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OCCC hosted a seminar about the dangers of texting and driving. Turn inside to read one family's story.

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# PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

APRIL 13, 2012

[WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER](http://WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER)

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Walk for life



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Trish Stutson, political science and pre-law major, takes a stroll around the walking trail around the OCCC pond April 4. Wednesday marked National Walking Day during which students and faculty took to the sidewalks to fight heart disease.

## Police records can be hard to get at OCCC

*(Editor's Note: In part one of a two-part series, Senior Staff Writer Sarah Hussain, Special Projects Reporter Joey Stipek, and Online Reporter Mike Wormley investigate whether OCCC is in compliance with the state's Open Records Act when it comes to what records are being released by campus police.)*

### SARAH HUSSAIN

Senior Writer

### JOEY STIPEK

Special Projects Writer

### MIKE WORMLEY

Online Reporter

Citizens seeking police records on campus may find barriers to that access, Pioneer reporters have found.

National experts say OCCC seems to withhold

### In part one of a two-part series, the Pioneer investigates OCCC's compliance with the Open Records Act

records that should be available according to the state's Open Records Act, Title 51 of Oklahoma statutes.

The law ensures citizens access to their government or its institutions. The Open Records Act states its purpose is "to ensure and facilitate the public's right of access to and review of government records so they may efficiently and intelligently exercise their inherent political power."

In Section 24A.8. Law Enforcement Records—Disclosure, the Oklahoma Open Records specifically states

which police records must be made available for public inspection.

It reads, in part, "Law enforcement agencies shall make available for public inspection, if kept, the following records: A chronological list of incidents, including ... a brief summary of what occurred."

The law also requires that if a person is arrested, the person's name, date of birth, address, race, sex, physical description, and occupation be provided.

In an incident on campus Feb. 23, a student reportedly was sharpening his knife in class and threatened his classmates and the professor when they questioned

See **RECORDS** page 12

## Student award ceremony set for April 20

### MARY MCATEE

Staff Writer

[staffwriter2@occc.edu](mailto:staffwriter2@occc.edu)

The 36th annual Student Awards Ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. Friday, April 20, at in the General Dining Area of OCCC, said Student Life Assistant Marcy Roll.

Roll said several students and teachers would be honored at the ceremony for leadership, academic excellence, and civics.

Student Life Director Erin Logan said about 120 students will be honored.

"The awards are plaques, medals, certificates, and graduation cords, depending on the award," Logan said.

Faculty, staff, students, and their families are all invited to attend the ceremony, Roll said. She said different faculty and staff will present the awards.

OCCC hosts the awards ceremony for students "to recognize student achievements," Roll said. She said the ceremony will last about an hour, followed by a reception.

Logan said she looks forward to the ceremony. "We're excited to be part of a wonderful event that highlights the diversity, creativity, and excellence of OCCC's student population."

## 'Absolute 2012' to be unveiled

### EMILY MAYES

News Writing Student

A reception to celebrate the newest edition of the college's literary and artistic journal, "Absolute 2012," will be at 12:30 on Thursday, April 26, in CU1 and 2. The journal includes works of short fiction and non-fiction, poetry, photography, and art.

The reception will feature readings from the journal, said English Professor Mary-

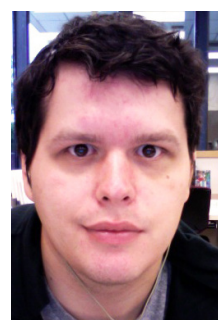
See **ABSOLUTE** page 9

## OPINION

EDITORIAL | No one has the right to ask for personal passwords

## Facebook content is like U.S. Mail

U.S. Citizen Kimberly Hester is currently learning the consequences of exercising her First Amendment right to free speech after she posted a picture on her personal Facebook page of a co-worker's pants around her ankles in April of last year.



JOEY STIPEK

The teacher's aide at Frank Squires Elementary School located in Cassopolis, Mich., maintains the picture isn't of pornographic nature and said she didn't upload the picture to Facebook while at work.

Still, a parent who was friends with Hester on Facebook and could see Hester's posts, notified the school district's administration about the photos in question.

Hester's boss then made repeated requests to access her Facebook account. Hester refused on every occasion.

The school district, assuming the worst possible scenario, placed Hester on paid administrative leave before eventually suspending her without pay.

Facebook has stepped forward, saying the popular social networking site isn't happy about the possibility of employers prying into their employee's profiles.

Facebook released a statement regarding situations such as Hester's which read, "we don't think it's the

right thing to do,"

In reaction, Congressman Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.), apparently agrees and proposed an amendment to H.R. 3309, the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2012.

The amendment, "Mind Your Own Business on Passwords," would have prohibited employers, prospective and otherwise, from demanding employees' social networking usernames and passwords — and would have allowed the FCC to step in and put a stop to any employers asking for this type of information for privacy reasons.

Unfortunately, the amendment was voted down in the U.S. House of Representatives last week, 236 to 184.

This is yet another example of people elected in Washington who don't even know how to say "Facebook" correctly, making decisions that compromise a person's right to privacy.

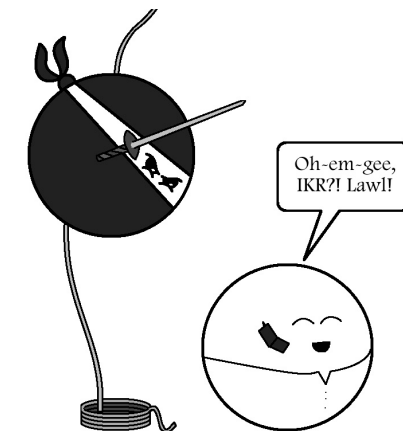
Since it's impossible for those elected to Congress to understand this issue, I will write it out for them at a high-school reading level.

No single person using social media websites should have to turn over their passwords to their potential or current employers.

Citizens have the First Amendment right to practice free speech and religious freedoms even on websites such as Twitter and Facebook.

