

INSIDE

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

TREAT YOUR KIDS AS WELL AS YOUR PETS

Editor Jeremy Cloud says too many people treat their animals better than they treat their children. Read his thoughts inside.

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PIONEER BRINGS HOME 30 AWARDS

The Pioneer staff recently attended an awards luncheon on the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater. Find out what awards they won on page 6.

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PAINTBALL TOURNAMENT APRIL 29

A co-ed Capture-the-Flag paintball tournament will be held on campus for the first time as an intramural event April 29. Find out other details inside.

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2012 DAY

OCCC is looking for volunteers for Special Olympics 2012. Find out how you can get involved on page 10.

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

APRIL 6, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Staged humor



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Gabriel Pranter as Marcus Lycus (front, left), buyer and seller of courtesans, and Taylor Reich as Pseudolus (front, right), slave to Hero, negotiate the fate of Philia, played by Candice Parker (back, left), the virgin, and Hero, played by Scott Whitehead (back, right) in a dress rehearsal for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." The student production is at 7:30 each evening from April 5 through 7 and 12 through 14 in the Bruce Owen Theater at OCCC.

FINANCIAL AID AWARD IS IMPACTED BY WITHDRAWALS

Students have until April 13 to drop classes

LAUREN TUBBS

News Writing Student

With the withdraw date for all 16-week classes coming up on Friday, April 13, some students may be faced with the difficult decision of whether to save their grade or save their financial aid.

Recent changes in federal financial aid mean that too many withdrawals can disqualify a student for financial aid — even if the withdrawals occurred years ago.

When a student withdraws from a class, it is considered "attempted hours," said Joan Sublett, senior loan adviser in

OCCC's Financial Aid office.

In order to qualify for financial aid, students must have a completion rate of at least 67 percent, Sublett said.

The Financial Aid office looks at what is called the "completion rate calculation" as part of the process in determining aid eligibility. The calculation is based on all the classes a student earns divided by how many classes the student attempted.

"[A withdrawal mark] just means it was an attempted but unearned credit," Sublett said. "Therefore, it will impact your completion rate; however, an 'F' will impact your GPA as well.

"If it is necessary to withdraw

from a course that will negatively affect your financial aid, you will have the opportunity to have it appealed, which may reinstate your financial aid."

But reinstatement is not guaranteed, she said.

Nursing major Alisha Tasetano said she withdrew from two classes back in fall 2010.

Tasetano said she saw the first article in The Pioneer explaining financial aid changes so she was concerned about possibly losing

“

If it is necessary to withdraw from a course that will negatively affect your financial aid, you will have the opportunity to have it appealed, which may reinstate your financial aid."

—JOAN SUBLETT
SENIOR LOAN ADVISER

her Pell Grant.

Tasetano was relieved to find she was still eligible for financial aid.

"I have children in college and they receive no financial aid,"

See **WITHDRAW** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Child abuse cases outnumber animal abuse cases

Some treat pets better than children

Every time I build up a little faith in humanity, something comes along and reminds me just how awful we are as a species. Case in point: last week News9.com reported that a couple was arrested by Rogers County sheriffs while robbing a home in Claremore.



JEREMY CLOUD

Oh, and their 4-month-old child was waiting in the car while mommy and daddy picked up some new silver. Really.

In 2010 there were 720,000 substantiated reports of child abuse, according to a report by the Administration for Children and Families. In that same document, there were 3.6 million reports. Three point six million.

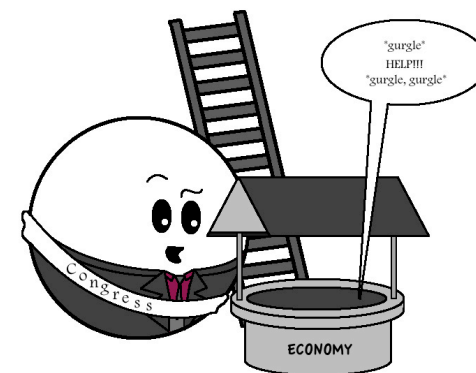
And the worst bit? Of those confirmed reports, 78.3 percent are neglect — as in, forgetting a child exists, forgetting to feed or bathe or shelter a living human being that is wholly dependent on adults for every aspect of his or her life.

So many of us today think only of ourselves. The '90s and '00s bred a culture of entitlement, a culture that encouraged individuals to be proud of themselves simply for breathing and standing upright. And now, more than ever, many consider a crying child a nuisance rather than a helpless individual in need of assistance.

Worse, there may not be a way to fix this. Certainly I don't see one. We may, as a culture, have hit the point of no return long ago. How could I say that?

Those of weak stomach should grab a bowl for this next bit. Pet-Abuse.com lists a total of 1,214 pet abuse cases in the U.S. for that same year. Let me put that in perspective:

BALLIARD BILL



We'd hand you this ladder, but we're busy talking about serious social issues that are none of our business.

JEREMY CLOUD

Of the 3.6 million reports of child abuse, 720,000 were confirmed. There were 1,214 confirmed actionable cases of pet abuse. That's more than 500 times as many cases.

As a society, we treat pets better than we treat children.

God help us all.

—**JEREMY CLOUD**
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Parents should consider risks before buying baby chicks for youngsters

Health officials warn about salmonella from pet birds

To the Editor:

The spring season is the time of year where chicks, ducklings, and other baby birds are given as gifts or put on display for children. The Oklahoma State Department of Health is warning Oklahomans of the risk of illness from handling baby birds. These popular springtime pets often carry Salmonella, a bacterium that causes a diarrheal illness.

The bacteria are carried in the baby bird's intestines, which can contaminate the body of the animal and their environment. When live baby poultry carry Salmonella, they don't appear to be sick, but they can still spread the germs to people.

People can be exposed to Salmonella by holding, cuddling, or kissing the birds or by touching things where the birds live, such as cages or feed and water bowls. Additionally, germs can be

found on the hands, shoes, and clothing of those who handle the birds, or work or play in areas where birds live and roam. People become infected with Salmonella when they put their hands, or other things that have been in contact with droppings, in or around their mouth. Children are specifically at risk.

