples in question didn't do anything to bring ridicule upon themselves, especially in a situation like that of Tiger Woods, but the media acts as if it is waiting for a slip-up, foaming at the mouth for someone to make a mistake just so they can have a fresh take to deliver to the masses.

Take the New Orleans Saints for instance. Just two years ago they were the media darlings after winning the Super Bowl as every outlet preached about the Katrina ordeal (despite that it was about four years after the fact) and how a football team “saved” a region. They used the real-world issue of a natural disaster, tied it to a football team and created a sensationalized heartfelt story to tug at America’s emotions. ESPN, as an example, harped on this aspect, bringing it to the forefront at every chance they could get because it was a “feel-good” story.

Fast forward to present-day and the Saints are being accused of doing what every NFL team does — having bounties for big hits and targeting opposing team's star players

—yet the headline you see on the new edition of Sports Center is “Saints to Sinners.” Now, all of a sudden, the Saints are the biggest villains of the NFL. That isn’t an accident. That’s how you keep a story fresh.

From Favre to LeBron to the Saints, the media builds them up and then tears them down. Instead of just reporting the facts, the media loves to stir the pot. From human-interest packages on television, to leading questions in interviews, the media will not pass up the opportunity to sensationalize.

To elaborate, take the phenomenon of Tim Tebow and Jeremy Lin as the blueprint on how the media loves to create characters of grandeur and super-human ability. Yes, each story is incredibly interesting,

## BALLIARD BILL



**JEREMY CLOUD**

but media outlets, including the one mentioned above, will ride it seemingly 24/7 in hopes of it catching on worldwide. More often than not, they're successful, but that isn't the real problem?

The problem is that it is a self-manufactured story just to bring attention to the outlet in question. You can call it the hype machine. You can call it spinning a story. You can definitely say it's the media outlet pushing their agenda — something CBS Sports, NBC Sports, ESPN, and the rest all do.

Do you ever wonder why ESPN doesn't advertise a certain bowl game or NBA matchup? It's probably being aired on another station.

It's not a matter of what is going on in the world of sports; it's a matter of what is in the interest of that particular brand.

In a couple of months when Linsanity sputters out for good or Tim Tebow gets a speeding ticket, it will only be a matter of time before we see the fall of these once highly acclaimed characters.

Just wait for it. It isn't about the facts; it's about the "story."

—MORGAN BEARD  
STAFF WRITER

Have a comment? Write a letter to the editor. All letters must include a name, address and phone number and can be emailed to **editor@occc.edu**. Letters will run in the order in which they are received.



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Personhood Law supported

## Society has become 'Race of Me'

To the Editor:

We have become the Race of Me. What makes it easier for me?

I support the personhood law because every life has value.

The opposition claims denying access to abortion will cause physical or psychological harm to the mother, they can seek help through medical care and therapy.

Incest and rape are violent and angry acts committed against women by misogynistic predators.

Abortion is a continuation of the violence on the innocent child and it is a further abuse on the woman.

When a mother's life is in danger, the doctors should do everything possible to save both lives.

Parents who experience spontaneous abortions or miscarriages

**“ Abortion is a continuation of the violence on the innocent child and is further abuse on the woman.”**

still mourn the loss of their child.

Anyone who has ever lost a loved one, regardless of the circumstances, has felt the heartbreak such a loss can be.

By advocating abortion, value of one life is being determined to have greater value over that of the other life.

Promiscuity and casual sex are no excuse for abortion (murder), and abortion should not be used as birth control.

Roe v. Wade is a misguided law presented as a women's rights issue; my body, my choice.

Women, take control of your bodies by protecting and respecting your bodies.

Men must also act responsibly, respect their own bodies, and respect women's bodies.

Look into the eyes of an expectant mother as she tells you about the first time she heard her baby's heartbeat.

This is life with untold potential.

Sex design is an act of procreation; not a recreational sport. It is time for the Race of Me to realize that we are the Human Race; we all must respect ourselves and one another, and all human life.

Life is a precious gift that must not be undervalued or carelessly thrown away like yesterday's garbage.

—LAURA OCASIO  
OCCC STUDENT

FROM THE VAULT MOVIE REVIEW | 2011 movie still has a valid message

## 'The Help' a DVD worth watching

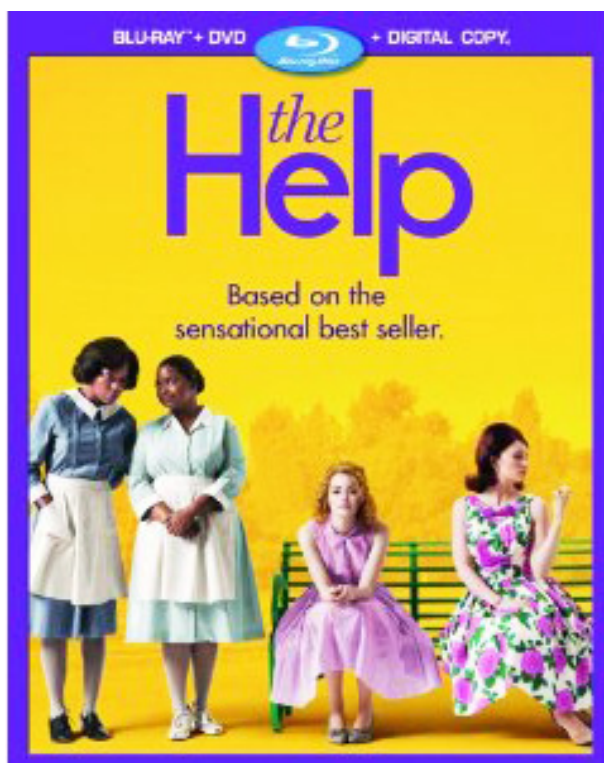
"You is kind. You is smart. You is important."

