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PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

SHOULD VOTERS HAVE TO SHOW ID?

Staff Writers Mary McAtee and Mike Wormley debate whether polling places should require ID. Read their opposing thoughts.

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TAX DEADLINES DRAW NEAR

The tax deadline has been extended this year. Find out how much longer the government has given taxpayers and other tax information on page 6.

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OCCC intramural sports events have been canceled several times lately. To find out why, turn inside. Sports Writer Brandon Willis reports.

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The Dating Doctor David Coleman recently visited the campus. Find out what advice he gave on page 10.

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MARCH 30, 2012

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Sunshiney Day



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Sociology and psychology double major Patrick Jordan takes advantage of the warm weather and studies in the OCCC courtyard. Temperatures are expected to stay in the 70s and 80s into early April.

'A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM' TO TAKE STAGE IN APRIL

Musical to combine talent

ASHLY MENDEZ

News Writing Student

For the first time in three years, a musical will be performed on campus as a joint venture between the drama and music departments.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. each evening for two consecutive weekends, April 5 through 7 and April 12 through 14, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

This classic vaudeville comedy was written by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart. Music and lyrics were created by Stephen Sondheim. The musical debuted on Broadway in 1962.

Students have been rehearsing for five weeks, said Director Brent Noel, theater professor.

"We chose this because it is one of the funniest musicals ever written," Noel said.

"It has a great mix of song, slapstick comedy and sophisticated humor."

Freshman theater arts major Calven Shannon will play the role of Hysterium, one of the slaves in the story.

"It's my first musical and I have really enjoyed singing and dancing," Shannon said. "The show is going to be great. It is very

silly and funny."

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" takes comedy back to its roots, according to the Music Theatre International. It combines situations from 2000-year-old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus with the energy of classic vaudeville.

The result is a non-stop laugh-fest in which a crafty slave struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan for his young master, in exchange for freedom.

"There is lots of physical running around and mistaken identities," sophomore theater arts major Taylor Reich said. "It's just a good time."

Admission to the show is \$8 for students, \$15 for general admission. A free showing will be held Thursday, April 5, for all OCCC faculty, staff, and students with a valid ID.

"You should expect a fast-paced farce based on traditional Roman comedy," Noel said. There will be many familiar plot devices: mistaken identity, romantic complications, and stock characters including the hen-pecked husband, the nagging wife, the young lovers, the conniving servant.

"There is even a chase scene," he said.

For more information, contact Noel at BNoel@occc.edu, or at 405-682-1611, ext. 7246.

OCCC Aquatic Center in the red each year

President Paul Sechrist said the college is taking steps to increase revenue and funding

YVONNE ALEX

Staff Writer

JOEY STIPEK

Special Projects Writer

The college's Aquatic Center took in about \$75,000 less than it paid out to keep the facility open from July 2010 to June 2011.

OCCC Community Development Vice President Steven Bloomberg confirmed the college's Aquatic Center operates at a small loss each year.

However, Bloomberg said, OCCC operates at revenue neutral — meaning despite the small losses from the Aquatic Center, OCCC as a whole operational entity is not losing money on a fiscal year basis.

Operations

Sechrist said information from the most recent years dating back to 2008 shows Aquatic Center direct revenues do not fully cover all of the direct expenses.

"For the most recent fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, the Aquatic Center earned \$478,497 in direct revenue and incurred \$553,414 in direct expenses," he said.

"Basically, last year (2011), 86.4 percent of expenses were covered by the direct revenue. Looking back in history that's probably a good year and I think going forward it will even get better."

Sechrist said the Aquatic Center was never meant to turn a profit.

"It was never intended to make money for the college to be honest," he said. "So where we're not underwriting costs, it's not bad. We are a state-supported college so we get money from the state [of Oklahoma]. We also have a local ad valorem (property tax). That's what underwrites all of what we do. Student tuition doesn't cover the Aquatic Center cost."

Bloomberg said lifeguards, the Aquatic Center coordinator's salary and about 40

See **AQUATIC CENTER** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says there are times when photo identification is helpful

Requiring extra ID at polls needed

The U.S. Justice department recently shot down legislation in Texas requiring voters to show photo identification at the polls. The department claims this rule discriminates against Hispanic voters, since 11 percent of Hispanic voters do not have government-issued photo IDs.



**MARY
McATEE**

There are a couple of reasons this law is under fire — one of them being Texas' history of voter discrimination — but I want to discuss the inherent concept of showing photo ID to vote. First I want to address the issue of not having a photo ID.

Aside from driving, a photo ID is required to enter bars and most clubs, do a return without a receipt at

a retail store, purchase certain prescription medication, write a check and even obtain a library card.

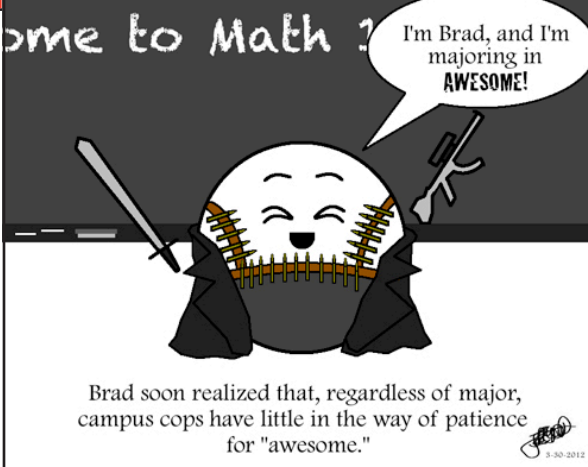
Furthermore, the Texas law does not limit official ID to just drivers licenses — other forms of acceptable ID include non-driver ID, military ID, passports and gun licenses. That any citizen over the age of 17 would not have a single one of these baffles me.

That being said, photo IDs do help decrease voter fraud.