One's social media personality is an extension of one's overall individual identity. It deserves to be

## BALLIARD BILL



Using text speak verbally is the fastest way to call down the wrath of the grammar ninjas.

JEREMY CLOUD

treated the same way as your mail is handled by the U.S. Postal Service.

You wouldn't let Congressman James Lankford open up your letter from a loved one, would you?

The American Civil Liberties Union even agreed with this common sense approach.

The ACLU issued a press release expressing a real concern that an employer with a password "essentially can act as imposters and assume the identity of an employee and continually access, monitor and even manipulate an employee's personal social activities and opinion."

Cases like Hester's rarely are treated as a free speech issue. They are usually "these are the consequences of your freedom to speak" issues. Unfortunately, Hester is learning there are sometimes consequences to the content a person posts onto social media accounts.

—JOEY STIPEK

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS REPORTER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Clothing questioned, said to be embarrassing

## Writer says student's T-shirt has no place at college

To the editor:

Although I have always respected OCCC's dress code and the freedom it allows, a fellow student's wardrobe of choice has left me reconsidering.

This week, I noticed a young man strolling around campus in a T-shirt that read "Yes, I am staring at your tit-ties" in big, bold print.

To say I was appalled was an understatement.

That has absolutely no place in a

learning environment. I don't care if your T-shirts make political or religious statements, or even sport the occasional "f-bomb" or marijuana leaf here and there.

But to wear such a blatant, sexist obscenity is unacceptable and makes the college look downright trashy.

I cannot imagine the embarrassment a female professor would have felt instructing a young man wearing such a shirt in class, or how degraded a female

classmate would feel sitting next to him.

No one should have to feel that way because of someone's poor clothing choices and a college's too-loose policy

on what is decreed appropriate dress.

Thank you very much for your time.

—BLAKE WILLIAMS  
EMS MAJOR

Do you have news you'd like to share?  
If so, contact Pioneer Editor Jeremy  
Cloud at editor@occc.edu.

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

**EVENT REVIEW** | Norman event has grown since its inception

## Medieval Fair full of merriment

The last days of March and beginning of April marked the 35th year of the annual Medieval Fair held at Reaves Park in Norman.

From people dressed in traditional Medieval gowns to the delicious, gigantic funnel cakes, it went off without a hitch yet again.

Parking always proves to be quite an obstacle, but that is to be expected with the popularity the fair has acquired over the years. There were plenty of parking lots and makeshift ones as well with people collecting at most \$5 for a parking spot.

Experiencing the Middle Ages with food fit for a king, games and a vast array of entertainment for all ages is what is expected when attending the free admission fair.

And that is what they got.

Merriment abounded with jugglers, minstrels, dancing, human chess games and knights jousting on horseback.

Riding ponies or llamas on the King's Carousel, boarding a camel or elephant, testing your skills at crossbow or Jacob's Ladder were a few activities available.

Fair goers feasted on smoked turkey legs, roasted corn or hand-crafted root beer while seven stages with continuing performances from the popular Jester Rejects to the Jean Hill Irish Dancers, and many more kept them entertained.

Originally it was a forum for the English Department at the University of Oklahoma which chose the month of April because it was close to Shakespeare's birthday.

This was a small one-day event on the south oval of the campus. The public responded positively, so the fair was continued in the following year.

Interest continued to grow each year.

After its third year there was not enough room for the many who

wanted to participate and attend the fair, so it was moved to one side of the Duck Pond and the event was expanded to two days.

Interest from the schools resulted in expanding the fair to a three-day event in 1993 so students from around the state could attend the fair on Friday as part of a unit of study on the Middle Ages.

The event continued to grow, filling the park to its maximum with participants and visitors flocking in from throughout the nation. In 2003, with cooperation from the City of Norman, the Fair moved to Reaves Park, one of Norman's largest parks.

The rest is history.

This event is always held during the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April. Be on the lookout next year, go and enjoy.

**Rating:** A+

—SARAH HUSSAIN  
SENIOR WRITER

**APPS REVIEW** | Few downsides to free download

## 'Draw Something' for everyone

In an age where cell phone users can raise virtual chicken farms and hurl rotund birds at snorting green pigs with a touch of their fingertips, there's nary a shortage of games available on mobile markets.

But after seeing about a hundred reincarnations of a ninja slicing a piece of fruit, sometimes the pickings seem a little slim.

That's why it's so refreshing to see something as innovative as "Draw Something," the newest app burning up the charts.

Available in a free or 99-cent version on both the Apple and Android stores, "Draw Something" is a bit like a mobile, modernized game of "Pictionary."

You create an account using either your email address or Facebook log-in, then create a game with your choice of an email buddy, Facebook friend, or a random user.

After creating the game, choose from three randomized words, each with varying degrees of difficulty. If solved correctly, the harder words yield more coins, which can then be used to buy additional paintbrush colors.

Once selected, you are presented

with your palette: a blank white screen with a few colors at the top, and tools at the bottom to erase and change your brush size with. Using your fingertip, you pick your color and the size of your brush and draw your chosen subject.

When you're finished, you submit your masterpiece and it is instantaneously received on your teammate's device, where they guess your drawing and send you one back.

Guessing comes a little easier in "Draw Something" than it does in "Pictionary," as you are given a word bank of letters that you drag and drop into appropriate spaces.

One of the perks of the modern-day version is actually getting to watch a video of your ally's drawing as they create it, providing a perfect opportunity to tease them about their pathetic attempts later.

Whether you guess correctly or not, the game goes on. There are no penalties for losing, which makes for a delightfully stress-free gaming experience.

Users can play the game in its entirety for free, though those using Apple products might find the

subsequent ads a little irritating. Besides ditching the ads, all the full 99-cent version really boasts is a larger dictionary of words to choose from, though it isn't enough to affect your gameplay one way or another.

The game runs beautifully with crisp, clear graphics, near-instant load times, and an interface that is easily navigated, even for new gamers and young ones.