During 2006, the OSDH identified an outbreak of Salmonella associated with handling chicks, ducklings, and other baby birds purchased from farm supply stores as pets. Fourteen cases were identified and seven required hospitalization.

Symptoms of Salmonella include fever, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps; symptoms usually last four to seven days. In persons in poor health or with weakened immune systems, Salmonella can invade the bloodstream and cause life-threatening infections.

The OSDH offers the following

preventive recommendations when handling baby poultry:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching baby poultry. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers if soap and water are not readily available. Parents should supervise hand washing for small children to make sure it is adequate.
- Avoid purchasing chicks, ducklings or other baby birds as pets for Easter gifts. Give soft toy animals as a safer alternative.
- If baby birds are purchased, avoid keeping them in a household with children younger than 5 years of age.
- Keep baby birds in a designated area away from family living spaces. Do not allow them to roam freely in the house, especially in areas where food or drinks are prepared or served, such as kitchens and dining areas.
- Supervise children when handling

baby birds.

• Do not allow children to handle baby birds in other settings such as childcare centers, farm stores, or schools. If they do so, ensure they wash their hands with soap and water after touching baby birds or anything in their environment.

• Pacifiers, toys, or other objects should not come in contact with baby birds or their enclosures. Wash objects that come in contact thoroughly with soap and water.

• Disinfect areas where feeders, water containers, and cages are cleaned.

• Avoid eating or drinking around baby birds, especially when handling them.

For more information regarding safe animal handling and prevention of diarrheal illnesses, visit www.health.ok.gov or www.cdc.gov/healthypets.

—**OKLAHOMA CITY-COUNTY**
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PIONEER

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the **PIONEER** office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER ONLINE** also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Book translates to movie successfully

‘Hunger Games’ gets top rating

After the release of the film adaptation of the first of Suzanne Collin’s three “Hunger Games” novels, I am pleased to say that the movie (and also the book) did indeed live up to the hype. Having been an avid hater of the “Twilight” series, my delight in this book series and the first of the movies is beyond surprising.

“The Hunger Games” takes place in the ruins of what is a post-apocalyptic North America. What used to be the United States is the nation of Panem, a 12-district federation that is headed by the Capitol.

In order to reassert their authority and to punish the districts for their rebellious uprising some 75 years ago, the government stages the annual Hunger Games, a gladiator-style competition that is broadcast to the districts in a reality show manner.

One boy and one girl from each district, between the ages of 12 and 18, are forced into an arena to fight to the death, with the result of one sole victor.

The main character Katniss is

played by newcomer actress Jennifer Lawrence. Having read the book first, I can say she properly portrays this character with just the right dose of strength and vitality. She’s not the only character that brings the story to life.

The casting for each role in this movie is what makes this story so convincing and compelling, a measure that some directors can easily neglect.

The characterization breaks the barrier in this category, giving the story a sense of weight and gravity that few Hollywood stars could muster for such roles.

Also impressive about this movie is how the set design mirrors the description that the book gives on the districts and the gaucheness of the Capitol.

The cinematography also is worth noting, with many scenes



edited in such a pristine manner, you momentarily feel as if you are a character in the movie.

There are a few inconsistencies between the book and the movie, which I both expected and accepted graciously.

However, without trying to spoil a good story, I will say

those who have read the book will find that a couple of these inconsistencies are slightly bothersome but, because the movie holds its own value, these inconsistencies are easy to bypass.

The director did an outstanding job in bringing the author’s vision to the silver screen.

For men and women alike, from teenage to elderly, this is an engrossing story that will leave you feeling anything but bored.

Rating: A+

—CASEY R. AKARD
VIDEOGRAPHER

STORE REVIEW | Even those on a budget can eat well

Save-A-Lot an affordable grocery

The dietary habits of students are legendary, and tend to involve a great deal of mac and cheese, ramen and microwave dinners. But those habits arise from a need to save money, rather than a liking for that cuisine if the term can be stretched to encompass ramen.

For those who’d prefer to eat food rather than flavored cardboard, a local grocery option exists in the form of Save-A-Lot, at the corner of SW 44th and Penn.

The first impression of the store leaves a lot to be desired. It’s cramped, laid out to maximize the amount of items that can be crammed into a store, and looks decidedly like the kind of place one shops as a last option.

But the prices and service more than make up for the appearance. My husband and I rarely spend more than \$120 there, and that nets us three meals a day for two weeks — not just ramen or spa-

ghetti, either, though those are on the menu. I’m talking about steak, pork chops, ribs; fresh greens and salads; bread, ice cream, and plenty of soda.

One of the key ingredients to the prices is the selection. While big brands are represented, they’re far outnumbered by off brands, and unique low-cost items. Some items are, of course, still relatively expensive, like ground beef, milk, and cheese. But the rest of the items can be bought almost for a song.

Another key in this mix is employees who are helpful and friendly but primarily there to stock the shelves and run the register.

There aren’t 20 different managers running about overseeing a megaplex shopping extravaganza; there are no door greeters, cart wranglers, or returns specialists. There’s just a handful of people working to keep the store running and make sure customers can find

what they need.

As an aside, there are also no employees to sack the groceries, nor carousels for the cashiers to do it as they go. Instead, there’s a long table against the front window lined with bagging stations for customers to sack their own after checking out.

While sacking one’s own groceries takes a few moments longer, the savings go a long way to alleviating any annoyance, as do the greatly shortened wait times in the register lines.

Overall, between the low cost and friendly atmosphere, Save-A-Lot easily overcomes that bad first impression. For any students looking to feed themselves, or a family, on a budget, Save-A-Lot is an option that should definitely be tried.

Rating: A

—JEREMY CLOUD
EDITOR

COUNSELOR'S Corner

College degree great investment

“... You can choose a ready guide in some celestial voice. If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice...” (from “Freewill” by Rush)

Making choices is one of the great paradoxes in life. Even the act of not making a choice is making the choice to let someone else decide for you. While some decisions do not present us with ideal options or even positive options, taking control of making the choice can help us reduce our anxiety about the situation.