I don't entirely agree with the Texas law, since I believe non-government IDs (i.e. school ID or work badge with photo) shown along with a voter registration card should suffice to prove who you are and that you're eligible to vote in that precinct.

But a city or state that has problems with voter fraud and knows showing a photo ID would decrease it, should be allowed to implement such a law, presuming the only barrier for a person to obtain an ID is

BALLIARD BILL



JEREMY CLOUD

that person is ineligible to vote anyway.

Showing ID should not be a hassle. I don't believe that showing a photo ID should be mandatory for all places, but I do believe if a city or state feels they need to take such action to decrease voter fraud, they should be able to do so.

—MARY McATEE
STAFF WRITER

EDITORIAL | Writer says certain outlets push own agenda

Voters disenfranchised by new law

We as the people of the United States want our citizens to vote. This is the reason that our country is a federal republic and allows for the democracy that the framers of the Constitution envisioned. It is also the reason that voter drives happen. So why would we put any hurdles in the way of that process? One such hurdle is the requirement to submit a state-issued identification card at polling places in order to vote.



**MIKE
WORMLEY**

People who support the laws that have passed in several states including Oklahoma and, in recent months, Texas, claim that having such requirements reduces voter fraud. Unfortunately, there hasn't been proof that this claim holds true for the kind of voter fraud such actions could prevent.

What these law actually do is disenfranchise people who would under normal conditions otherwise vote.

These people include the elderly who may not have a state-issued photo ID, nor the ability to drive to location to get one. College students and military personnel who are living in states other than their home state also are affected because their ID may not be from the state in which they are currently living or, in the case of school IDs, not have an address listed at all. Other voters who are greatly reduced in numbers because of the laws claim they are the "new Jim Crow" laws. Those are people of ethnic heritages, particularly poor African-Americans and Hispanics.

The problem lies with the fact that state-issued identification is not universal nor are they free. In Oklahoma, a state-issued ID card is \$10 plus tax.

A solution to that problem might be a national identification card that is both universal like Social Security cards, and reliable like the current state-ID cards. Overall, though, the argument seems to be sliding toward the support of these laws. It will probably rage on for some time due to how these laws infringe on the individual's right to vote.

—MIKE WORMLEY
ONLINE WRITER

Letter-writer says aquarium review off

To the Editor:

In regards to the negative article written by Sarah Hussain about the Oklahoma Aquarium at Jenks: I have been to this aquarium in Jenks several times and have enjoyed it each and every time. I could see the new additions that were added when they received appropriate funds.

And yes, I have been to several aquarium on the West Coast which have been there for many years before Oklahoma was fortunate to start one here. It is very nice. My grandson and I drove over to visit it just last October, and enjoyed and appreciated it all over again.

Evidently, Sarah Hussain does not like children to not be able to share in the children's discovery fun. This is no doubt the first and maybe only time kids get to see things like this live and not just in story books. Having the excitement of the children added to the fun for me of seeing sharks and large fish and turtles, etc.

Also: construction of streets. Construction is change for the future and cannot be changed or there is no progress.

The \$15 charge at the Jenks is not out of line. Look at theater prices. If you have not been [to the aquarium], I suggest getting there this summer.

—DELORES J. HOLMES
SENIOR CITIZEN WRITER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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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

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW | Competitive skating alive and well in OKC

Roller derby great family fun night

It's Saturday night and the smell of Roller Derby is in the air.

Oklahoma City Roller Derby (OKCRD) hosted a single-header with the Alamo City Roller Girls at the Historic Farmers Market in Oklahoma City March 17.

I got to the bout (that is the appropriate name, not a match.) in time for Rollergating, which is equivalent to tailgating — grilled food and drinks.

Rollergating lasted until about 5 p.m. when the doors opened. I was too busy with Rollergating to notice the line that formed at the doors leading into the street. I was surprised that people would line up that far in advance to get tickets or a seat.

As everyone made his or her way inside, it was a madhouse. People were everywhere, getting food, visiting the bake sale table, or at the bar. Roller Derby is family friendly so the little ones were running around having fun too.

OKCRD raises money for a different charity every month at the

Farmers Market and this bout was a special charity dear to the roller girl's hearts, St. Baldricks.

The charity gets people to raise money that is donated to research for childhood cancer. The catch? Roller girls were shaving their heads. The point is solidarity, plus people will pay you to do stuff like this, so I think everyone wins.

As the bout started, the intensity of the crowd — supporting their local Roller Derby team — was out of sight.

It was so loud; the crowd was chanting OKCRD all night, even when the hometown team was falling behind on the scoreboard.

As the bout went on, roller girls were flying, Roller Derby is definitely a full-contact sport.

OKCRD gave and received some hard hits from the Alamo City girls. In the beginning, it was a close score but as the clock was ticking, the penalties racked up. Alamo City began to have a rather large lead on OKCRD.

During halftime, the head shav-

ing began. Roller girls from both teams were getting their head shaved as well as people from the audience. It was amazing to see everyone just make donation after donation to this charity. Of course, it was also thrilling I am sure to watch the shaves under the shears.

In the second half of the bout, Anomellie, skater of OKCRD, was ejected for too many majors. The crowd was not pleased. OKCRD just pushed through and continued to play as hard as they could.

Alamo City came out with the win but OKCRD did not go down without swinging. Even though OKCRD didn't win, the girls were all good sports.

Overall, the bout was fun. Even first-timers who were ignorant to Roller Derby felt included and up to speed by the end.

I recommend getting tickets at www.okcrd.com and going to their next bout April 21.

Rating: A+

—EMILY SCHORR
STAFF WRITER

View from the
**PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE**



College degree great investment

Over spring break I had the opportunity to visit the newly renovated Myriad Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City. It was great to see this revitalized public space — lots of children playing on the grounds, people reading and relaxing on the tree-shaded lawns, and even a dog park. After three years of a tough economy with lingering challenges, the new gardens and park provided another sign of hope for Oklahoma.