Sadly, "Draw Something" is not currently available for Blackberry devices — one of its few downsides.

The pop culture challenged may also find some of the word choices occasionally too celebrity-focused. For instance, don't do as this writer did and stare at the word "paulyd" for a good 10 minutes before resorting to Google and discovering that Pauly D is a disc jockey on "Jersey Shore."

But the sheer enjoyment the game has to offer, as well as the unbeatable price for a game with a lot of replay value, easily outweighs these few cons.

**Rating:** A

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
ONLINE EDITOR

## JOB & CAREER POWER

## Students should use OCCC job web resources

Students, summer 2012 is fast approaching. The office of Student Employment & Career Services can help you search and apply for jobs both on and off-campus.

We have a variety of professional job search tools and programs designed to strengthen your application process:

**#1. Online Student Job Board:** [www.collegecentral.com/occc](http://www.collegecentral.com/occc)

More than 200 local part-time, full-time and seasonal jobs listed daily.

**#2. Please upload your résumé to the student job board for registered employer review.**

**#3. Optimal Résumé:** [www.occc.optimal-resume.com](http://www.occc.optimal-resume.com).

More than 6,500 students have created résumés utilizing Optimal Résumé.

**#4. OKJobMatch.com.**

This is a brand new job search website focusing on Oklahoma employment opportunities.

**#5. Optimal Interview:** [www.occc.optimal-alresume.com](http://www.occc.optimal-alresume.com).

Practice interviewing by answering questions presented by online interviewers. For the tough questions click the "Coach" option for additional in-depth guidance.

**#6. Résumés printed on résumé paper.**

**#7. We will also help you create a professional cover/application letter.**

**#8. Don't forget to check our student job bulletin boards and job tables for daily job announcements and updates.**

If you have never completed an online job application, don't worry. That's why we are here — we can help.

Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Please visit our website at: [www.occc.edu/es](http://www.occc.edu/es) for more information and assistance or phone 405-682-7519. Office location: Main Building, First Floor, Room 1G7.

Good luck with your job search and have a great summer 2012!

—DEBRA VAUGHN  
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER  
SERVICES DIRECTOR



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**MOVIE REVIEW** | Television series was part of writer's life for a decade

## 'One Tree Hill' ends with closure after nine seasons

"One Tree Hill" ended its series after a nine-year run on April 4.

Nine years. Most shows don't make it half that long. Nine years of love, heartbreak, murder, mayhem, and anything else creator Mark Schwahn could think up. That's nine years of my life, almost a whole decade.

I remember watching the show for the first time, thinking, what a weird name for a television series. Nine years later here I am.

The series started out about the rivalry of two brothers, Nathan and Lucas Scott (James Lafferty and Chad Michael Murray) with the same father, Dan Scott (Paul Johansson) in Tree Hill, N.C.

For most of its run, the series was about the hatred the brothers had for each other and their dad, who was evil and manipulated people, including his family.

However the brothers grew to love each other and the resulting milestones that happened in their life were unforgettable.

Keith Scott, (Craig Sheffer) played an unforgettable role as the boys' uncle when he stepped up to be a father to his brother Dan's child and again when he cared for Lucas' mother, Karen (Moirra Kelly), only to be murdered later by Dan.

Haley James (Bethany Joy Galeotti) — Lucas' best friend and later in the series, Nathan's wife — remained a staple in the nine year run of the series.

Peyton Sawyer (Hilarie Burton), who at one time was Nathan's girlfriend, became Lucas' wife and the mother of their child. Brooke Davis (Sophia Bush.) Lucas' former flame, Peyton's BFF, and more recently

in the series, Julian's wife and the mother of twin boys, also stayed with the series for the entire run.

After season six Peyton and Lucas moved out of Tree Hill (leaving the show) and with the exit, brought new faces and recurring guest stars to the series.

Those included: Julian Baker (Austin Nichols), who made perhaps the biggest mark, marrying Brooke and fathering their children; Millicent Huxtable (Lisa Goldstein), Brooke's assistant and friend, and Mouth's (Lee Norris) wife and mother-to-be; and Clay Evans (Robert Buckley), Nathan's agent, friend, and in the final episode, brother-in-law, marrying Quinn James (Shantel VanSanten), Haley's older sister.

As the final episode in the series was played, I tried to take it all in. What was the significance of each moment and why did it end this way?

I was pleasantly surprised with the final episode, though. It took place in the three more popular spots of the show (aside from the Tree Hill High) — Karen's Cafe, Tric and the River Court which was the backdrop for an incredible turning point.

The show was no longer about rivalry but about embracing life, talent, and love.

In the finale, Nathan speaks with Jamie (Jackson Brundage) about playing sports because that's what Jamie wants to do, not because he wants to follow in Nathan's footsteps, like Nathan was forced to do by Dan. In that moment, Nathan assured viewers (if there were ever a doubt) he was the anti-Dan.

Tric gave a final show with an appearance by Gavin DeGraw, who sings the theme song for "One Tree Hill."

The whole ninth season the theme song didn't start the show off and this was a little disheartening for me because it was tradition.

The scene was a great moment, probably one of my favorites, to see the entire cast singing along to the words of "I Don't Want To Be" — Nathan fist pumping and everyone singing together, paying tribute to a song that will forever make the world think of "One Tree Hill." Tric was started by Peyton and Karen, then Haley took over. Chase (Stephen Colletti) was the bar manager for years and, being down in the dumps about the direction his life is going, Haley makes him the new bar owner, even though he can't make a drink.

Karen's Cafe rooftop is where Haley and Lucas began making predictions for the year.

They would write them down and put them in a brick in the wall. The predictions couldn't be opened until the next year.

In the finale, Haley passed the tradition on to Jamie. She explained the rules and quickly, Jamie piped up, "I want to beat dad's scoring record."

The finale went into fast forward showing Jamie getting his wish. Although it was a sour note that Lucas and Peyton weren't present for the final episode, Mark Schwahn sent the show off with a sense of closure.