Last July, new regulations regarding continued eligibility for federal financial aid went into effect. Student Financial Support Services personnel developed a partnership with Learning Support specialists in order to help as many of our students as possible maintain their eligibility. Students who successfully appealed their financial aid suspensions but who could not meet eligibility standards within only one semester, received their award for the spring semester. A contingency on that approval is that the students must meet with a Learning Support specialist to develop a plan for getting themselves in good standing. Our goal is to help students learn the skills and develop the strategies they need to make good choices for themselves. Alas, a few students have already made choices that will result in bad consequences at the end of the semester.

Many students who indicated on their appeals that they would work with us have yet to schedule appointments or keep the appointments they have made. While they technically have the entire semester to meet with us and develop a plan of action, the reality is that working with them is only one component of our job duties. We make ourselves available every week specifically to work with the students who must see us. Waiting until the last week or two of the semester greatly increases the odds that neither of us will have time to see everyone who still hasn’t come in. For those individuals, continuing school will mean paying out of pocket.

We like happy endings. We want our students to make wise choices and to have the money they need to pay for school. Numerous email and print correspondences have been sent to those who have not yet come in. There is a kiosk in a front area of Student Support Services so that students can conveniently schedule themselves with one of us. The process is relatively fast and painless, but students must make the choice to participate. We hope to see you soon.

—ALTA PRICE AND MARY TURNER
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Dr. Suess adapts well to the big screen

‘Lorax’ a fun, feel-good movie for the family

I had promised to take my children to see “The Lorax” after it opened in March, so over spring break we took our seats as the theater began to fill up for the morning viewing.

Dr. Seuss’ classic stories have always had a way of capturing an imagination and taking it on a magical journey. This adaptation didn’t disappoint my family.

It was full of colorful teddy bears, Seuss-like characters, a zany grandmother and the stereotypical bad guy with a slew of known names bringing the characters to life.

Danny DeVito lent his voice as the Lorax, guardian of the trees. Betty White is the cool and crafty grandma Norma

while the main character Ted is voiced by Zac Efron. Ed Helms brings life to the Once-ler, the crazy character that few have seen, and the villain Mr. O’Hare, is voiced by Rob Riggle. Jenny Slate provided the voice-over of Ted’s single, quirky mom and Taylor Swift is the voice behind Audrey, the artistic girl who captivates Ted’s heart.

The movie starts on the premise of the original story-line with a message to take care of your environment but with a modern touch.

Ted learns that to win Audrey’s heart he must find a real tree.

Thneedville, the synthetic city they live in, is complete

with blow up shrubs and trees that light up at the push of a button on the remote control.

Clean air is provided to the citizens by Mr. O’Hare at a cost. He has convinced the townfolk it’s unsafe to venture past the walls of their quaint perfect city.

Mr. O’Hare does everything he can to stop Ted from crossing over the wall and finding a tree because, as you know, trees produce air.

When Ted decides to risk those walls and sneak out of the city on a quest to bring Audrey a real tree, he learns that the only one who can help him is the Once-ler who lives outside of town where no one dares to



go — no one but Ted, that is.

Ted makes his way out of the safe confines of the city but before the Once-ler will agree to help, Ted must listen to a story about how there came to be no trees.

As the tale goes, a young entrepreneur, anxious to find fame and fortune via a product made from the trees, broke a

promise to the Lorax and cut down all the trees, leaving a barren land and driving the Lorax and animals of the area away.

It’s revealed that the entrepreneur is the Once-ler who is now guilt ridden over his choices, and decides to help Ted make things right again.

As the movie unfolds, viewers will enjoy the series of mishaps and adventures that unfold as Ted tries to get a tree, the girl, and bring back the Lorax and the cuddly animals to their home.

Rating: A

—YVONNE ALEX
STAFF WRITER

MOVIE REVIEW | Reviewer ‘hooked’ after seeing a movie on a six-story screen

‘John Carter’ great IMAX 3D experience

Engulfing explosions, and flying debris all seemed bigger than life as screams rang out from spectators in a packed crowd at the 3D IMAX viewing of Walt Disney’s “John Carter,” at Warren Theater in Moore.

Having never seen an IMAX film, all I can say is wow. I am hooked. The Warren Theater boasts a six-story IMAX screen which, according to Warren Theater executives, is the largest IMAX screen in North America. The surround sound is so realistic, theater-goers may think they are actually living in the movie. Comfortable padded partially-reclining seats add to the fun experience and make the movie all the bolder.

Although I have seen plenty of 3D movies, this was the most realistic one I have seen. The glasses not only cover your eyeballs, but your entire eye cavity. This makes for a very realistic 3D experience that expands to peripheral vision.

Admission is \$16, something I initially thought was a bit high, but now believe to be worth every penny. I climbed several levels of stairs to get up high enough to see the entire screen; however, an elevator is available.

And, the movie was great, too. The



premise of the movie seems simple enough. The main character, John Carter (Canadian-born Taylor Kitsch), a defiant Confederate Army cavalry man in search of gold, is accidentally transplanted to Mars, and must

help rescue a beautiful princess, help stop a Martian civil war and get home to his gold. And, he must do it all while avoiding capture by larger-than-life barbarian Martians, as well as the princess’ own people.

So what is not to believe about that — especially when you see Mars right in front of your eyes? Nothing. Even if it does look a bit like Utah.

Carter, who is obviously confused to find himself in an unknown world, is immediately heralded as a champion by the Martians. This is because his denser bone mass makes him able to leap far into the air — a feat no one else on Mars is able to do. The barbaric Martians see a chance to use Carter as a secret weapon, something

Carter wants nothing to do with.

However, he finds himself enslaved by the leader of the barbarians Tars Tarkas (Willem Dafoe) and rescuing a Martian woman who claims to be the princess of the martian city Helium.

When Princess Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins) — fleeing her own arranged wedding to the Martian tyrant and leader of the city of Zodonga, Sab Than (Dominic West) — suddenly comes falling from the sky, causing Carter to leap into action, it makes for some awesome 3D.