Throughout our state and especially here in Oklahoma City, there are other signals of an improving economy and quality of life — for example, the new jobs being created by the energy and aerospace industries in our area forecast a positive future. It is important to note, however, that many of these new jobs require education beyond a high school diploma. If we are to sustain this growth and economic improvement, we simply must have the educated workforce, or the forward momentum will stall.

As a student, your choice to go to college is to be commended. Your efforts and persistence to stay in college and be successful are what will make all the difference. Oklahoma City needs you to finish your degree or certificate not only to ensure a better future for you as an individual but to continue to make Oklahoma City a place where employers can find talented and educated workers.

The hope for our community to meet the growing requirements of an educated workforce is the same hope you have for yourself and that I have for you and our community. Simply put, the most reliable pathway to a better life, a better job, and a better community — is education. As a college president, I certainly advocate for a pathway that includes higher education, but I also believe in many other options to further one's education, including vocational/professional training.

It was reassuring to see the Myriad Gardens come to life this spring. Let's all use this as inspiration and encouragement to put in the work to finish this semester strong — and go the distance to complete college.

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

CONCERT REVIEW | Diamond Ballroom packed a crowd for recent concert

Chevelle gives fans 'bang for their buck'

As much as an hour before the doors even opened, hundreds of fans were lined up in anticipation of the performance to come. If you wanted a rock concert, you got one on March 16 in Oklahoma City. The band Chevelle headlined the show in the Diamond Ballroom, giving fans in attendance a bang for their buck.

Chevelle is known for their straight-forward approach to the music they create — hard rock with no frills, nothing flashy, and definitely never straying too far from what made them in the first place. This same characteristic applied that Friday night

as no fan left disappointed. Chevelle came, they saw, and they conquered Oklahoma City — at least the hundreds inside the Diamond Ballroom.

You wouldn't have known the Oklahoma City stop on the tour was their second-to-last as the energy of both the band and crowd maintained throughout.

As a result, the Diamond Ballroom turned into a glorified sauna. Frontman Pete Loefler went to Twitter following the show to sum up their night in Oklahoma.

"Hottest show of my life tonight! Didn't matter, everybody in OKC threw down with us!"

On the heels of the re-

lease of their latest album "Hats Off to the Bull," the band showed off a bit of their

newest material. But as most bands often do, Chevelle played a variety of songs from their catalogue, both new and old.

Of course popular favorites such as "The Red," "Closure," and "Send the Pain Below" were played, but lesser-known gems such as "Forfeit" and "Wonder What's Next" arguably got the biggest rise from the crowd.

Even though Chevelle was the headliner, the opening bands weren't just time-wasters at this



concert. Middle Class Rut set the stage for Chevelle with their notable performance. Despite being just a guitar-drum duo, they played with a sound you'd expect from a five-piece band. Judging by the number of bobbing heads in the audience as they went on, MC Rut will likely gain a following as any talented band should.

With the combo of Middle Class Rut and Chevelle (along with the first opening act Janus), the Diamond Ballroom

was host to a solid gathering of bands and an enthusiastic crowd. Here's to the next time Chevelle makes a visit to the red dirt state. They'll have

quite the welcome-back party when they do.

Rating: B+

—MORGAN BEARD
STAFF WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

DVD REVIEW | Affordable television series on disc takes writer to his childhood

‘Mario Brothers’ DVDs bring back memories

Time to dust off your childhoods, guys. This one is from so far back that I was only 3 years old when it came out.

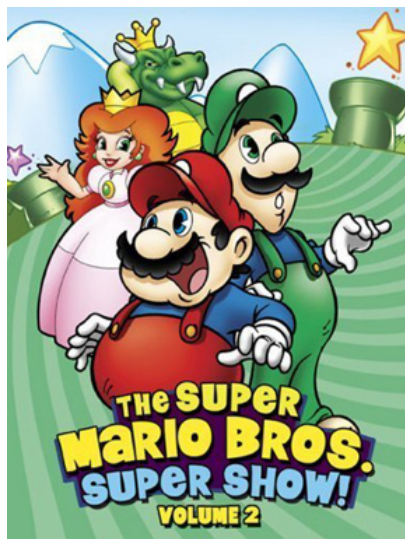
“The Super Mario Brothers Super Show!” was something I grew up with, and while it only had two seasons, I remember it fondly.

The live action bits were really strange, but unfortunately, the DVDs that I have don’t show them, as I remember them being hilarious most of the time.

I recently got a seriously large amount of these episodes, and have been watching them constantly.

My nostalgia gland has been squeezed nearly dry by this show, because I grew up with this show until they took the reruns off the air when I was about 8 or 9.

The plot of the first version of the show was that



Mario Brothers game, with a few from the first and third games as well.

Mario and Luigi (they still have no last names) get sucked down into the Mushroom Kingdom while working on a clogged drain, and they have to try and find their way back to “the real world.”

They seriously called it the real world. Does that make the Mushroom Kingdom fake?

I don’t think anybody could really answer that one.

The vast majority of monsters in Koopa’s army are from the second Super

The animation was pretty bad, but I’ve seen worse.

The storytelling was a little cheesy as well, especially when an “Italian” speaking character was introduced. It was mainly gibberish or Italian names.

Half of Mario’s expressions involved pasta, and King Koopa’s expletives either involved plumbing parts or reptile references.

Generally, really really bad.

Even with the bad acting and the penchant for using music and sounds from the video games, the show was really memorable, and I’m glad I spent the \$60 on them.

You can still get the cartoon on iTunes, for about \$25, which I think would be completely worth it, especially if you want something to pass down to your children.

Rating: A-

—ROBERT BOLTON
COMMUNITY WRITER

EVENT REVIEW | College club brings nerds out of the woodwork

Gamer’s Guild Magic tourney ‘awesome’

On campus there exists a club for a multitude of races, ages, religions, nationalities, pursuits, and degrees. Among these various specialty groups stand The Gamer’s Guild, a club devoted to devotees of fun. No, really.