Every character received his or her own ending. It was bittersweet.

**Rating:** A

—EMILY SCHORR  
STAFF WRITER

**SPORTS REVIEW** | Kentucky and Kansas show skills on the court

## Championship basketball game satisfying

I am a huge basketball nerd so I came into the NCAA National Championship Game between Kentucky and Kansas with a certain expectation. However, most casual fans went with common sense and seeing the tradition-rich names of Kentucky and Kansas, thought it was going to be a classic matchup.

Kentucky is built on power and speed which wears players down over the course of the game. Kansas on the other hand is built on a more methodical pace which allows them to utilize their size.

Coming into the game, Anthony Davis vs. Thomas Robinson was the key matchup and also the two finalists for National Player of the Year which Davis eventually won. After watching the game it was pretty obvious that Kentucky was on a mission and whoever was in their way would get dunked on.

Kansas' main offense is to throw down

to their big men and let them score or get fouled. Unfortunately for Kansas, UK has the best big man combination in the country with Anthony Davis and Terrence Jones. Jones did a great job of standing his ground and making Thomas Robinson use skilled post moves to score which is not his strength. On offense, Jones overpowered the opposition with drives to the basket and offensive rebounds. When Jones is engaged in the game and plays like he is the best player on the floor, UK is virtually unbeatable.

Davis is one of the greatest defensive forces I have ever seen since Greg Oden while he was at Ohio State. For some reason, people expected Davis to score 30 points and dunk everything but that just is not his game. He is a smooth operator who controls the paint and rarely makes mistakes on offense and defense.

Davis finished with 16 rebounds, five

assists, three steals, and six blocks. Yes, six.

Davis is a little light as far as weight. That is why he only had six points and went one for 10 from the field which can be assets to such physical play.

Kansas tried to make a run at the end but I never saw them truly threatening UK's title hopes. Kansas getting to the championship game is a product of North Carolina's injury to point guard Kendall Marshall and Bill Self being such a great coach.

Overall, I was satisfied with the game but that is because I came into it with the right expectations. Kentucky was just way too talented for Kansas and it showed in the box score. Kentucky is projected to have six players drafted in the first round of the 2012 NBA Draft.

**Rating:** B-

—BRANDON WILLIS  
SPORTS WRITER

### TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of  
April 6 through 8  
[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

1. *The Hunger Games*
2. *American Reunion*
3. *Titanic*
4. *Wrath of the Titans*
5. *Mirror Mirror*
6. *21 Jump Street*
7. *Dr. Suess' The Lorax*
8. *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*
9. *Housefull 2: The Dirty Dozen*
10. *John Carter*
11. *Safe House*
12. *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D*
13. *Act of Valor*
14. *The Raid: Redemption*
15. *A Thousand Words*
16. *Jeff Who Lives at Home*
17. *October Baby*
18. *Project X*
19. *The Vow*
20. *Casa De Mi Padre*

# Caring Van to offer free child immunizations

MORGAN BEARD

Staff Writer

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma is teaming up with OCCC to provide free immunizations to children on April 25.

Lee Ann Townsend, lab supervisor for the Child Development Center and Lab School, said the Oklahoma Caring Foundation will bring the "Caring Van" to the OCCC FACE Center parking lot from 2 to 4 p.m. that Wednesday.

Since there is no charge, the only thing parents need to bring is their child's current shot record.

Parents must be prepared to complete the required paperwork as well, Townsend said.

Leslie Knight, Caring Van Program specialist, said the program is a "walk-up clinic" which means it is open to the general public.

Knight said the Caring Van program has worked with community childcare

centers for several years to provide free immunizations to children across Oklahoma City.

"We're just trying to make sure the public is aware so we can get this out to as many people as we can," Knight said.

OCCC student Becca Foster, who has a child of her own, thinks the Caring Van clinic is great for the community.

"The fact that they're coming to OCCC and providing this service for free is admirable," Foster said.

"This is a great opportunity for parents to get their children the important vaccines that they need."

The Caring Van immunizations will be available to newborn babies up to 19-year-old teenagers.

In addition, the tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis shot will be available for adults who have not yet

**"This is a great opportunity for parents to get their children the important vaccines that they need."**

—BECCA FOSTER

OCCC STUDENT PARENT

received that immunization, Knight said.

For future events, the Oklahoma Caring Foundation's full schedule can be found on their website at [www.klahomacaringfoundation.org](http://www.klahomacaringfoundation.org).

"If people can't attend the one on April 25, there will be many other opportunities in the future," Knight said.



COURTESY BCBSOK.COM

## Vaccinations offered

Children in attendance will be able to receive the following vaccines:

- DTaP/Tdap Vaccine
- Hib Vaccine
- Hepatitis B Vaccine
- Hepatitis A Vaccine
- Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine
- Polio Vaccine
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine
- Varicella (Chicken Pox) Vaccine
- Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine
- Human Papillomavirus Vaccine

# Autism Awareness Month encourages education

MARY MCATEE

Staff Writer

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April is Autism Awareness Month, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has released new numbers that show its prevalence in America.

A recent CDC report estimates that 1 in 88 children in the U.S. has autism.

The Autism Society defines autism as a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others.

Autism is also referred to as a 'spectrum disorder,' and affects people differently. Asperger's syndrome is usually listed on the autism spectrum.

Mansur Choudry, a specialist at SpecialCARE, a facility that offers services to children both with and without special needs, said as of now the cause and cure of autism are still in question.

"Presently, we can't say 100 percent what is the cause of autism," Choudry said. "Presently we also do not know what the cure is."

Dawn Ladiski, professor of child development, agrees.

"As much as [researchers] know about

autism, they still don't know that much," she said. "It's very complex."

Ladiski said one way to tell if a child has autism is by observing his or her behavior around other people.

"A lot of it has to do with interactions with other children and people," Ladiski said.

She also said some children may have sensory issues, such as being sensitive to touch.

"You might see a child who doesn't want to be touched or hugged," Ladiski said.