This memorable line from 2011's "The Help" has gone viral and for all the right reasons.

Set in Mississippi during the 1960s and the Civil Rights movement, the film is about an aspiring writer determined to publicize the feelings and experiences of African-American maids, a notion threatening societal norms.

The very talented actresses, Emma Stone as the writer Skeeter; Viola Davis as the maid Aibileen; and Octavia Spencer as the maid Minny, play the roles of three extraordinary women willing to take steps forward for humanity, despite the expected risks.

Moreover, their improbable alliance instills in all of them the courage to surpass the boundaries that have always defined them and the realization that sometimes



those lines are made to be crossed, even if it means bringing others head-on with the changing times.

The finished written project alters the lives of everyone in town forever.

This touching storyline, based off

of the 2009 bestselling novel by Kathryn Stockett, was nominated for and won numerous awards, awards I feel are more than deserved.

While watching the film, I laughed, cried and learned.

And, its PG-13 rating makes for an enjoyable, inspirational and educational experience for almost anyone.

Many critics found it controversial, but what in life isn't? Life itself is controversial.

In my opinion, "The Help" meets and exceeds all the qualities of being recommend-

worthy.

It's two and a half hours and a few dollars definitely well spent.

Rating: A

—NADIA J. ENCHASSI  
ONLINE WRITER

## YOU asked FOR IT

**Q: Why do the Internet browsers open new windows instead of new tabs?**

A: If you right click on a link and select 'open as a new tab,' it will open as a new tab...by default, if it doesn't want to replace the webpage, the normal operation is to create a new window. At the time [Internet Explorer] was developed, none of the browsers had tabs."

—JONATHAN OVERHOLT  
SQL SERVER ADMINISTRATOR

**Q: Will OCCC ever have year round sports?**

A: No university has year-round sports. They just offer different sports throughout the year. OCCC does offer intramurals to students. OCCC has not focused on sports because it's not part of the academic vision."

—ERIC WATSON  
SPORT AND RECREATION SPECIALIST

**Will OCCC ever become a full university, on the scale of OU, UCO, or OSU?**

A: The short answer is the OCCC will remain a two-year, associate-degree granting college well into the future. OCCC is committed to its current mission as a community college — affordable, accessible, and high quality courses at the freshman and sophomore levels. The costs to the state to change OCCC into a university would be a significant hurdle and—with UCO and OU very close, both of which are state funded universities—some would argue that another state-funded university in central Oklahoma is not necessary.

—PAUL SECHRIST,  
OCCC PRESIDENT

**Comments? Opinions?  
Let us know!  
e-mail Editor  
Jeremy Cloud at  
editor@occc.edu, call  
405-682-1611, ext. 7675  
or drop by IF2 AH**

**Let your voice  
be heard!**



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**MOVIE REVIEW** | Hippy compound the center of movie's focus

## 'Wanderlust' saved by Paul Rudd's acting abilities

Paul Rudd and costar Jennifer Aniston play George and Linda, exhausted New Yorkers — Manhattanites to be more specific — in "Wanderlust," released Feb. 24.

The couple can barely afford their tiny living quarters — a micro-loft recently purchased by the couple — even when George brings home a salary from his hated corporate job.

Linda is still looking for her career path, frequently trying different career options. Her more recent endeavor, a depressing documentary about penguins, fails to sell to HBO.

Then George loses the corporate job he hates and with a lack of career options, the couple can no longer afford Manhattan. The broke couple hits the road to Atlanta where George's brother Rick (Ken Marino) resides. Rick is a successful businessman who will never let George live down asking for help.

On the way to Atlanta, George and Linda stumble

upon a hippie compound called Elysium disguised as a bed and breakfast. Elysium embraces peace and free love, among other things hippies are known for.

The enchanting compound is calling to George when his brother decides to start with the lecturing.

Elysium is populated by folks from different walks of life including nudists and different levels of hippie.

Seth, played by Justin Theroux, is the apparent leader and seems to be the most full of crap. He commands that everyone follow



the lifestyle at Elysium yet he is very quick to give it up. Although George is ready to try out Elysium, Linda is hesitant. Once a part of it, the alternative lifestyle of the compound begins to change the values George and Linda once cared so much about.

"Wanderlust" will leave viewers gasping for air in moments of complete insanity during some moments and with a grotesque look on their faces at others.

Rudd, a versatile actor, has moments in this role that not many actors could pull off. This is what makes the movie so funny.

Actually all the actors shine in this film. Playing the role of a crazy hippie can't be as easy as it seems.