For instance, on April 16, the Guild sponsored a random draft Magic the Gathering tournament. Anyone rolling their eyes and recalling the nerds of days past can just move on to the next review. For the purposes of this review, MtG is awesome.

The tournament was initially designed to handle up to 50 entrants but, perhaps from lack of advertisement, only a few people showed up, resulting in reduced rounds. The tournament also was delayed by the need to draft, drawing handfuls of cards from a bin, and designing and building a deck from scratch.

Once things got under way, though, the College Union rang with cries of victory and the occasional epithet as battle commenced.

The Guild encouraged side games outside the tournament, and due to the low number of entrants, side games occasionally slipped into being tournament matches if both parties agreed.

Also set up was a table to instruct new players on how to play, and to give players who had no interest in the tournament a chance to play as well.

The tournament followed a tiered structure, and matches were played on a best two out of three basis to ensure that every draft



deck had a chance to play out to its fullest.

I got lucky and drafted a large number of white mana defensive cards that allowed for a rapid deployment of defenses, and red mana cards that allowed for sudden death to rain down on one’s opponent’s creatures. Once impregnable, my deck could take potshots from behind a wall and take the other player out slowly, while turning my creatures into juggernauts.

Much to my surprise, the matches appeared fairly even, with one exception.

In the first match, I was paired against

a young lady who had the misfortune to draft a deck that needed time to build up. The result was two sweeping defeat in my favor, with no chance to retaliate.

The second match was far more even. My opponent’s deck was built to do vast amounts of damage as quickly as possible. Every game in that set, which I won two to one, followed the pattern of quietly panicking as my life total counts down for the first few turns needed to bring up my defenses, then a long siege until he or I broke through.

The final match was sudden death to determine first place, and I lost soundly.

My opponent’s deck powered up in two turns, and had me tapping out at lightning speed.

Overall, the tournament was fun, and not just because I placed second.

It was a chance to get together with a group of people who shared a hobby with me, to talk shop and play games. The only thing that could have made it better was a stronger turnout.

Rating: B+

—JEREMY CLOUD
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.

TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of
March 23 through 25
www.yahoo.com

1. *The Hunger Games*
2. *21 Jump Street*
3. *Dr. Suess’ The Lorax*
4. *John Carter*
5. *Act of Valor*
6. *A Thousand Words*
7. *Project X*
8. *October Baby*
9. *Safe House*
10. *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D*
11. *Casa de Mi Padre*
12. *This Means War*
13. *Tyler Perry’s Good Deeds*
14. *The Vow*
15. *Friends With Kids*
16. *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*
17. *Silent House*
18. *Jeff Who Lives at Home*
19. *The Artist*
20. *Agent Vinod*

SEX ADDICTS 'OUT OF CONTROL'

Porn addiction rises with Internet availability

SHALYA ALLEN

News Writing Student

The ready availability of cyber sex and online pornography has contributed to an increase in the number of people suffering from sexual addiction, said Dr. Vicki Wyatt, a certified sexual addiction therapist.

Wyatt presented the topic, "What EVERYONE should know about Love, Sex, and Porn Addiction" to an audience of 25 on campus March 6.

OCCC's Student Support Representative Jenna Howard opened the seminar by introducing Wyatt.

Although Wyatt offered some definitions of sex addiction, she reminded her listeners that no two cases are alike.

Wyatt gave resources so listeners could take surveys to determine if they, or someone they know, have characteristics of sex addiction.

Wyatt said that a sex addict is different from a regular person.

"They can't stop their behavior," she said. "Their behavior defines them."

She also said, like an alcohol problem or drug addiction, a sex addiction can cause withdrawal symptoms such as mood changes upon withdrawal.

These symptoms require time and treatment to overcome. She described the life of sex addicts as "out of control" and "unmanageable" because the addiction takes time from valuable parts of their lives.

Wyatt said there is more than one form of sexual compulsion. These include fantasy and seductive role sex.

The addict does not even have to engage in sexual acts to be addicted.

In total, Wyatt went on to describe 10 different types of sexual addictions.

When talking about cyber sex and porn addiction, Wyatt said easy access to pornographic material via the Internet fuels the problem.

Partaking of sexual stimulation electronically can make addicts feel more secure about doing it because they don't actually engage in physical sexual contact, Wyatt said.

Wyatt used a slideshow with

many quotes, charts and statistics from Dr. Patrick Carnes, the founder of "Sex Help," a program that diagnoses and treats symptoms of sex addiction.

Wyatt said Carnes is presenting a Chance to Change Workshop on May 18 at Crossings Community Church and urged her audience to attend.

Before closing her speech, Wyatt introduced Jerry Wright, a colleague of hers who battled sex addiction for 47 years, starting when he was only 9 years old.

Wright drove home the message by reassuring addicts that they were not alone and encouraging them to get the help they deserve.

Erica Vasquez, a business major at OCCC, said she took away a lesson from

the seminar.

"Anyone can have a sex addiction," she said.

Vasquez, who attended the seminar for extra credit for a class, said she believes sex addiction can be a major issue in any community.

For more information on the subject, visit www.wyattgroup.biz.