Choudry said there are many other indicators of autism in general that might be helpful in diagnosing a child.

"The general signs you see are not looking into the eyes," Choudry said.

Choudry warned though that not all autistic children have the same signals.

"There are so many different signs," Choudry said. "The problem is, no two children are the same. If there is a sign in one child, it might not be in the other child."

Choudry stressed starting therapy early to help children with autism succeed.

"There's a lot of denial about this thing with a lot of parents," Choudry said. "But the earlier you start thera-

py, whichever [kind] you want to start, it helps the child be more functional."

Choudry said different forms of therapy have emerged throughout the years claiming to help autistic individuals.

"They have all come and gone, but there will always be people who swear it helped their child," Choudry said. "It might have, it might not have. I don't know."

Ladiski said there has also been media speculation about the link between autism and immunizations. Ladiski said she spoke with her pediatrician about the link when it came time to vaccinate her children, and she was told the evidence for such a link is weak.

"There is a lot of information out in the media about how there is that link," Ladiski said. "They actually do not have any research that ties that back in."

Ladiski encouraged parents to be educated about immunizations, and to evaluate any information they hear about negative effects of immunizations.

**"There is a lot of misinformation out there that makes people very apprehensive about giving immunizations."**

—DAWN LADISKI

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROFESSOR

"There is a lot of misinformation out there that makes people very apprehensive about giving immunizations," Ladiski said.

Ladiski said if a parent is still worried about what effects immunizations may have, they can discuss with their pediatrician about their child's immunization schedule.

"You can talk to your pediatrician about how many shots, or the dosage," Ladiski said.

Choudry warned, however, that whatever treatments a person chooses only teaches the patient to cope and they are not permanent fixes.

"Autism never goes away," Choudry said. "People will tell you they cure autism. They don't. They help you manage it better."

For more information about autism and a complete list of possible indicators, visit [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org) or contact your child's physician.



ISAAC WARD JR. RELEASED FROM JAIL ON \$10,000 BOND

# Student who threatened professor says he was bullied

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A student arrested after threatening his classmates and professor said in a phone interview he was bullied “for weeks and weeks” by fellow students prior to the incident.

Isaac Ward Jr., 28, was released from Oklahoma County Jail March 31 on a \$10,000 bond, said an official at the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s office.

Ward was held at the Oklahoma County jail after being arrested on Feb. 13 at OCCC



Isaac Ward Jr.

for allegedly “threatening people with a knife,” as reported in the March 14 edition of the Pioneer.

He has been charged with two felony charges of assault

with a dangerous weapon, according to an Oklahoma City Police Department report.

Ward said his medical condition was a factor in what happened.

“My blood sugar was high and I was in the beginning stages of a level 1 seizure.

“I had been off of my medication.”

During his time in jail, he said, he lost 30 pounds because of his medication levels being off.

Since his release, he said, he has changed medications and gained the weight back.

The college officially suspended Ward on disciplinary charges Feb. 29, as reported previously.

Ward said he has been told to stay away from the college campus for 12 months by Student Support Services.

“If I am found not guilty, I was told I can return.”

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner said while Student Support Services couldn’t comment on case specifics, she could confirm that the office had “tried to help him with his his classes and academics prior to the incident.”

The adjunct math professor Ward threatened, Greg Hall, said he was aware that Ward had been released, but he hasn’t changed his daily activities.

“I feel safe on campus,” Hall said.

“I’ve been here 10 years. This is the only violent confronta-

tion I’ve had,” Hall said.

“I haven’t been contacted yet (by the court) but will do what is required.”

No additional security was planned for evening classes at the Science, Engineering, and Math building.

“At the moment there is nothing Mr. Ward has done to warrant the pursuit of a trespassing complaint against him,” said Police Chief James Fitzpatrick.

In his arraignment on March 7, Ward pled not guilty to the charges, according to an Oklahoma State Court Network report. A pending court date of May 14 is set for Ward.

Read the Pioneer online [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer) for updates.

## Big Truck tacos returns to OCCC April 17 to feed the masses

LAUREN TUBBS

News Writing Student

OCCC is kicking off its annual scholarship fundraising campaign with a visit from Big Truck Tacos from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, in parking lot D near the College Union entrance.

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Lealon Taylor said tacos will be \$3.50 each, the regular Big Truck Tacos price, with 10 percent of all sales going to the OCCC Foundation.

Taylor said this year will be the third time OCCC has partnered with Big Truck Tacos.

Last spring there was a turn-out of about 300 to 400 people so it’s becoming a regular community event, Taylor said.

Every year OCCC has a campaign asking all faculty and staff members to donate to the school’s foundation.

The foundation’s purpose is to fund scholarships for students.

The foundation also contributes to construction projects, such as the Performing Arts Theater under construction on campus.

Taylor said the Big Truck Tacos event will help students and the community get involved.

Director of Development Jennifer Harrison said foundation scholarships can range anywhere from \$300 to \$2,500.

The scholarship opportunity open now until May 4 is the Jean and Ralph Gamel Scholarship, Harrison said.

This scholarship often funds up to 10 winners ranging from \$500 to \$1000 each, she said.

Business Management major Josh Marshall said he is excited Big Truck Tacos is returning to OCCC.

“I think raising money for OCCC scholarships and eating Big Truck Tacos are a great combination,” he said.

For more information on the Big Truck Tacos Fundraiser, contact Taylor or Harrison at 405-682-7548.

Also, visit OCCC’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/otriplec](http://www.facebook.com/otriplec) and Big Truck Tacos’ Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/big-truck-tacos](http://www.facebook.com/big-truck-tacos).



FILE PHOTO/PIONEER

Big Truck Tacos drew a big crowd for lunch when the business visited the campus last year. The eatery will be back on campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 17.

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OCCC

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Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills

# Cancer survivors stress health tests

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

editor@occc.edu

"I cried. I thought I was going to die. I didn't want to tell my kids, I was afraid of hurting them," said Kelli Boyd, nurse assistant and nursing major at OCCC.