**Rating:** A-

—EMILY SCHORR  
STAFF WRITER

**RESTAURANT REVIEW** | Reviewer feeds family of three for \$25 — and has leftovers

## New eatery serves up 'authentic' Chinese

Whether it's watery egg drop soup, sweet and sour chicken served with a side of ketchup, or fried rice so dry you could crack a tooth on it, it's pretty darn hard to find good, authentic Chinese food this side of the hemisphere.

Or at least, it was — until New Mandarin Chinese and American opened just down the street on 6909 S May Avenue.

On the outside, New Mandarin is pretty nondescript: a small building marked by a bright yellow sign.

Even the inside is decorated conservatively, with the few odd pictures here and there, and subdued lighting hanging over the tables. It's pleasingly simple, and refreshingly ordinary.

The food, however, is anything but.

For starters, you are given a lengthy menu that offers everything from the familiar, such as sweet-and-sour chicken and broccoli beef, to the foreign, like Buddha's Delight — a vegetarian dish with mushrooms and bean curds.

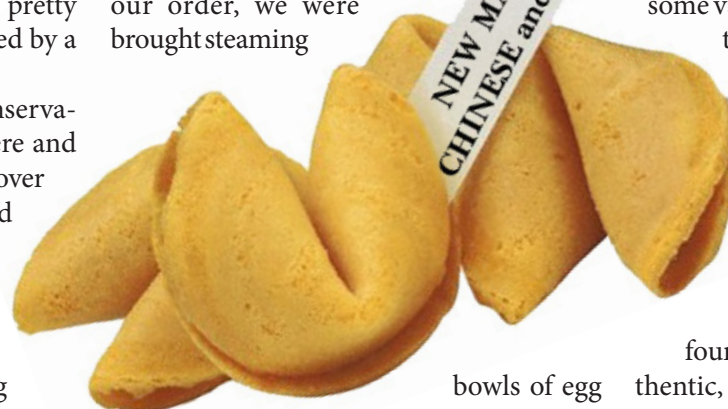
If you are dining with more than just yourself, I strongly recommend taking advantage of New Mandarin's family meal offer. For however many people are in your party, you select that many entrees from the hefty menu for a mini-buffet.

Not only do you receive more than generous portions of the selected items, you also get a large bowl of fried rice, drinks,

and bowls of egg drop soup and egg rolls for everyone.

My family of three tried this offer per the friendly waiter's suggestion, and could not have been more pleased. We ordered sweet and sour chicken, chicken lo mein, and chicken chow mein.

Right after we placed our order, we were brought steaming



bowls of egg drop soup with crispy wonton chips. The soup was thick and yellow with egg, unlike the watery, clear soup that I've become accustomed to eating over the years.

Before we could even finish our soup, the main course was brought out to us on heaping plates that barely fit on our table. I scooped a little of everything onto my plate, and when my first forkful of lo-mein hit my mouth, I was instantly in love.

The chicken was cooked with a hint of teriyaki flavor, mixed with tender noodles,

mushrooms, and crisp green beans. The sweet and sour chicken was freshly breaded with a thin, crispy batter, and drizzled in the most delicious orange sauce I've come across.

Even the chow mein, not usually a favorite of mine, was undeniably delicious, cooked so fresh that the noodles practically melted in your mouth. Unlike some variations that skimp on the veggies, this chow mein was full of celery, cabbage, and bean sprouts.

As if the food wasn't great enough, it was also shockingly inexpensive. The meal for three cost a paltry \$25, and each of us had enough left over the next day for lunch.

Nowhere in OKC have I ever found Chinese cuisine of such an authentic, delicious caliber as that served at New Mandarin.

The only downside? You'll be so full on delicious food, you won't be able to walk right back in and order more.

**Rating:** A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
ONLINE EDITOR

Does your club have an exciting event or meeting coming up? If so, call Robert Bolton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410, or e-mail Robert at [communitywriter@occc.edu](mailto:communitywriter@occc.edu).

### TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of  
March 9 through 11  
[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

1. *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*
2. *John Carter*
3. *Project X*
4. *Act of Valor*
5. *Silent House*
6. *Safe House*
7. *The Vow*
8. *This Means War*
9. *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*
10. *A Thousand Words*
11. *Tyler Perry's Good Deeds*
12. *The Artist*
13. *Friends with Kids*
14. *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D*
15. *Wanderlust*
16. *Chronicle*
17. *Gone*
18. *A Separation*
19. *The Descendants*
20. *Hugo*



# Broadcasting students attend awards banquet

**SARAH HUSSAIN**

Senior Writer  
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It was the student's time to shine on March 8 at the Oklahoma History Center where possible employers, students and faculty gathered to celebrate a job well done.

This event was put on by the Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association to award outstanding achievement in student broadcasting for the year of 2011.

OCCC journalism and broadcasting students were among the 10 schools awarded at the ceremony, competing with university students.

This year's speaker was none other than Bob Barry Jr., Oklahoma's News Channel 4's sports director and weeknight sports anchor.

Barry spoke of his own background and gave suggestions on how to get ahead in broadcast journalism.

"To get anywhere, you gotta have gumption," Barry said.

“ To get anywhere, you gotta have gumption.”

—BOB BARRY JR.

NEWS CHANNEL 4 SPORTS DIRECTOR

Along with the award ceremony and luncheon, there was a job fair where companies like Clear Channel radio and News Channel Four attended.