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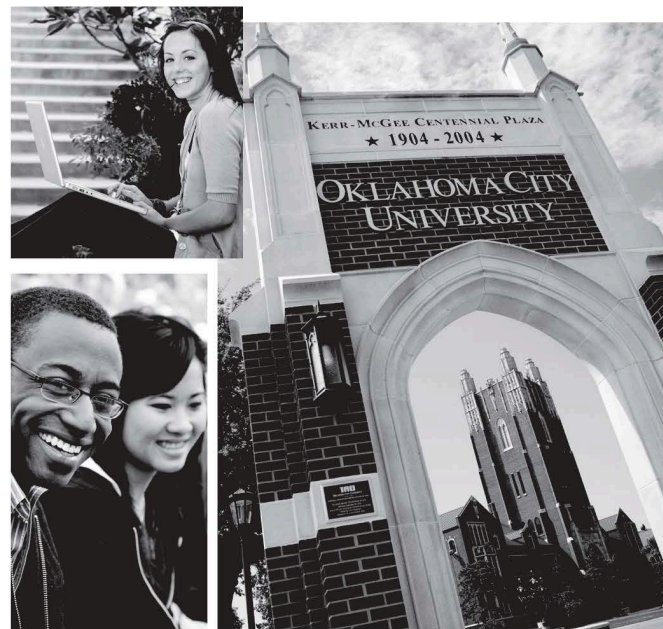
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OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL NEED CAN BE BASED ON PREVIOUS TAX YEARS

How do tax returns affect your financial aid?

MARY MCATEE

Staff Writer
staffwriter@occc.edu

Income tax returns are directly linked to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and used for several purposes in the financial aid process, said Harold Case, dean of Student Financial Support Services,

"When you file the FAFSA, what you're doing is trying to tap into federal programs," Case said.

"A lot of those programs are based on financial need. The way the federal system has always handled that is to use your tax returns."

Information from your tax forms and FAFSA create the expected family contribution number, or EFC, which determines how much federal aid you get, Case said.

"When you submit that information, it's run through formulas that are written into the law by Congress," he said.

"The various formulas that are used to analyze the data then kicks out that EFC number. We use the EFC to determine eligibility from one program to another."

Case said for 2012, students can import their IRS information directly into their FAFSA using a data retrieval system.

"If you do [taxes] online, you can wait about two weeks after you file, and then you can file the FAFSA and elect to have your IRS data on file and insert it into the FAFSA," he said.

Case said the data retrieval system has been around for a few years, but was impractical for students, since the data wasn't usable until well after students had filed their FAFSAs.

This year, the data retrieval system was usable in February but there are some students and families who, for whatever reason, may not be able to use the data retrieval system.

He also said students and their families that need to wait to file taxes can estimate their tax information in their FAFSA, but the financial aid office needs to reconfirm the information from the FAFSA.

"At some point you usually get a letter from the federal system saying 'you should be submitting your final version,'" Case said.

Occasionally, students are chosen to verify their FAFSA information, Case said.

"If a student is selected for verification, then we have to collect the tax information and we have to use that to confirm they filed [the FAFSA] accurately."

Case said both students and the financial aid office benefit from the data retrieval system.

"It should speed up the process of verification, if a family is able to use data retrieval," Case said. "It's considered accurate because it's coming right from the IRS."

Case warned that because of the improved efficiency of IRS data retrieval, a student's physical tax return will no longer be accepted to verify their FAFSA.

"The people who have to supply the tax information have to turn in an IRS tax transcript, which you order from the IRS," Case said.

According to a fact sheet on the Financial Aid's website, the tax transcript is free.

If you file a hard copy of your tax returns, instead of doing them online, it can take six to eight weeks for the information to get into the IRS's system, Case said.

Case said filing online is the quickest way to get taxes done, and also the best way to take advantage of the data retrieval system.

"Get your taxes done online, wait a couple weeks for your data to get in the system, and then file your FAFSA using the data retrieval service," Case said.

"It will probably reduce your chances of getting selected for verification."

Case said that may not be the case.

"If you do get selected, it will help us because we won't have to verify as much information, so what we will be collecting from students will be less."

Case said the college begins processing information for the next school year after spring break, and will notify students about verification through their school email account.

"Be sure to check your email because the college sends a lot through that email, and you might miss important information," said Case.

For more information, call the office of Financial Aid at 405-682-7525 or visit occc.edu/finaid or email financialaid@occc.edu.



CHRIS JAMES/ PIONEER

Citizens Alfred and Maxine Bennett go over their taxes with Sharon Craig, tax assistant with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program March 28. VITA is a free service that offers help preparing tax paperwork. VITA is offering assistance Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. through April 17.

Tax professionals can help

ROBERT BOLTON

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Tax deadlines are approaching, and students may find the prospect of doing taxes a daunting task.

Some tax professionals say it's best to leave tax filing to them, because of the possibility of over- or underpaying due to errors.

H&R Block district manager Goldie West said when searching for a tax professional, make sure to be exacting.

"Look at their records to see how long they have been doing it, and see what their education is like," West said.

"Make sure that they are certified with the IRS."

Tax professionals can use a 1098-T form to find out if students qualify for credits, like education credits and the American Opportunity Credit.

According to the IRS website, the American Opportunity Credit is available to students who have not completed four years of post-secondary education and have an adjusted gross income of \$80,000 or

less, or \$160,000 or less for married couples who are filing a joint return.

Before a return can be claimed, any taxes owed must be paid, West said.

"It is important to file taxes on time, even if the taxes cannot actually be paid," she said.

"The penalty for filing late is 5 percent of the due tax, while the penalty for not paying the taxes you filed on time is only .5 percent."

Accounting professor Tamala Zolicoffer said it is possible to file for a tax extension for those not able to file prior to April 15.

Zolicoffer said a tax extension is valid until Oct. 15.

Those who are late on filing taxes should file as soon as possible to avoid further penalties, and should file taxes if they receive any kind of income, she said.

West said extensions are not a way out of paying taxes.

"Extensions only increase the deadline for filing, but you still have to pay on time," she said.

For more information on filing taxes, deadlines or how to file an extension visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

Local film industry could face troubles

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor
editor@occc.edu

Oklahoma's fledgling film industry could be in danger, said Jazz Bishop, film and video student.

"There's two bills in the state Senate right now that could gut the entire film industry here in Oklahoma," Bishop said.

"Senate Bill 1435, would repeal the tax credit for the film industry immediately, which would stop the film industry here dead.