It is up to Carter and Thoris to save the planet and prevent annihilation of all the races of Mars.

John Carter is a romantic comedy, a sci-fi movie, an action adventure and a thriller all in one as the two lovable characters race against time and odds to save the Martian planet and defeat the evil Zodonga and fall in love.

This movie is so diverse you can go see it alone, with a friend or with your mother. The twisting and turning plot, memorable performances, and awesome views and sound make “John Carter” worth seeing again.

Rating: A+

—SHAWN STAWICKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of
March 30 through April 1
www.yahoo.com

1. *The Hunger Games*
2. *Wrath of the Titans*
3. *Mirror Mirror*
4. *21 Jump Street*
5. *Dr. Suess’ The Lorax*
6. *John Carter*
7. *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*
8. *Act of Valor*
9. *A Thousand Words*
10. *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D*
11. *Project X*
12. *Safe House*
13. *October Baby*
14. *Jeff Who Lives at Home*
15. *Casa De Mi Padre*
16. *Friends with Kids*
17. *This Means War*
18. *The Vow*
19. *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D*
20. *The Artist*

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED, EMPLOYEES MOVED IN

New John Massey Center open for business

JON HOOVER

News Writing Student

YVONNE ALEX

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The John Massey Center, home of OCCC's administrative services such as finance, payroll, purchasing, human resources and planning research, has officially relocated to the southeast corner of the OCCC campus from its previous location near Interstate-44 and SW 119th.

The move-in began March 26, after the Board of Regents voted to accept the new building, said Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer.

As soon as the employees were in the building, it was officially up and running, he said.

Construction of the new location began more than a year and a half ago, Messer said.

Chris Snow, Facilities Management assistant director, said the construction was completed within the approved budget of \$2,301,950.

The move was completed in about a week, he said.

In its former location, the John Massey Center housed administrative offices as well as professional devel-

opment classes for businesses in the Oklahoma City metro area. The center also was home to aviation classes for OCCC's partner school, Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Those classes have been relocated to other rooms on the main campus, Messer said.

In its new campus location, the Massey Center contains offices plus two classrooms for staff development, Messer said.

Once employees enter the doors of the newly completed center, they will see a contemporary reception area with modest seating.

A monitor on the wall, similar to those located around campus, airs campus, local and breaking news.

A few electricians could be seen securing the final pieces of wiring in the rooms, but the majority of the building is finished.

Every room has a video monitor (which varies in size) and wireless capability, which may be utilized for presentations, Messer said.

However, as Larry Robertson, Compensation and Human Resources director, said it could be up to three weeks before all the employees are settled in.

The southwest corridor has an application station awaiting job seek-

ers.

Prospective employees can use one of the computers, located along the wall, to submit their resume.

Three meeting rooms with a 12-person capacity will be used for professional development or new employee interviewing, Robertson said.

The center also has an open-bid room, for outside vendors to place bids on projects, set up for the purchasing department, he said.

Robertson said there's a technical training room currently providing 16 training stations with the intention of expanding to 24 as well as additional cubicles that will house payroll, finance and accounts payable. Everyone under one roof — that was the goal, he said.

There are several empty cubicles allowing for growth. These spaces may be where auditors may perform their work, Robertson said.

"We have an internal and external auditor. We're always trying to find a place for them, and now we have it."

The new center also provides plenty of space for numerous filing cabinets used to keep sensitive documents and employee records secured, Robertson said. He said the center also is complete with motion-sensor lights in all of the rooms that illuminate as people walk

in and dim after they're gone.

"Not only is that a cost-saving measure, it's a safety feature."

Robertson said there haven't been any major delays with the transition from their former location.

He said several discussions took place with the architects to make sure they would be able to achieve President Paul Sechrist's interest of having an open feeling with the offices.

"Everyone in the cubicles were involved in the collaborative process," Robertson said.

Jo Burris, Human Resources assistant, and Alicia Silva, Human Resources representative, say they are happy with the new facility.

Gary Lombard, Human Resources vice president, said everyone is welcome to take a tour of the new location.

"We encourage everyone, students and employees to come and see our new facility," he said.

Robertson said the original John Massey Center is under new ownership. "Because Chesapeake purchased the old facility, which was given to the college by John Massey, there was very little money taken out of contingency funds to build this site.

"We are happy to have the new facility."

ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO APPLY ARE ACCEPTED

Tuition fee waiver application deadline April 20

RACHEL TILLMAN

News Writing Student

Students hoping to receive Tuition Fee Waiver scholarships for summer must apply in the Financial Aid office by 5 p.m. Friday, April 20, said Mia Rojo, assistant to the dean of Financial Aid.

Many OCCC students meet the requirements for a Tuition Fee Waiver but do not apply.

All applications go through the Financial Aid Office where Rojo makes certain applicants are eligible for a Tuition Fee Waiver.

A Tuition Fee Waiver is an opportunity for OCCC students to have up to six hours of tuition waived for the summer semester, Rojo said.

It's not cash, she said, but allotted credit hours.

Even if the tuition waiver is granted, students would still have to pay the fees, which amount to approximately \$24 per credit hour.

Early Childhood Development major Katie Chesher said she wasn't aware the deadline was approaching but would apply and encourages others to do the same.

She said the application process is simple and is not time consuming.

Rojo said once applications are in and the Financial Aid Office has approved their eligibility, waiver applications are sent to the division committee where the student's major field of study is located. The divi-

sions are listed on the backside of every application.

She said the division committees then determine whether students can be approved for a Tuition Fee Waiver.

The committees have a specific budget to work with, which limits how many waivers they can award, Rojo said.

"Approximately 60 percent of students get some sort of waiver, depending on their department and their academic standing," she said.

In order to be eligible for a Tuition Fee Waiver, students must be an Oklahoma resident, have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA, be enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours, and have a transcript with the Tuition Fee Waiver

Application.

For more information, visit the Financial Aid Office or contact them at 405-682-7525.