The banquet also served as a job fair to students that were looking for a position in the journalism field.

"I think I got a job," said Victor Quezada, broadcasting major.

"With a little help from Gwin (Faulconer-Lippert), they [Telemundo] wanted me because of my video background and because I'm bilingual."

Faulconer-Lippert, Mass Media Communications professor and Rick Allen Lippert, Video Production adjunct professor, both attended with their students.

A total of nine awards were received by OCCC students in five different categories for both television and radio.



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH HUSSAIN

Attendees of the 2011 OBEA awards banquet pose for a group photograph. They are : (front) Nicole Shadid, (second row) Joniel Prouty, Erin Peden, Casey R. Akard, Emily Schorr, Sarah Hussain, Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, Rick Allen Lippert (back row) Crystal Rodriguez, Shea Hunteman, Ashley Cleveland, Brantley Cunningham, Mary McAtee and Victor Quezada.

## Pathways school to host prom

**ALEX BLETT**

News Writing Student

Some traditions are just too precious to forego, even at a nontraditional high school. One of those would be the junior-senior prom. For Pathways Middle College High School, prom night is May 5.

Pathways is housed on the OCCC campus and serves primarily Oklahoma City public school students who want to attend college classes during their last two years of high school.

Students are held to an extremely high standard and held accountable for their actions, Principal Carol Brogan said.

Since the school budget doesn't include funding for the prom or graduation, students are selling Blue & Gold sausage to fund their end-of-the-year events, she said.

These fundraising efforts will help to reduce end-of-

the-year dues for families by almost \$100. Juniors are working tirelessly to plan a memorable prom night for themselves and the seniors, Brogan said.

They have made arrangements for decorations and a deejay. Continuing the tradition of holding prom off campus, it will be held at the Swing Club in Oklahoma City. The Swing Club is a small venue, perfect for the approximately 55 people to be in attendance at prom.

Students are in the pro-

cess of asking dates to prom, and have been given the opportunity to ask high school students from other schools, Brogan said.

The Pathways school is comprised of eighth grade through seniors in high school. There are 15 students in the senior class, 7 of whom are girls, and 17 students in the junior class, 5 of whom are boys.

Pathways has been nurturing responsible, smart and courteous students for 12 years now, Brogan said.

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



METEOROLOGIST DAVID PAYNE TO VISIT OCCC

# Weather School will blow through campus

SARAH HUSSAIN

Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

WeatherSchool is making its way to OCCC from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on March 30 in the General Dining area.



David Payne

Lisa Teel, Emergency Planning and Risk Management director, said that anyone can attend this event.

"There is no pre-registration and it is free to staff, students and community members," she said.

According to Teel, KFOR Channel 4 offers WeatherSchool.

"Meteorologist David Payne will be here and he will talk about the upcoming severe weather period [tornado season], what makes a tornado (and) why we have so many tornadoes in Oklahoma along with other weather information," she said.

Payne usually brings a video of tornadoes he

"I've lived in Oklahoma my whole life, but it never hurts to attend these kinds of things."

—JAKE BLOCKER  
ADVERTISING MAJOR

has chased and will answer questions from the audience, Teel said.

Teel said OCCC is involved with WeatherSchool for various reasons.

"OCCC staff is required to do quarterly health and safety training," Teel said.

"By attending this training and signing the attendance sheets that will be available, staff will get credit for fourth quarter health and safety training."

According to Teel, the information provided is a good reminder of what to do during severe weather and also helps individuals who may be new to Oklahoma who are not familiar with tornadoes, what precautionary steps to take to protect life and property.



COURTESY MORGUEFILES.COM

"I've lived in Oklahoma my whole life, but it never hurts to attend these kinds of things," said Jake Blocker, advertising major.

"I think it could be beneficial."

For more information on the upcoming WeatherSchool, contact Emergency Planning and Risk Management at 405-682-1611, ext. 7148.

AMERICANS SPEND MORE THAN THEY EARN

## Managing money takes planning, speaker says

DREW TARWATER

News Writing Student

How to handle money wisely was the message when Melissa Crawford, from Oklahoma Money Matters, hosted a Brown Bag lecture March 10 on campus.

"Credit is a valuable tool but it can be dangerous if not used properly," she said.

The lecture emphasized how important it is to put thought behind what you do with your money.

The average American spends \$1.22 for every dollar earned.

"Relying on future money to buy things today is never a good idea," she said.

You never know what the future will hold.

It is easy for consumers to accumulate debt with credit cards.

Studies show that if you charge \$1000 to a credit card that charges 18 percent interest, and only pay the minimum payment, then it will take eight years to pay off. During those eight years you would pay \$698.38 in interest.

"Not all credit cards are created equal," Crawford

said. "When a person gets a credit card, they should shop around and find one with no annual fee and the lowest interest rate possible."

Although credit cards can be great tools, it is best to use cash, Crawford said. Studies show that paying with cash registers in your brain as pain, while using a credit card or other plastic forms of payment have no effect.

One important thing everyone should do is check their credit score regularly. Crawford emphasized that checking your credit score is not only important so that you can check for errors, but also so that you know what creditors are seeing when you apply for a loan or even a job.

"When checking your credit score, the one and only website you should use is annualcreditreport.com." This website is a government run site that allows you one free credit check every year.