"SB 1623 would be a gradual reduction that would cut it in half next year, and completely eliminate it the year after. Without that deal to give them an incentive, film makers have no reason to come here to produce films when they could get a better deal elsewhere."

This viewpoint is shared by Rick Allen Lippert, video production adjunct professor. "I think this legislation would kill (the film industry)," Lippert said.

"So much of the film work that has been going on the past several years is a direct result of the incentive. Filmmakers will go where they can get the best deal. Oklahoma was a pioneer in offering incentives to filmmakers, and that's what brought a lot of films here, why we have people working in the industry here."

Lippert said he believes the consequences of the legislation could reach even further, affecting OCCC's film and video program.

"The incentives are why we have a 5,000 foot sound stage on our campus. It was all part of a grand plan to create an industry," Lippert said.

"I would go as far as to say that if these tax credits are done away with, our own film program will probably be gotten rid of. Because there won't be an industry, or a need to train people for that industry, because no one will be shooting films here."

Bishop said the introduction of the legislation alone has already hit Oklahoma's film industry hard.

"There was a movie written by an Oklahoma author, going to be filmed in Oklahoma by Dreamworks. But because there was some doubt about whether they would get the tax credit, Dreamworks moved that whole film to Canada," he said.

"We lost another film called 'Thunderstruck,' about Kevin Durant. That one got moved to Louisiana. They grabbed some production shots here, but the bulk of it was done in elsewhere."

But the loss of those tax credits may not be preventable, said Gray Frederickson, OCCC film and video artist in residence, who produced the "Godfather" trilogy. Frederickson said that after the film "Twister" was shot in Oklahoma, lawmakers liked the results.

"They came in here and dropped probably about \$13 million into the state's economy, without polluting or making a mess, and the Legislature began saying they wanted more films."

He said he told them they needed a couple of



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Director Joseph Dixon (white hat), gives his actors, Francisco Ceruantes, and Juan Luna, instructions on behaving like "angry Mexican federales." Actor Ronnie Wiskup, remains seated while camera operator, Micheal Hannifan, prepares to film the improvisation activity. Professor Greg Mellott set the stage for the film class activity.

“ We have nothing here that a filmmaker can't get an hour outside L.A. And they're not going to come here for the chicken-fried steak.”

—GRAY FREDERICKSON
FILM AND VIDEO ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

things for that to happen.

"We have nothing here that a filmmaker can't get an hour outside L.A. And they're not going to come here for the chicken-fried steak. They're going to come here if the prices are better, and they're going to come here if there's a crew base."

Frederickson said the main reason the tax credits passed in the first place was that at a 15 percent rate, the state was breaking even.

"About two years ago, the new film commission got the rebate raised to 35 percent from 15 percent" he said.

"When I went to get that first break passed, the Compete With Canada Act, I asked for 20 percent. They did a study, came back and said that at twenty, the state was losing money. But they said that fifteen percent would be a zero sum. They wouldn't make any money, but they wouldn't lose any money," Frederickson said.

"When they upped it to 35 percent, I wondered how the heck they were going to cover that?"

"And in fact somebody over at the capitol started running the numbers and looking at the books, and realized they were losing money," he said. They've

since lowered the tax credit to 17 percent, Frederickson said.

Lippert, who runs a video production company in addition to teaching, said one of the main reasons cited for the loss of the credits is the lack of stable jobs created by the film industry.

"But the oil and gas industry drills holes, and they employ contract roughnecks to work on the hole as it's being drilled. When they finish drilling, those roughnecks have to move on to another hole, another job," he said.

"In the same way, crews for a film work on a film, then move on to another film when they finish. It's the same model that the oil and gas industry uses, but no one talks about the oil and gas industry not creating permanent jobs, even though they get a lot more tax credits."

Frederickson acknowledged the temporary nature of movie work, noting the lack of work and the long lags between projects, even in movie hubs like Hollywood.

"But you think about it, the oil and gas industry bring in millions of dollars of revenue each year. Their tax incentives make the state money," he said. "There's really no comparison."

Sean Lynch, film and video production equipment coordinator, said that the loss of the tax break would not be a deathblow.

"We're a homegrown industry. If the out-of-state companies stop coming here and shooting, we'll be no better or worse off than we were when we started."

"We'll just have to build it up on our own," he said.

SPORTS

SPORTS | Eric Watson says
Intramural sports canceled due
to low numbers

Lack of interest, publicity ends sporting event

BRANDON WILLIS

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

The CoEd Volleyball League has been canceled due to lack of participation from students and faculty.

According to Eric Watson, Recreation and Sports specialist, it appears there was not enough advertisement given to the CoEd Volleyball League.

As reported by the Pioneer at the close of the fall semester, OCCC also had to cancel the 5-on-5 Basketball Tournament due to low numbers of participants.

Some students believe the lack of advertisement around the school is the big reason for the absence in students.

"I didn't know about the intramurals until I walked over by the gym," student and frequent visitor to the Wellness Center Daun Coleman said.

"They have to get the word out more because if you don't come, you don't know," she said.

The OCCC Recreation and Fitness Department offers a large number of options as far as intramural sports go.

Options vary between 5-on-5 basketball, flag football, table tennis, soccer, volleyball and more.

Student Paul Lancaster believes the lack of marketing for intramurals has students missing the opportunities.

"Some students don't even know that we have a gym. It's sad," Lancaster said.

"They do not publicize these events

Now serving...



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Physics Professor Tad Thurston of team Club Ed, serves against the News Paper Ninjas in an OCCC volleyball tournament held on March 14. Club Ed went on to defeat the News Paper Ninjas. The most recent intramural volleyball games, scheduled for March 26, were canceled due to a lack in teams participating.

“We have got to get more participation from the student body. We also must get the information out there.”

—ERIC WATSON

RECREATION AND SPORTS SPECIALIST

enough.

"We need to make fliers and get advertisements on the Internet and on the televisions, not just the newspapers."