Boyd is just one of many survivors of cancer. In 2008, there were close to 12 million men and women in the U.S. battling cancer, according to the American Cancer Society.

Boyd said her uterine cancer was discovered in 2009 during a hysterectomy performed for other reasons.

"It was stage one, uterine cancer. There were a lot of different options for treatment I could go through. And we were discussing them when I ended up in the emergency room."

Boyd said her doctors found a growth on her ovary and said they did not think it would be anything to worry about. But it was. The doctors biopsied the growth, and a week later, Boyd received a call. The growth was cancerous.

"I just dropped the phone and fell to my knees. My options had just vanished. I didn't want chemo, or radiation therapy, I've seen what it does to my patients," she said.

"It's terrifying. Part of you just wants to give up, to say, 'I have the C. It's all over.' But I said, no, I'm going to fight. And I'll fight until the day I die."

Boyd said she began treatment with a trial medication three times a week, and went into remission after a year. She said the entire time, she hadn't told her children.

"I just kept thinking what if this doesn't work? That was the scariest part. How will I take care of my kids?" she said. "What I thought I'd had a lifetime to do, I suddenly didn't. And it really put life into perspective."

That shift in perspective comes with battling cancer, said Michelle Hendricks, cancer survivor.

Hendricks' son attended OCCC up until his untimely death in a head on collision in late 2010, she said.

Hendricks said she and her family were visiting Texas, six weeks after the loss of her son, when she discovered a tumor in her breast.

"At the doctor's office, I felt I'd already figured out it was cancer," she said. "When they asked me if I wanted to call anyone, I said no."

"It was devastating. I was worried more about my family than I was about myself."

Hendricks' tumor was over four centimeters, roughly the size of a tennis ball, she said.

"And it's like, 'how do you miss that? How do you miss something that large?' she said.

Hendricks said she received a lot of support from friends and family as she began and continued her fight

with cancer.

"I took it as another challenge, another way to get closer to God, to rely on him."

Hendricks said she believes stress also played a role in her cancer.

Stress, and the need to prioritize life around the sources of it, was what led up to English Professor Stephen Morrow's cancer diagnosis, he said. Morrow was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2007.

"Once you have the 'C' word in your life, it changes things," he said.

Morrow said he went for radiation therapy, and said he knew his chances were good, as it was an early diagnosis.

"But I knew that the relationship between me and my body needed to change. I believe that when we get that ill, our body is speaking to us."

Morrow said it was a wake-up call, that made him realize how much more attention he needed to pay to his health.

"As a father of three, I got so busy just taking care of things, that it was very easy...to let (my) body and health slip off the radar."

Morrow urges others not to do the same.

"All those basic truths of health don't matter to us until we hit a serious illness that says, 'Hey, stupid.' You have to take care of yourself."

Preventative measures against cancer are widely known, Hendricks said, but all too often ignored.

"There are a lot of things we already

hear, that we don't pay attention to," she said

"One thing that really gets left out of the preventative treatment program is having your hormone levels checked," she said.

"Not all cancers are hormone driven, but many are. If the hormones are in balance, the cancer doesn't grow."

Boyd said she urged others to perform self-examinations.

"You know your body better than anyone else. If something is wrong, if something feels wrong, go to your doctor. If he or she won't listen, go to another, and another. Keep going 'til you find a doctor that will listen," she said.

As of today, Hendricks and Morrow are both in remission. Boyd's situation is less certain. At her last test two weeks ago, she got a positive result.

"We're going (back) in a couple of weeks to do some more tests, and see if the cancer's come back, or if it's an issue with the lab."

Boyd, Morrow and Hendricks all said in various ways that cancer brings with it the realization that time is precious. Hendricks said she urges others not to waste time.

"People matter. Memories matter. Things don't matter as much. Life is about the legacy, what you leave behind, and you're always making memories. The only question is, are you making good memories, or bad?"

# Gamer Guild looking for bleeders and vampires

JUSTIN VODA

News Writing Student

Student vampires will overrun the campus during the Oklahoma Blood Institute's blood drive, which will take place between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 19.

The Gamer Guild of OCCC is sponsoring "Take Us to Your Bleeder," an event designed to encourage students to dress up as either vampires or vampire slayers in an effort to foster student blood donations during the drive.

"This is a fun event," said Karolyn Chowning director of TRiO grant programs. "As we were building up the schedule for the year for the Student Life calendar, the event just kind of arose as the students were talking about the blood drive."

The blood drive itself will be held in room CU1 of the Main building and

will provide donors with privacy and confidentiality.

"Take Us to Your Bleeder" fun and games will be held nearby in room CU3 with free snacks and drinks for donors, as well as a video game console to remain true to Gamer Guild fashion. Vampire themed games are expected, but do not be surprised to see classics such as Super Mario World.

"Take Us to Your Bleeder" is designed to allow people to play games after they donate blood," Gamer Guild member Jeremy McKinley said.

"It allows us to support the blood drive and also drum up publicity for the Gamer Guild."

Students are responding to the unique concept and campus awareness is growing.

"I think it's a really clever way to gear up publicity for the event," student Julie Campbell said. "If it inspires even one

extra student to give blood, it's worth it."

Healthy people who are at least 16 years old and weigh at least 125 pounds are encouraged to give blood regularly.

The Gamer Guild of OCCC is a club that promotes gaming of all kinds. They gather to play games of all varieties from board and video games, to the more classic pen-and-paper games from years past.

"This is a chance to tell students what we're about and hopefully encourage more students to donate blood than they might normally because we're such a spectacle," Chowning said.

The Gamer Guild is expecting a healthy turnout for the OBI sponsored blood drive.

"Oklahoma Blood Institute is pleased to have strong support on the OCCC campus," said Leslie Gamble, director of community relations for OBI. "Over the years, we have seen students appeal

to others with some very creative efforts. We want donors to realize that by giving blood, they are literally saving lives, and feel that satisfaction in making a life-saving impact."