While there are many other sites that claim to give you a free credit score, they might sign you up for services such as credit monitoring that can cost you in the long run.

Many people do not know that things stay on your

"Relying on future money to buy things today is never a good idea."

—MELISSA CRAWFORD

OKLAHOMA MONEY MATTERS REPRESENTATIVE

credit report for seven years.

If a person files for bankruptcy, it could stay on a report for 10 years.

When applying for a credit card or any other type of credit, creditors will look at the types of credit previously used, the length of your credit history, and most importantly your payment history, Crawford said. It is important to pay all of your bills on time so that when creditors look at your payment history, they will not see any unpaid bills.

If a person needs help with debt or credit card bills, there are many services available to help.

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Central Oklahoma is a non-profit organization that she recommended to people who need help with debt. The credit counseling service can be accessed by phone at 405-789-2227.



# International students visit Wichita Mountains

NATALIA SMITH-ROBERSON

News Writing Student

**T**hirteen international students got together late last month to tour the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge and the Fort Sill museum to learn more about Oklahoma's history.

Many had not had the opportunity to explore Oklahoma, so they were excited on the drive to the southern part of the state.

"When you live in Oklahoma and you're exposed to the interesting history, you learn to appreciate Oklahoma more," said Abra Figueroa, professor of modern languages, who led the excursion.

"It is very important for people to know and understand the cultural history behind the state they live in, which is why I take my students on a trip every semester."

The students came from different countries such as Vietnam, Panama, Guatemala, and Mexico.

"I am excited to see the buffalo and to take pictures of the mountains because I have been living in Oklahoma for three years and I have not had the time to explore," said Jose Alvarez, an international student from Guatemala.

At the Fort Sill museum students could see the way the soldiers lived in the barracks.

They viewed artifacts, like the swords the soldiers used in battle, the kind of clothing the Indians wore, and the types of guns the Buffalo soldiers used. They viewed paintings, such as "The Buffalo Hunt" by Alfred Jacob Miller, which is now estimated to be worth \$23 million.

The label Buffalo soldiers was attached to cavalry units made up of black men who fought in the Indian wars in the latter half of the 19th century.

Some historians believe Indians gave the black soldiers the name because of their curly hair and dark skin coloring.

"My favorite part was hearing about the Buffalo soldiers and their achievements and how they got their name and learning about the legendary Geronimo," said Fikirte Hagos, an international student from Ethiopia.

Geronimo is an Indian legend in Oklahoma's history. After the defeat of the Apaches, Geronimo was imprisoned for a time at Fort Sill and lived out his life on a reservation near there, where he became something of a local celebrity.

Geronimo was called the medicine man because he was believed to have spiritual powers, including the power to predict the future.

Many Indians sought out for his help before battle, the tour guide said.

The tour was helpful in understanding Indian history and the tribes that remain today such as Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Kick-



PHOTOS COURTESY FIKIRTE HAGOS

Brahim Mabrouki, Anh Nguyen, Jose Alvarez, Han Nguyen, Jorge Castillo and Abbie Figueroa stop to preserve memories of their trip to the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge. Students learned about native people and wildlife as well as how Buffalo soldiers survived at Fort Sill in Lawton.

**“When you live in Oklahoma and you’re exposed to the interesting history, you learn to appreciate Oklahoma more.”**

—ABRA FIGUEROA  
MODERN LANGUAGES PROFESSOR

poo.

"I was very impressed with hearing the details in person," said Meesook Shin, an international student from Korea.

"I will come back and tour the facility with my children."

Figueroa said many students are stunned to see buffalo and longhorn cattle on the wildlife refuge. There were buffalo and longhorn cattle across the field, which the students got to observe and take pictures of.

The journey was definitely full of Kodak moments, with students snapping pictures along the way.

Other students who attended the trip were Hyundu Kim, Meesook Shin, and Seokmun Song, from Korea; Trinette Tran, Han Nguyen and Anh



ESL students Hyundu Kim, Meesook Shin, Seokmun Song, Trinette Tran, Anh Nguyen, Brahim Mabrouki, Abdul Mohammed, Aykamar Wushur, Jose Alvarez, Fikirte Hagos, Han Nguyen, Vielka Madrid and Jorge Castillo pose for a scenic picture with some roaming buffalo at the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge.

Nguyen, from Vietnam; Brahim Mabrouki, from Morocco; Abdul Mohammed, from India; Aykamar Wushur, from East Turkistan; Vielka Madrid, from Panama; and Jorge Castillo, Mexico.



## SPORTS

**SPORTS** | SWOSU Bulldog's win first game of the season 5-3

# Soccer upset leaves OCCC team 0-1

MITCHELL RICHARDS  
News Writing Student

Poor communication led to the OCCC soccer team losing its first game of the season 5-3 to the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Bulldogs on March 11 in Weatherford.

The Bulldogs opened quickly with a goal scored against OCCC goalkeeper Sean Anderson. Not long after, during a corner kick, the Bulldogs scored again by way of a miscommunicated own-goal on a header by OCCC's Matt Anderson making it 2-0.

Player-coach K.B. Yeboah retaliated minutes later, with a little help from the wind blowing strong across the field, on a set piece goal from outside of the box just before the halftime break.