Watson said he is not satisfied with the overall participation of students at OCCC.

Nevertheless, Watson said, partici-

pation for the spring basketball league was the best so far.

"Basketball went really well and I'm really happy with the way that went," Watson said.

Watson said he did not believe the other sports had the same interest.

"We have got to get more participation from the student body," Watson

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

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 27: Home Run Derby begins. 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.**

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Do you have sports news you'd like to share? If so, contact Brandon at sportswriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676.

said. "We also must get the information out there."

For more information on Intramural sports or the Wellness Center, call the Wellness Center Desk at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Aquatic Center: OCCC to look to community for help

Continued from page 1

percent of the director's salary are part of the allocations to the Aquatics Center.

"There is a great deal of personnel costs attributed to the Aquatics Center," Sechrist said. "Chemicals and maintenance ... — all count against the operational costs ..."

Sechrist said the agreement, initiated in 1988 between OCCC and the City of Oklahoma City, requiring OCCC to open the Aquatic Center to members of the community for 20 years, had recently expired.

"Even though this agreement is expired, OCCC remains committed to keep the facility open to the public, as well as to our students."

Renovations

The Aquatic Center was built almost 25 years ago when Oklahoma City hosted Olympic Festival '89, with 86 percent of the funds provided by the City of Oklahoma City, according to Pioneer archives. The first phase of the Aquatic Center cost an estimated \$2.2 million and was finished by Lippert Brothers Contractors and architectural firm RGDC Inc.

Sechrist said it would cost an estimated \$6 million to bring the Aquatic Center to "state-of-the-art" conditions.

"We worked with Triad, an architectural firm, a couple of years for maintenance issues," he said. "The plan includes improved and expanded locker room facility."

"If you've been in [the Aquatic Center] when a lot of people are in there, it's very warm and we have some air handling issues."

Sechrist said the diving platforms also need work. Also, the water filtration system needs to be updated in the swimming and diving wells.

Sechrist said other improvements would include an ultra-violet sanitizing system and aesthetic upgrades, better bleachers, better sound system.

"Triad's estimate to do all

of the things on our wish list, which would include all the things I mentioned, would cost \$6 million," he said.

Sechrist said the damages caused by the flood to the Aquatic Center in the summer of 2010 did not spur the need to approach Triad for renovations.

"The good news is that there was minimal damage as a result of flooding and nothing long-term," he said. "The needed renovations existed prior to the flood."

Plan of Action

Sechrist said OCCC has not received any offers to fund renovations or to purchase the Aquatic Center, but college officials did reach out to the City of Oklahoma City.

"We have approached the city regarding MAPS funds or some other funding source, but no funds have been offered to the college."

Sechrist said there were two stipulations in the requested funding proposal that made it impossible for OCCC to accept.

"Whatever was spent for renovations or a new building would be owned by the City of Oklahoma City and the property is not city property."

It's college [property]," he said.

"It would be difficult to carve out a piece of our property. We just didn't think it was worth it. We just decided we would not give away our building — our property."

Sechrist said initiatives are in place, or planned, to obtain outside funding.

The college is pursuing ancillary funding opportunities to bolster revenue for the Aquatic Center.

Bloomberg said generating additional revenue for the Aquatic Center is not as simple as raising the prices for memberships.

"With the Aquatics Center we sell memberships. Students and staff with a valid ID already

“ We think it will make sense for the city to say ‘Ah, [the Aquatic Center] is really an economic asset that the city needs to invest in.’ ”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

pay a fee but a family from the outside will pay \$220 a year for a membership," Bloomberg said.

"From a business standpoint as well, one of the things you might say is why not raise that. I think it bears explanation. We're charging an amount which is essentially commiserated with the level of service we provide."

Bloomberg said funding for the Aquatic Center is going to have to come from outside OCCC to achieve revenue neutral status. This includes additional sponsorships from the community.

"For example, the last event we held — the NAIA swim and dive championships — we were able to secure donations from area business and industries," Bloomberg said.

"Chesapeake, who contributed funds toward the NAIA, [was] the title sponsor for the NAIA champions of character banquet we had. When we have events or opportunities to sell sponsorships, we absolutely have to do that."

Bloomberg said OCCC has created a position that has not yet been filled to develop grants, donations, and fundraising for community development activities.

Sechrist said this year alone, the Aquatic Center has held in excess of 30 events. In addition to local Oklahoma high school teams, the Aquatic Center hosts events for the Special Olympics, Chesapeake Swim Club, Oklahoma Baptist University, NAIA National Championships, and the Mountain West Conference Diving Championships.

"Mountain West or NAIA have an economic impact and

that economic impact is nice for the city [Oklahoma City]," he said. "It tops into the millions over a year. NAIA was \$700,000."

"(With regards to) Mountain West, there's no college in the state of Oklahoma that's a member of that organization. Everyone that comes

is from out of state.

...The schools are from all over the country," he said.

"We think it will make sense for the city to say 'Ah, [the Aquatic Center] is really an economic asset that the city needs to invest in.'"

Bloomberg stressed OCCC is one of the best-managed institutions in Oklahoma, maybe even in the country.

"We take a very cautious, conservative approach to how we allocate expenditures."

Resolution

Bloomberg said he encourages students to use the facilities available to them at OCCC.

"The Aquatics Center, the wellness center, intramurals, even if they don't do it weekly, it's a real benefit to them."

The staff will give them tours. We offer Red Cross swimming classes, children's soccer, and children's sports camps — there's a huge spectrum of programming that goes on," he said.

Sechrist said despite the Aquatic Center not covering its direct expenses, he sees the economic benefit to renovating the Aquatic Center for the surrounding community.

"Certainly, if we get the \$6 million, our facility would rival any swimming and diving complex, certainly in the diving area."

"[It would be] a world class facility for our faculty and staff," he said. "To be honest students are first."