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Journalism students sweep awards banquet

MIKE WORMLEY
Online Writer
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Collegiate representatives from all over Oklahoma descended upon Stillwater on Friday, March 30, for the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association's annual conference and awards banquet.

Events for the conference consisted of two sessions of morning workshops, a group lecture, and an awards luncheon.

Students from OCCC took home 30 awards in 16 different categories, with Videographer Casey R. Akard sweeping every award in the multimedia category for two-year schools.

"I feel humbled," Akard said. "Sometimes you get to doing something, and you wonder if it makes a difference and then something like this gives you validation."

Pioneer Editor Jeremy Cloud placed second in two categories. Cloud said he is happy with the results as well.

"I do believe this is the best two-year publication," Cloud said.

"I enjoyed having everyone I worked with last year recognized."

Online Editor Whitney Knight and Special Projects Writer Joey Stipek received a perfect score on their investigative story about Carson's Catering which earned them first place in the team investigation category.

Stipek, who also was the recipient of the Journalist of the Year award, thanked journalism professors, Pioneer staff members and friends of the paper individually and by name.

"I'll tell you, it's always humbling," Stipek said. "It's great working with your friends, and collaborators."

Journalism Professor and Pioneer Faculty Adviser Sue Hinton said she feels the students who won awards

"Week in and week out we put in the work and don't think about winning awards,"

—SUE HINTON
PIONEER ADVISOR

were outstanding.

"Week in and week-out we put in the work and don't think about winning awards, so it is nice to go through a year's work like this," Hinton said.

Two sessions of morning workshops each presented three options for attendees to sit in on.

The first session offered a lecture about internships, a presentation about investigations done statewide by KWTU and KOTV, and a discussion about writing, editing and running a

magazine.

The second session had a discussion about open records, a talk about the future of radio news and a presentation about sports reporting.

There also was an adviser discussion during the second session.

Following the morning sessions attendees were invited to a lecture by William D. Snyder, four-time Pulitzer Prize winner for photojournalism.

Snyder's presentation included pictures from his entire career, including the



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Casey Akard, Pioneer videographer, works on a video project about the OCCC automotive department on April 3. Akard's work earned first, second and third place in the multimedia division at this year's Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association awards ceremony.

fall of the Soviet Union, the AIDS epidemic in Uganda, orphanages in Romania and his coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

The number of awards received by the Pioneer staff

this year is an increase from the prior year of 21.

For more information about the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association or to see a list of colleges attended, visit <http://ocma.okstate.edu/>.

Awards won by category

Editorial Writing

First: Sean Tolbert
Second: Jeremy Cloud
Third: Whitney Knight

Feature Writing

First: Joey Stipek
Second: Sarah Hussain
Third: Morgan Beard

General News Writing

First: Joey Stipek
Second: Jeremy Cloud
Honorable Mention: Whitney Knight

Multimedia Story

First: Casey R. Akard
Second: Casey R. Akard
Third: Casey R. Akard

Sports Reporting

First: Sean Tolbert
Third: Jacob Chambers

Feature Photography

First: Rachel Morrison
Third: Yasmin Shirali

Individual Investigative Reporting

First: Emily Schorr

Team Investigative Reporting

First: Joey Stipek and Whitney Knight

Reviews

Third: Robert Bolton
Honorable Mention: Casey R. Akard

News Photography

First: Rachel Morrison
Second: Rachel Morrison
Third: Robert Bolton

Photography Portfolio

Honorable Mention: Rachel Morrison

Journalist of the Year (two-year schools)

Joey Stipek

Pioneer Awards:

Online Newspaper
Second place

Front Page Design

First place

Overall Newspaper

First place



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Student artist displays mosaic art on campus

LAUREN TUBBS
News Writing Student

Artist Gina Boerner said she had no idea when she enrolled in her first mosaics class at OCCC that she would fall in love with it.

"I thought, well, it looks interesting, and it's another art class...and it's just going to be an addition to my degree," said Boerner, who is on track to graduate in May 2013.

Today she thinks of herself as a mosaic artist.

Her work is being exhibited in a display case in the Arts and Humanities building until the first week of May.

The body of artwork is an accumulation of what she has created in Mosaics I and Advanced Mosaics while a visual arts major at OCCC. The collection includes a relaxing frog sculpture, a square picture depicting two chickens, a jug, a mirror, and a few abstract pieces. There is also a biography detailing Boerner's history with the arts.

Mosaic is a type of three-dimensional art where tiles made of glass, rock, shell or glass are positioned together according to color to make patterns; the art can be realistic or abstract. Boerner said she believes mosaic art has helped her

to branch out into the abstract side of art.

Professor Mary Ann Moore is Boerner's mosaic instructor, who said she loves Boerner's work.

"She has a passion for the process," Moore said. "She is an outstanding student in my mosaic class...I think Gina has a great future as an artist."

Boerner said she likes to stay busy by working on two or three pieces at a time. While one project is drying, she is drawing or planning another project. The process is never ending as her mind is always turning with new ideas.

Boerner explained that she built a great foundation for her art when she attended Putnam City High School.

"They really support visual arts and performing arts, and they have been that way for a long time," Boerner said.

"I took all of the art classes I could get."

In addition to her class projects on display, Boerner did her first custom work in 2010 for Putnam City Christian



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Kaitlyn Merrell, pre-pharmacy student, enjoys looking at Gina Boerner's mosaic art in the Arts and Humanities Department's display case on April 4. Boerner is scheduled to graduate from OCCC in May of 2013.

Church, which was an acrylic mural of a doe and her two fawns next to an oak tree. It was painted directly onto the wall in the new Child Developmental Center.

Boerner started teaching art privately from home last year, and has an aspiration to attend Oklahoma City University and get a bachelor's degree in studio arts.

Payne talks about storm chasing, tornado safety

NATHAN HARKINS
News Writing Student

David Payne, meteorologist for KFOR Channel 4, spoke about the weather conditions that led to multiple tornadoes that hit in Oklahoma on May 24 of last year.