OCCC player Roberto Prado reminded his team that they were just down one goal during the break, and he was optimistic they could tie the game soon with hard work.

Attitudes were positive as the teams returned to the field, but the Bulldogs were relentless, knocking in a set piece goal early in the second half.

OCCC kept its hopes alive with a close range goal by Cameroonian student Lambe Inokeba minutes later.

With the score 3-2 in favor of the Bulldogs halfway through the second half, the back-and-forth game tilted in favor of SWOSU soon after Inokeba's goal.

The Bulldogs scored once again on a well-placed shot from just outside the penalty box, taking a 4-2 lead.

At that point OCCC changed to goalie David Dykes.

After a tough defensive stand for OCCC, the defense was trying to catch the Bulldog offense offside, but

## Bragging rights



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Street Prophet team member Chris Hayes (#9) gets scored on by Antoine Newsome (#4), member of team Warchild, during the OCCC Intramural Basketball Championship on March 9. The Street Prophets went on to win the 2012 Intramural Championship.

“It was our first game to play together, and without a lot of practice I think it didn't go too bad.”

—DAVID DYKES  
OCCC GOALIE

the SWOSU strikers scored again on a close range goal, making it 5-2.

In the waning minutes of the second half Yeboah was fouled hard in the midfield.

The free kick would eventually lead to the set-up for his second goal of the day, dribbling through the Bulldog defense to get a goal from inside the box. But it proved to be too little, too late.

The game ended shortly after, with a final score of 5-3 in favor of SWOSU.

It was a tough loss in the season opener for OCCC, but Dykes said he was still hopeful for future games.

“It was our first game to play together, and without a lot of practice I think it didn't go too bad,” he said.

“We just need to communicate and get used to playing with one another.”

Yeboah said that a few of the goals

## UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

**Mar. 16:** HeyDay Mini-Golf Season begins. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Mar. 16:** Union Regional Championship Dive Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**April 11:** Singles Table Tennis Season begins. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**April 19:** Intramural Spring Swim Meet begins. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**April 25:** Laser Tag begins. \$5 per player. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**April 29:** Paintball Tournament: Capture the Flag Tournament. 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

could have been prevented if player communication had been better. He attributed OCCC's loss to that breakdown.

The OCCC soccer club will be playing a game against East Central University some time in April. Follow the Pioneer for more details.



# Bursar: Ongoing investigation uncovers more issues

*Continued from page 1*

vestigation and should be determined in the near future.”

Sechrist said the college has taken steps to prevent unauthorized use of college funds since the discovery of the unauthorized transactions.

“The credit card accounts are reconciled more frequently and by additional staff outside the Bursar’s office,” he said.

“When we put these measures into place, we went to an outside auditor and showed them what we were imple-

menting. They confirmed that these measures were what we needed to do.”

At the time of the discovery of the unauthorized transactions, then-bursar Brandi Henson was placed on administrative leave, and subsequently resigned, as reported by the Pioneer on Dec. 2.

Sechrist would not comment on Henson. “The college has a strict policy of not speaking about employee or former employee matters,” he said.

Sechrist said the transactions, and the investigation surrounding them, do not

currently affect the college’s operation or budget.

“To the best of my knowledge, no current employee is involved in the FBI investigation at this time, and the college has already provided the FBI with everything they’ve asked for,” Sechrist said.

And while any loss is regretful, Sechrist said, he does not foresee any major impacts on the budgetary side of college operations.

“Almost none of the transactions took place in the current budget year, so the

impact was on previous years. Since it has stopped, the continuing negative impacts have stopped.”

And since no student funds were used in the transactions, the relationships the college has with lending and credit organizations, and with Higher One have remained unaffected, Sechrist said.

Sechrist also said Cynthia Gary has been named the college bursar. Gary had been acting bursar since Henson’s resignation.

Attempts to reach Henson were unsuccessful.

## Enrollment: Small decrease seen for next semester

*Continued from page 1*

of student enrollment are expected to stay the same.

Harvey said he expects general education classes to be in high demand for next semester. “As usual, our gen-ed classes

will always be popular because they’re required for most degree programs.”

General education classes

include English Composition, College Algebra, Intro to Psychology, American Government, and U.S. History.

Harvey said enrollment numbers show the largest age group is expected to be 18- to 24-year-old students.

## Ward: Students say classmate threatened professor

*Continued from page 1*

arrest was made at 6:24 p.m. Feb. 23 according to a police report filed by Campus Police Officer Kevin Hammond and made available to the Pioneer March 14.

### OCCC Police Notified

At approximately 5:52 p.m. that day, Hammond reported, a dispatcher notified him of a student in room 2G8 of the SEM Center who was “threatening people with a knife.”

Hammond and Armed Security Officer Jeffrey Porter then ran to the classroom, where they found a large group of people standing at the doorway, according to the report.

Upon entering the classroom, Hammond and Porter found Ward sitting down and “holding a large folding knife in his right hand, while rubbing the blade on his left hand.” A small amount of blood was visible on Ward’s left hand.

The report stated the only other person in the room was Professor Greg Hall, who was standing across the room as Hammond and Porter approached Ward.

Hammond stated he asked Ward what the problem was, but could not get a clear response from him.