"It was here when I became president and I have to be a good steward of all of it. I think that's why I have been pushing. I think we can do it."

For more information about

the Aquatic Center, visit www.occc.edu/rf/aquatic.

College looks to fill position

YVONNE ALEX

Staff Writer

JOEY STIPEK

Contributing Writer

OCCC Foundation Executive Director Leland Taylor is looking to fill a position created to develop grants, donations, and fundraising for community development activities.

Director of Development of Institutional Advancement Jennifer Harrison said OCCC is looking to hire an individual with a bachelor's degree who has two to three years of marketing and fundraising experience here in the Oklahoma City area.

"They will be working part time for the foundation and part time for community development," Harrison said.

"Community development will focus on the Aquatics Center, cultural arts series, and Arts Festival. The foundation will focus on an annual appeal and the alumni association. The position will be posted sometime in April, pending HR processing."

Do you have news you'd like to share?
Contact Editor
Jeremy Cloud at
editor@occc.edu.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Dynamic duo



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Shane Henry and Maggie McClure perform in the OCCC College Union on March 15. The guitar and keyboard duo both write and sing original songs along with a few covers. Both may be found on their websites at www.shanehenry.com and www.maggiemcclure.com

COMMUNITY | David Coleman explores Making Relationships Matter

Dating Doctor visit goes off without a ‘hitch’

Kyle Woodard
News Writing Student

Finding a lifelong companion to marry is a daunting task, one that many college students are hesitant to take on, said a speaker on campus March 13.

“People are single because they don’t know what to look for,” said David Coleman, the Dating Doctor, in a speech on “Making Relationships Matter.”

About 60 students gathered in the student union to listen to Coleman’s presentation.

He talked about recognizing signs that a person might be interested in dating and how to give signs that you are interested.

He said one of the key signs of interest is eye contact. If a potential partner tries for eye contact and holds it, that it is an early sign.

Another important sign, Coleman said, is if the other person wants to be in your presence.

“Then you have hope,” he said. If the person is not avoiding you and not making excuses to leave, then they might be interested.

Coleman interacted with the OCCC students who attended the show. He would throw chocolates to students who answered questions or made a comment.

Coleman’s first question to the audience was: Who controls the relationship?

Many students answered that the female is in control.

“Wrong,” Coleman said. “The person who cares the least is the person who controls the relationship.” Coleman emphasized that relationships often fail if both partners do not show the same amount of care for the other.

“I will tell you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear,” Coleman said.

He didn’t just talk about being single and starting relationships. He also touched on how to recognize a healthy relationship and an unhealthy one.

“A healthy relationship requires three types of love: eros love, agape love, and philia love.”

Eros love is the physical attraction and chemistry with the other person.

Agape love is defined as the heartfelt love that grows stronger over time and doesn’t diminish.

Philia love is the ability to enjoy time as friends.

“You have to be happy to be around this person all the time,” said Coleman when referring to philia love.

Coleman said that if any of these types of love are missing, then you are likely in an unhealthy

relationship.

Coleman said the keys to a good relationship are working to maintain the relationship and love.

“A person should not marry out of obligation,” Coleman said.

One student asked Coleman if he was married and if he used his own practices to find his wife.

“I was married, but have been divorced for a few years now,” he said. “I am currently dating someone and have used my own advice to meet women in the past.”

Coleman said this was his third time to speak at OCCC.

“It is one of my favorite campuses to come to,” he said. In fact, Coleman was here last year.

Some students said they heard him speak then and came back to hear him again.

Coleman has done more than a thousand shows and presentations about relationships. He also does personal relationship counseling and coaching for people.

Coleman has released two books, “Date Smart!” and “Making Relationships Matter: 9 Ways to Stay in Love for Life” that can be purchased through his website www.datingdoctor.com.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Personal strengths explored

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

Brown Bag: Disaster Preparation

Student Life is hosting a workshop at noon on Wednesday, April 4, in CU1. The discussion topic is “Disaster Preparation.” Bring your lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Brown Bag: Car Care

Student Life is hosting a workshop at noon on Wednesday, April 11, in CU1. The discussion topic is “Car Care.” Bring your lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Tuition Fee Waiver application deadline

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the Summer 2012 session 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.

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.

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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


Spring

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a message about Spring.

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TONEY BRACKETT BRINGS 17 YEARS EXPERIENCE

New automotive professor has GM background

ALISE SQUIRIC
News Writing Student

A new position has been filled this semester at OCCC in the Transportation Technology Center.

Toney Brackett, Automotive Service Technology professor, spent 17 years at Saturn of Oklahoma City as a technician before taking the position at OCCC this semester.

Brackett said he also taught at Chisholm Trail Technology Center for two years. Chisholm Trail is 13 miles east of Wagon, near Omega.

Coming from a very good General Motors background, Brackett "is going to be a great instructor," said Department head Richard Steere. Steere said Brackett has experience in what he is teaching and knows what it takes to succeed in the automotive industry.

The position came open due to the previous instructor leaving to take a job at Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Steere said.

Brackett now works at the Transportation Technology Center on campus, instructing classes such as ASE, the Automotive Service Education Program. In this particular program, students who want to

work as a full-time technician at a General Motors dealership can take an eight-week course and spend four weeks at a dealership and four weeks in class getting the education they need to go into the technician field.

Students said they really enjoy having Brackett as their teacher.

Student Dominique Allen said what he likes most about Brackett is that he makes information clear. "Failure is not an option," Allen said.

When asked if he enjoyed his new professor position, Brackett responded, "Absolutely."

He said to him teaching is like the next step up from being a professional mechanic and he enjoys being able to communicate with his students.

Brackett said he hopes to be a great help in teaching them what they need to know in order to obtain jobs in their field, as well as be successful in this industry.



Toney Brackett, Automotive Service Technology professor, instructs Automotive Management major Alex Rutter in removing an air conditioner condenser.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

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