A packed room of students and staff came to hear Payne talk about his experience chasing tornadoes in a speech on campus March 30.

Payne reminded the crowd of the week leading up to that day, as he and his weather team warned citizens of the severe storms on the horizon.

When the day approached, Payne felt the same way he does every time a severe storm hits.

"As the event gets closer and closer, the anxiety starts to build," Payne said.

When the day finally arrived, the outlook didn't look good. At one point Oklahoma City was the target of multiple tornadoes.

"Three separate storms were pointing right towards Oklahoma City," Payne said.

"It was the worst case scenario."

The storms were so severe that Payne told viewers that getting out of their homes and driving to a safer place was actually one of the best options.

"With a storm like that, if you aren't able to get underground in a shelter, your best option is to get out before it hits," Payne said.

Payne told the audience that when driving, going east would always be a safe plan.

With tornadoes as big and as dangerous as the ones on that day, driving away is safer than staying in the home.

There were 11 fatalities on that day.

"What drives me is just trying to keep that from happening," Payne said.

"That's why we spend all this time and money chasing and finding out about tornadoes: To keep Oklahomans safe."

Payne also spoke about tornado



David Payne

safety, dispelling certain theories such as opening windows in a house, or going to the southwest corner of the house.

He also told the audience that tornado shelters were worth the cost. Payne

said he even promotes sharing with a neighbor to save money while still being safe.

"If you have a neighbor that you like, buy one together, splitting the cost," Payne said.

"Having a shelter could be the difference in surviving or not."

Payne, who has been with KFOR Channel 4 since 1993, said that he has always been drawn towards weather, especially severe weather.

"I love weather first and my job second," Payne said.

Payne took questions from the crowd, addressing the recent earthquakes and the potential for a hot summer.

He predicted the summer would be fairly hot, but due to the recent rain, he doubted that it would be as severe as last summer.

"You can never say never in my business, but it is almost impossible for us to have the heat wave that we had last year," Payne said.

SPORTS

SPORTS | College brings new sporting event to campus

Paintball offers variety to active students

SETH BAETA

News Writing Student

A Capture-the-Flag paintball tournament will be held on the field south of the Aquatic Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 29, said Eric Watson, Sports and Recreation specialist at OCCC.

Any student interested in joining must sign up by April 16 in the Recreation and Sports office. The cost is \$10.

This is the first year for the tournament. Watson said he hopes it continues to grow in the number of students. The paintball tournament will feature two teams with no limit on the number of players on each team, he said.

It is open to male and female students, Watson said. Students are advised to wear clothing that is easy to run in. Also, Watson said, students should expect to get a little dirty.

This tournament is not only active but also strategic, he said because each team has to come up with the best way to get the other team's flag and bring it back to their side without being shot.

Teams can begin forming before the deadline, Watson said. He said some of the expert teams start planning the best strategy before the tournament. The tournament can be an all-day event, or however long it takes to crown one winning team.

Student Ryan Raberding said he looks forward to the

Shaping up



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student Silvia Guzman burns calories in an afternoon Zumba class on March 29 at OCCC. Fitness class passes are \$4 per day, \$20 per month or \$50 per semester. Contact the Fitness and Wellness Center front desk for more information at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

“

I like to hunt so I think this will be perfect for me.”

—RYAN RABERDING
OCCC STUDENT

tournament and showing off his marksmanship skills.

“I like to hunt so I think this will be perfect for me,” Raberding said.

Raberding is not an amateur. He said he has played

paintball in large groups in difficult settings, such as wooded areas. For more information or to sign up for the tournament, contact the Wellness Desk at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

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 29: Paintball Tournament: Capture the Flag Tournament. 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 27: Wiffle Ball Tournament begins. 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.
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VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SHOWS CAR THIEVES IN ACTION

Stolen car tops incident reports list in March

SARAH HUSSAIN
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A stolen vehicle to a stolen radio kept campus security busy the past few weeks.

According to a campus police report filed by Sgt. Kevin Tipton, student Julia Cobble's 2006 blue Dodge Caravan was stolen sometime before 3:30 p.m. on March 16 from parking lot A.

Tipton reported that Cobble arrived on campus to take a test and when she returned to the location where she parked, her van was missing.

Tipton said security camera surveillance of the area confirmed the theft.

It showed a white Crown Victoria sedan arriving on campus from the May Avenue entrance.

Footage shows it stopping at a white Chevrolet Impala.

The suspect can be seen getting out of the driver's side of the Crown Victoria and getting into the passenger's side door of the Impala.

The Crown Victoria is then seen traveling around the A lot and stopping two parking spaces from Cobble's van.

The passenger of the Crown Victoria gets out, opens the door of the van, gets in and immediately drives off.

The van is followed by the Crown Victoria and both are seen exiting the campus via May Avenue.

Tipton said Oklahoma City police were notified. Officers took a report.

Cobble told Tipton her vehicle was packed for a family vacation to Las Vegas, and contained her family's clothing valued at more than \$1,000, and two cameras with an unknown value.

Attempts to reach Cobble by press time were unsuccessful.

According to a campus police report filed by Officer Fredrick Evans, student Arianne Wright's car radio was stolen out of her 2000 silver Jeep Cherokee sometime between March 14 and 26 in lot B.

Evans reported that Wright did not file a report until March 26 because her car had broken down on campus March 14 so she had left her car parked in lot B.

Evans said he reviewed surveillance video of the area but found no evidence of the theft.

He said it is possible it could have happened any of these days between 12:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. due to the parking lot lights being turned off.

Wright said there was no sign of forced entry and the valued amount of her radio was only \$5 due to the CD player not working.

According to a campus police report

filed by Officer Tim Densmore, campus visitor Devin Mahan, 19, either sprained or broke his ankle at 2:40 p.m. on March 15 in the Wellness Center on the basketball court.

Upon Densmore's arrival to the Wellness Center, he found Mahan sitting on a bench with his sock partially removed from his right foot.

Densmore said Mahan told him he went to jump for the ball and upon landing, he landed on someone's foot and heard a snapping noise and his right ankle twisted.