The OBI receives more than 125,000 donors each year making it the ninth largest non-profit blood center in America. The blood donated stays primarily within Oklahoma communities so the lives you save could be those of your families, friends, or neighbors.

One donation can save up to three lives, according to the Red Cross. Of the people entering hospitals, one in seven needs blood. More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day.

The OBI is partnered with over 2,500 businesses, schools, religious and civic organizations, which allows them to hold over 4,000 blood drives per year.

For more information visit the OBI website at [www.obl.org](http://www.obl.org).



## SPORTS

**SPORTS** | Community sport draws attention to OCCC

# Campus league scores outside approval

**BRANDON WILLIS**

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

The OCCC Men's Community Basketball League kicked off its Spring season at 7 p.m. on March 8. The season, however, is still going strong through May 3 and exciting game play can be seen every Thursday evening at 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. in the Wellness Center Gymnasium.

The cost to play in the league is \$250 per team and must be paid upfront in order to participate in the league, according to Recreation and Sports Specialist Eric Watson.

The OCCC Men's Basketball League has been a staple of the Wellness Center for more than a decade, he said.

Watson said in order to participate, participants must be 18 years of age, but the sign up period for the men's league ended in March.

According to Watson, students and members from the community flock to OCCC in March just to sign up for the popular league.

Watson believes the competitiveness of the league is based on the teams that sign up every year.

"The competitive aspect of the league is based on the conditions of the team members and on the league," Watson said.

Saajan Patel, student and frequent visitor of the Wellness Center, said he believes that the league always offers a very competitive challenge.

## How to hack it



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student August Lombardo kicks a hacky sack in the OCCC courtyard April 9. Students are free to pass time between classes in the courtyard with physical activities or just enjoy the fresh air and sunshine.

**“You have a lot of good players who have played together for a while, so they have good chemistry.”**

—SAAJAN PATEL  
OCCC STUDENT

“I think this league is pretty tough,” Patel said.

“You have a lot of good players who have played together for a while, so they have good chemistry.”

The individual talent level of each player can vary depending on which team you are watching, Watson said.

He said, he also believes the

talent level is mostly for recreational purposes.

“Most players only have high school playing experience and very little college playing experience,” Watson said.

Wellness Center staff and OCCC Pioneers team member Pierre Davis said he thinks the league has quality talent for a recreational men's league.

## UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

**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.**  
email  
sportswriter@occc.edu.

## THE PIONEER SPORTS PODCAST

WITH  
MORGAN BEARD  
AND

BRANDON WILLIS  
LISTEN WEDNESDAYS AT  
WWW.OCCC.EDU/  
PIONEER

“There are some guys out here who can really play and some have played college ball,” Davis said.

For more information about the OCCC Men's Community Basketball League or anything else involving the Recreation and Fitness department call the Wellness Center Desk at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.



# Domestic dispute, fire, thefts top weekly reports

SARAH HUSSAIN

Senior Writer

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A family dispute spilled onto campus April 6. At 8:30 a.m., OCCC Police Officer Gordon Nelson and Security Officer Fredrick Evans responded to a disturbance in room 1H13-F of the Social Sciences Center, according to a OCCC police department report.

The request was made by Markus Smith, Political Science division department chair, after he was made aware of problems two of his work study students were having.

According to the report, student worker Tori Evans was having problems with her husband, another work study student whose name was redacted in the OCCC incident report.

Parks told officers she and her husband had separated two weeks before and she had been staying with Michelle Caraway, another work study student.

When Parks told Smith her husband had texted her, saying he was on his way to the campus to confront her, Smith called officers.

She reported her husband texted her, saying, "I am coming and it's going to get ugly." According to the report, at 7:48 a.m. Parks' husband also texted Smith, saying, "It's going to get ugly this morning. Shelly [Caraway] is a done deal so if you don't want the bs in your office you might tell her to leave. I'm done being nice."

At 8 a.m. Parks' husband texted her again, saying, "... And you have until I get there to make up your mind." She responded, "OK, let's do this."

Parks's husband then texted, "Oh? You got balls cause you in front of him [Smith]. It is ok. We shall see." Then shortly thereafter he sent one last text,

"Well it's about to get real."

After Parks gave officers a description of her husband's car, campus police offered the women an escort to their vehicles. Nelson told dispatch to watch for Parks' husband's vehicle on surveillance cameras and contact him via radio if the man arrived.

As officers were leaving the division office, dispatch informed them that Parks' husband had called her to say he wasn't going to the college that day, but was going to church instead.

Surveillance cameras confirmed that Parks and Caraway left campus in Parks' vehicle at 10:55 a.m. without incident.

In another incident, at 8:30 p.m. on April 6, Sgt. Kevin Tipton and security officer Monte Roddy reported a fire on the roadway between John Glenn Elementary School and the college's off-campus Family and Community Education Center.

According to the report, Richard Diedrich, a janitor at the elementary school, told Tipton and Roddy he had observed four juveniles light a fire and flee south on Land Avenue.

According to the report, Diedrich caught up with the juveniles and told them he had witnessed the incident. Officers were able to look at surveillance video and observe the incident.

Tipton and Roddy also found about six broken sprinkler pipes pulled up and lying on the ground.

OCCC Police Dispatcher David Madden confirmed he could see the youngsters playing with the pipes like swords on the surveillance video.

Tipton contacted Oklahoma City police. OCPD officer Jason Farmer arrived and took a report on vandalism to the school.

A day earlier, a phone theft was reported. On April 5, OCCC Student Samir Howard was playing basketball

in the Wellness Center when his Blackberry Curve phone was stolen.

In a report by security officer Fredrick Evans, Howard arrived in the gym at 11:30 a.m. and played numerous basketball games, periodically checking on his phone on a bench near the court.

At 1:45 p.m. Howard checked on his phone and found it missing.