Then, Hammond said, he persuaded Ward to put the knife down, at which time Ward folded it and placed it in the top compartment of his wheeled backpack nearby. Hammond then wheeled the bag away from Ward and told Ward he would need to be escorted to the Campus Police Department.

The report states that Hammond then asked Ward if he had any other weapons on him. Ward then removed a keychain from his belt loop that had a Swiss Army-style knife attached to it and laid it on the table.

### Suspect Arrested

Hammond and Porter, as well as Campus Armed Security Sgt. Kevin Tipton, then detained Ward with two pairs of handcuffs “due to his large size.”

The officers then escorted Ward to the Campus Police Department, where he was questioned and searched for weapons. No additional weapons were found.

“I spoke with Ward but could not get a clear account of what exactly occurred in the classroom before I arrived, other than the fact that a student, had upset Ward and threatened him earlier in the month,”

Hammond said, according to the report.

Later, Oklahoma City Police Department Officer Jeremy Anglin took Ward into custody. According to an Oklahoma City police crime report, Ward is being held on a \$10,000 bond.

### Witness Accounts

The campus police report included eight witness accounts obtained after the incident. Several witnesses stated that Ward had told Hall in some variation, “I will cut your throat.”

The professor said he noticed Ward’s knife and asked Ward to put it away. “That was when he threatened me.”

Hall then contacted the OCCC police department.

Aviation major Adam Ely said he was in the classroom at the time of the incident.

“I said, ‘Hey bro, maybe college prep math two isn’t the best place to sharpen your knife,’ after I saw him pull it out,” Ely said.

He said he was sitting next to Ward in the classroom.

Ely said Ward did not respond after he made the com-

“I said ‘Hey bro, maybe college prep math two isn’t the best place to sharpen your knife’ after I saw him pull it out.”

—ADAM ELY  
OCCC STUDENT

ment.

“It was like he was in his own world,” he said.

Ely said there was a lady at the front of the classroom who started to worry and Hall told her he would keep an eye on Ward.

“When we got up to leave the classroom, [Ward] just stayed there, sharpening his knife,” he said.

“He would talk about being in the military and having post-traumatic stress disorder and that people just brush off his behavior because of that. I don’t buy it.

“I’m in the U.S. Army and I don’t believe it.”

Ward’s aunt, Lynda Ward, said her nephew had been “in and out of stuff.

“He had seizures and medical problems, but I didn’t know about this,” Ward said.

Edwina Ward, Ward’s stepmother, said he has anger management problems and has been in and out of correctional facilities over the last few years.

“He’s a big ol’ time bomb waiting to explode when things don’t go his way,” the stepmother said. “He thinks because of his height and weight, he can intimidate people.”

### Current Status

Ward was academically withdrawn from OCCC with a disciplinary charge on Feb. 29, according to a college official who wished to remain anonymous.

On March 15, Registrar Alan Stringfellow confirmed Ward is no longer enrolled at OCCC.

Ward’s name was obtained from Oklahoma City police, because OCCC initially declined to release his name.

Media Relations Coordinator Cordell Jordan, who is in charge of releasing public information, said in an email the name was withheld because “the reason for his action was due to a medical condition.”

Jordan said he also was not aware that Ward had been arrested although that information was included in the OCCC report.

On the afternoon of March 14, Jordan re-released the report with Ward’s name visible.

Visit the Pioneer online at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer) for updates to this story as they become available.

# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Career bound



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC Allied Health student Rachel Wardrip talks to Chad Jackson about employment opportunities offered by Duncan Regional Hospital at an OCCC job fair held on March 7. Duncan Regional Hospital was just one of many health profession employers present at the fair.

**COMMUNITY** | Transferring to a university can be “like starting over again”

# Students should stick to their degree plan

**SOUFIAN FAIZ**  
News Writing Student

Transferring from OCCC to a university can result in culture shock at first, said Linda Little, coordinator of transfer and academic advising.

It is very common for the GPA of students transferring to a four year college to drop the first semester, Little said.

“There are a lot of things to adjust to.”

The culture, the environment, and the expectations may be a different.

“In some ways it is a little bit like starting over again,” Little said.

OCCC pre-engineering graduate Oussama Zouaoui said he understands exactly what Little is talking about – because it happened to him when he transferred to the University of Oklahoma.

“My first semester was hard at OU,” Zouaoui said. “I didn’t know where to go or what to do.”

Zouaoui, an engineering major, graduated OCCC with a 3.7 GPA. His grades dropped in his first semester at OU.

“I had to quit my job to keep up with the homework,” he said.

“I did not expect it was going to be that overwhelming.”

Little said this pattern holds true across the nation.

However, she added, students tend to do better if they wait until they graduate community college and then transfer.

Common mistakes transfer students make are transferring too early, changing majors quite often, and not knowing where they plan to transfer to.

“Students should stay on track and stick with their degree plan,” Little said.

“It’s all about planning.”

The advising department is the number one place students should go for help.

“We can make sure we keep students on track with their degree plan, wherever they’re planning on going,” Little said.

OCCC graduates transferring to OU and the University of Central Oklahoma, in particular, should have a smooth transition.

“We have an articulation with these two universities, so all of our credits are transferrable,” Little said.

Zouaoui said that was true in his case.