Densmore applied an ice pack for the swelling, then contacted EMSA after Mahan's request.

Mahan's mother took her son to the community hospital on SW 89th Street.

Attempts to reach the Mahans on the status of Mahan's ankle were unsuccessful.

Withdraw: Financial aid impacted by dropped classes

Continued from page 1

she said. "I would have [had] to consider cutting back on my classes and at my age that is a last resort.

"My GPA is over 3.5 and I work hard to maintain that ... but things happen."

Andrea Thatcher is taking some classes at OCCC before she transfers to Moore Norman Technology Center to complete her surgical technician degree.

Thatcher is currently receiving financial aid and said she believes the rules make sense.

"I've thought about [withdrawing] because my teacher was having difficulties," Thatcher said. "Sixty-seven percent...that's still pretty lenient.

[The U.S. Government] gives you leniency. If you're going to keep taking classes and dropping them ... I kind of think it's fair."

The changes are even affecting how academic advisers work with students.

"We are just mainly trying to be more mindful of making sure that students are making

honest decisions about how much they can handle," said Jill Lindblad, assistant director of advising.

Early in the process, Lindblad and other academic advisers tell students to take courses that will count toward their degree plan.

"We really encourage students to start thinking about what they want to do, and make sure and start taking classes that go toward the degree or the job they want."

Advisers also have been promoting the use of Career Ser-

vices and the Discover Career Assessment to help students choose majors that match their strengths and interests.

Lindblad said the goal is to avoid false starts in degree programs that don't fit the individual student.

"It also helps students avoid dropping courses," she said.

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner agrees that, if possible, prevention is the best cure when it comes to withdrawing.

"Obviously life events can happen and there are times

when a student needs to get out of a class because things are not going to work for them, but again it comes back to trying to plan well."

Turner recommends students who are considering withdrawing talk to the professor and make sure of where they are in the class.

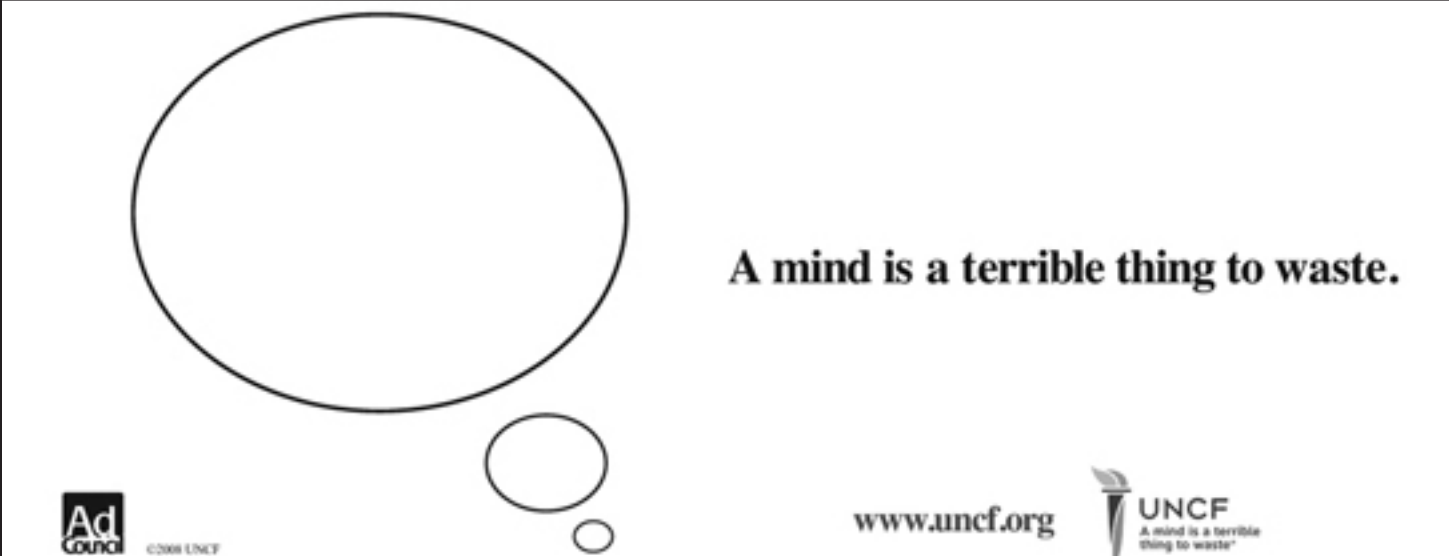
Turner also recommends consulting a financial aid adviser to ensure they are making an informed decision.

For more information regarding financial aid, visit the Financial Aid Office.

Look for the fact sheets: Total Withdrawal/Return of Funds and Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy at www.occc.edu/FinancialAid/FactSheets.html. Students also may reach the Financial Aid Office by calling 405-682-7525.

For more information about Student Support Services, call 405-682-7520 or stop by the office in OCCC's Main Building.

HAVE A COMMENT?
EMAIL JEREMY AT
EDITOR@OCCC.EDU



A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Blowing it

Moses Swanegan plays trumpet with guitarist Steve Silver at the OCCC student jazz ensemble's Spring concert March 7. Swanegan is a member of the Wednesday Night Band, named after the day they practice.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

COMMUNITY | Student Life to host service day

Special Olympics help needed

ROBERT BOLTON

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Special Olympics Oklahoma is returning to Norman on April 14 and Student Life is hosting a service day to help provide a good experience for the participants, their families and the students themselves.

According to specialolympics.org the Special Olympics has been providing people with intellectual disabilities with continuing opportunities to get fit, demonstrate their courage and have fun since 1968.

Amy Reynolds, first year and Student Life program coordinator, said students will meet in the Student Life office at 7:45 a.m., and leave OCCC at 8 a.m. Reynolds said students should be returning to campus around 3 p.m. Time spent at the Olympics counts towards the civic honors program at OCCC.

Student Life Director Erin Logan said she thought the opportunity the Special Olympics offers those with intellectual needs can be helpful in establishing personal strengths.

"So often they are defined by their challenges, the Special Olympics allows them to be acknowledged for their strengths. And to be a part of that is life changing," Logan said.

Students are anticipated to assist with events, concessions and morale.

"They train so hard for this and we want to give them the ultimate experience," Reynolds said. "So

“They train so hard for this and we want to give them the ultimate experience.”

—AMY REYNOLDS

FIRST YEAR AND STUDENT LIFE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

whatever they need us to do from high-fiving the contestants and encouraging them to manning concession stands, whatever they need us to do.

"We've been partnering with the Special Olympics as a service agency for quite a while," Reynolds said. "But this is the first year that we have scheduled a service day with them.

"They were so excited to be working with us, so we're looking forward to providing our students with that opportunity."

Reynolds said there has been a large amount of support from students and faculty.

"In the spring, Special Olympics hosts their big athletic event and when you have a big event like that you need the manpower and the volunteers to help it be successful," she said.

Reynolds said approximately 40 to 50 students and faculty members have signed up for the service day, yet there is room for more and no student will be turned away that wishes to help.

For more information or to sign up for the service day, contact Student Life at 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

OCCC emergency severe weather drill

OCCC will conduct an emergency severe weather warning drill Wednesday, April 11, once in the daytime and again in the evening. The daytime drill will occur at 10:40 a.m. and last until 10:50 a.m. The evening drill will occur from 7:45 p.m. to 7:55 p.m.

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.

Houston, we have a speaker

J.C. Elliot, flight controller at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Apollo 13 mission, will speak to students at 2 p.m. April 12 in CU2 and 3. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Tuition Fee Waiver Information

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

Picnic in the Park with Trio

Trio Student Support Services is hosting a potluck picnic for students and their families from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, April 23, at Earlywine Park located at 3033 NE 119th. For more information, call Karolyn Chowning at 405-682-1611, ext. 7620.

OCCC to host the United Nations

The Multicultural Business Club is hosting a video conference with the United Nations from noon to 1:30 p.m. April 24 in the Bruce Owen Theater. Students are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration

The Green Task Force will be hosting Arbor Day/ Earth Day celebrations from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 26 in the Main Dining area of the union. There will be informational booths as well as free saplings and door prizes.

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

**Email your event to
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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Clothing


Find and circle all of the clothing items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional piece of clothing.

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

BELT	JACKET	SCARF	SWEATER
BLOUSE	JEANS	SHIRT	TANK TOP
BOOTS	MITTENS	SHOES	TIE
CARDIGAN	OVERALLS	SHORTS	UNDERWEAR
CORDUOYS	PANTS	SKIRT	VEST
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BEVERAGE LINEUP INCLUDES ORGANIC FARE

New coffee and tea bar features 'quality' drinks

NADIA ENCHASSI
Online Writer
onlinewriter@occc.edu

A new coffee and tea bar in the College Union dining area is the result of hard work throughout spring break, said General Manager Corrine Aguilar.

Beginning Monday, March 26, Carson's Catering made the switch from Neighbors Coffee to Henderson Coffee, an Oklahoma-based company located in Muskogee.

Overall, Aguilar said, the change took place to provide customers with new and better

quality beverages.

"We did a tasting a while back and really loved their drinks," she said. "They were a lot better than the ones we had before."

Some of the latest items include various coffee flavors like mocha, French vanilla, and caramel, and special drinks like cappuccino, java chillers, and lattes. Roy's Fresh Lemonade, traditional hot chocolate and flavored teas also are offered.

"It's gaining a bit of attention," Aguilar said. "The spring semester is getting warmer, so people aren't drinking the hot drinks as they do during the cooler fall semester. But, those who have said they really like it."

The switch also included getting rid of packaged coffee

and introducing whole beans, as well as exchanging the Coca-Cola Fountain Tea with True Leaves Tea. Besides the usual peach, and sweetened and unsweetened tea, there are presently also original flavors such as Organic Mint, Berry Black, Chamomile Citrus, and Earl Grey.

"They're all fabulous. Everyone should try them," Aguilar said.

An extra machine allows for people to create their own beverages with unique recipes, such as Mud Slide and White Moose, along with supplementary ingredients, like steamed milk.

Besides satisfying taste buds, the fresh display is also easy on the eyes.

"Our station used to be sort of small and scattered. Now, it's its own kiosk with matching graphics and cabinets," Aguilar said. "It looks a lot more modern."

"We enhanced the cafeteria

to offer more, and we're really excited. It looks nicer and adds variety," she concluded.

Carson's innovation has branched out to all its units on campuses across the state, she said.

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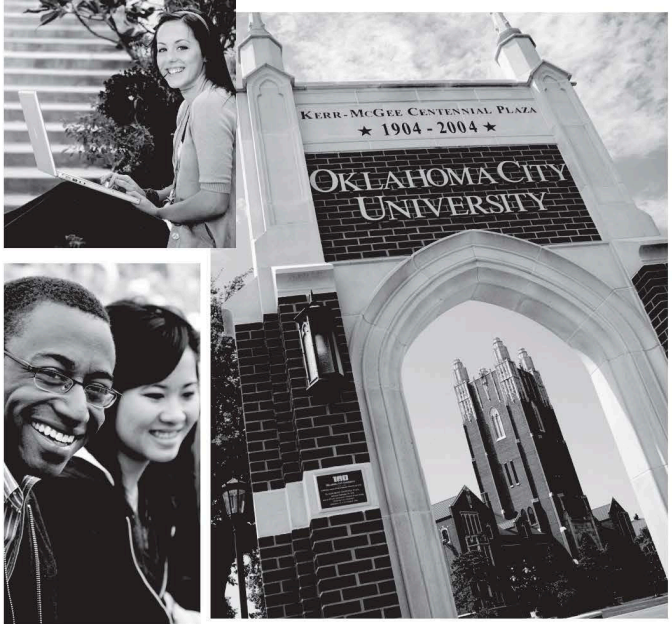


For more information stop by our offices located in the Main Building-First Floor Room 1G7, or call us at (405) 682-7519.

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