## Texting and you: not while driving

TRIO, Upward Bound, and Student Life are hosting a discussion with an accompanied table and display about the dangers of texting while driving from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 26 in rooms CU1, CU2, and CU3. For more information contact Karolyn Chowning at 682-1611, ext. 7620.

## Brown Bag: Healthy Relationships

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27 in CU1. The discussion is “Healthy Relationships.” Bring a lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

## Personal strengths explored

The Strengths Quest Seminars return to OCCC to help students discover their talents. Students must complete the Strengths Finder Assessment at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3 in room 1X4 to participate in events. The first event will take place at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4 in 1X4.

## Tuition Fee Waiver Information

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the Summer 2012 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. on April 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

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

Email your event to  
[communitywriter@occc.edu](mailto:communitywriter@occc.edu).



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(18-19 years old) needed for study on cognitive auditory information processing. This activity requires attending to a single 2.5-hr testing session at the OU Health Sciences Center; cash compensation is provided. Appointments are flexible to accommodate class and work schedules. To request a flyer with details call 405-230-7040, record your name, phone, and e-mail address. The flyer will be sent to your phone or e-mail address.

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

**Marine Life**

Find and circle all of the listed words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a sea animal.

S	H	S	E	A	L	S	D	M	D	T	G	H	R	E
T	S	P	A	L	C	P	A	O	U	I	S	D	O	C
I	I	T	O	R	T	R	O	B	L	I	U	W	H	S
N	F	R	A	L	L	R	I	R	F	P	S	Q	P	E
G	Y	B	E	I	L	L	U	N	P	T	H	E	S	A
R	L	O	N	T	A	A	W	T	A	O	N	I	W	L
A	L	C	I	H	S	O	C	R	A	G	I	H	N	I
Y	E	T	D	A	L	B	F	S	U	E	A	S	Y	O
R	J	O	R	C	N	I	O	I	I	L	S	T	E	N
E	S	P	A	E	S	U	N	L	E	N	W	A	R	P
T	P	U	S	H	E	E	T	A	N	A	M	M	P	M
S	O	S	S	B	A	R	R	A	C	U	D	A	M	I
Y	N	H	S	I	F	L	L	E	H	S	H	L	A	R
O	G	A	R	R	E	T	T	O	A	E	S	C	L	H
K	E	A	N	C	H	O	V	Y	W	A	L	R	U	S


ANCHOVY	MANATEE	SEA TURTLE
BARRACUDA	MARLIN	SEALS
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CRAB	PORPOISE	SQUID
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## CANADIAN MUSICIANS TO PERFORM IN FRENCH

# Celtic trio Vishten makes way to OCCC March 27

MEREDITH HUDSON  
News Writing Student

Twin sisters Emmanuelle and Pastelle LeBlanc have partnered with Pascal Miousse to bring traditional Celtic-Arcadian music to audiences around the world, including OCCC. They will perform on campus at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

This trio, named "Vishten," is based on the east coast of Canada.

The LeBlanc sisters originally are from Prince Edward Island and Miousse is from Magdalen Island.

This trio has traveled the world and performed in numerous countries.

This Celtic style music has an Arcadian feel and is sung in French, said Lemuel Bardeguez, Cultural Programs director.

A three-part harmony is sung throughout the trio's pieces, along with the use of step dancing, drumming, a fiddle, a guitar and many other instruments.

"We have never had authentic folk musicians as guests here at OCCC before," Bardeguez said.

"I have listened to their music and they are definitely high-quality artists."

Since this performance is in French, it is very likely to attract students taking French classes, along with French professors.

"This group is currently on tour and has traveled all over and we are excited to welcome them here to OCCC," Bardeguez said.

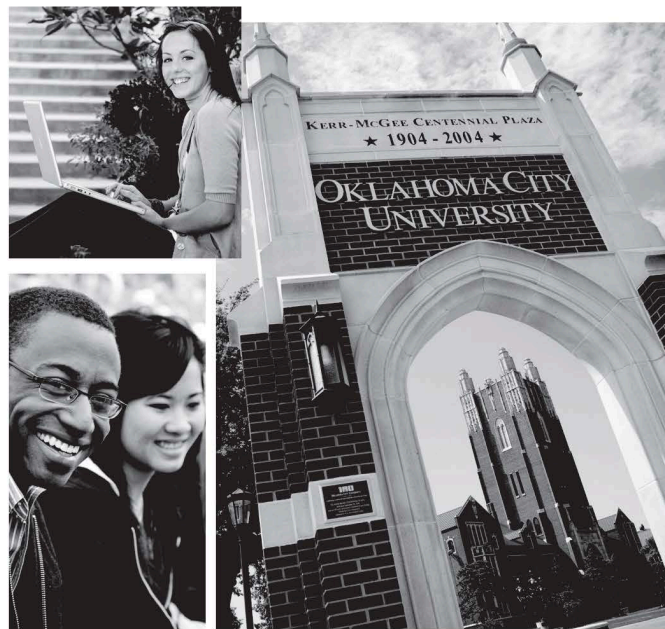
Tickets are for sale online at [www.occc.edu/CAS/Tickets.html](http://www.occc.edu/CAS/Tickets.html) or available at the door.

The price is \$10 for OCCC students and children under 17, \$17 for OCCC faculty, staff and seniors over 55 and \$22 for general admission.



Vishten

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