Tipton reviewed video surveillance with Howard and was able to identify a possible suspect. Howard said he recognized the man as someone who plays basketball at the gym on occasion but is not a student, and goes by the name Mario. The video revealed the suspect left the gym shortly after sitting in the area where Howard's phone was lying.

Parking surveillance shows the man then went to his car, re-entered the building to change clothes in the Social Sciences restroom, and went back to the gym. The value of the phone is estimated at \$501.

At 3:30 p.m. that same day, student Peter Pham reported a watch had been stolen from his car in parking lot A.

According to a report, Pham was taking the watch to be repaired after class.

Pham said he arrived on campus around 1:30 p.m. and when he went back to his car at 3 p.m. he noticed his gym gloves had been moved to his drivers seat, but didn't notice the watch was missing until he arrived at the watch repairer. He contacted the OCCC police department and asked them to review video surveillance tapes of the area.

After reviewing the footage, it was determined a man in a white Jeep Cherokee approached Pham's car and entered it via the driver's side door.

The Jeep is then seen exiting onto May Avenue going north.

## Absolute: Literary publication college tradition

*Continued from page 1*

beth McCauley, who serves as one of the academic advisers.

The "Absolute" gives writers and artists the opportunity to have their work published.

"Our submissions come from all over," McCauley said. "You don't have to be a student at this school to submit."

Kylee Jones, one of the "Absolute's" student editors, said the process for choosing which submissions will be published

is based on a one-to 10 scale.

"We read through each one of them, score them one to 10," she said.

"The ones with the highest scores at the end of all our submissions we narrow down from there, based on what our favorite selections were," Jones said.

At times, the "Absolute" seems to have a theme connecting the works throughout an edition, but McCauley said this year that doesn't seem to

be the case.

"We don't necessarily start with a theme, but sometimes it seems one just naturally happens," McCauley said.

Copies of the "Absolute 2012" can be purchased in the

college bookstore for \$5.

The "Absolute" reception is held every April and is a popular event, McCauley said.

"We usually have a pretty good audience."

The OCCC jazz band will

begin playing at noon to greet incoming guests, she said.

For more information about the "Absolute 2012" or the reception, contact McCauley at 405-682-1611, ext. 7405, or email mmccauley@occc.edu

**Comments? Opinions? Let us Know!**

**E-mail Mark Smith at**

**editor@occc.edu**

**Let your voice be heard!**





# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY | Parents say TXT in cars has G2G

## Texting and driving seizes lives

SOUFIAN FAIZ

News writing Student

The automobile accident that claimed the life of high school senior Alex Brown in 2009 also redirected the lives of her parents who have devoted themselves since then to warning others about the dangers of texting while driving.

The Brown family from Wellman, Texas, formed the Alex Brown Foundation to fund their public service work.

The Foundation visited OCCC to speak about the dangers of texting and driving.

Parents Johnny Mac and Jeanne Brown, along with their daughter Katrina, spoke on campus March 26 about how they lost their beloved Alex, who was texting on her mobile phone just before the single-vehicle accident that took her life.

Mother Jeanne Brown, 45, left her teaching job to become president of the foundation. She directed her focus in the speech to young people who text and drive, warning them of the consequences.

"We're here because we want you to understand," Jeanne Brown said.

In her speech, Mrs. Brown talked about the tragic reality of texting and driving.

"If you insist on texting and driving you need to make sure your family has health and life insurance on you," Mrs. Brown said.

"You should start thinking about your own funeral so your parents don't have to deal with all of it."

Since the death of Alex on Dec. 29, 2009, the family has been traveling across the nation talking to students about the dangers of texting and driving.

The father said their goal is to help other families avoid the grief they have suffered.

"The only reason why I do this is because I know how it feels, and I don't want this to happen to your family," Johnny Mac Brown said.

Mr. Brown quit his job as well to be the vice president of the foundation. In his speech, Mr. Brown said that using a cell phone behind the wheel is a choice, and for every choice made there are two possible results: a good one or a bad one.

"Are you willing to trade your life for a text message or a phone call?" Mr. Brown asked. The chances



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Nursing major Tessa Greene, 20, signs a pledge not to text and drive at OCCC on March 27. The pledge was done in remembrance of Alex Brown, a texting and driving accident victim.

“The only reason why I do this is because I know how it feels, and I don't want this to happen to your family.”

—JOHNNY MAC BROWN

ALEX BROWN FOUNDATION VICE PRESIDENT

of getting into a wreck while texting behind the wheel are two times higher than drinking and driving.

As Katrina Brown, the youngest daughter, started talking about the death of her sister, it was obvious that the traumatic impact of the accident is still ingrained in the parents' memory.

Mr. Brown had his eyes fixed upon the ground while his wife started crying.

Mrs. Brown concluded the speech by presenting some helpful tools to eliminate cell phones as a driving distraction and help young students focus on road.

Mrs. Brown suggested that people should download applications that are designed to intercept text

messages while driving.

These applications, such as Text Toggle, are designed to respond immediately to the sender with a personalized message and are available free online.

Mrs. Brown also advised teenagers to engage in safe driving programs such as Teens in The Driving Seat. She said the goal of these programs is to raise awareness of the driving dangers and prevent accidents involving young drivers.

More than 60 people who attended the presentation signed a pledge not to text and drive.

The family said their purpose is to keep speaking about their cause as long as it takes.

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### 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.

### Free Immunizations for Children

The "Caring Van" will be at the Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) Family and Community Education (FACE) Center, Wednesday, April 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. to provide free immunizations to children.

### 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.

### Meet Your First Responder Day

On Wednesday, April 18th, OCCC will host "Meet Your First Responder Day" in Parking Lot A. Everyone is invited to meet Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency services personnel. Hot dogs and soft drinks will be served at 11:00 a.m. OCCC employees can receive their Quarterly Safety Training by attending the event.

**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](mailto:adman@occc.edu).

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**Surgery**  
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

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

ANESTHESIA	DRILL	LUNGS	SPLINT
APPENDIX	ENDOSCOPE	MALLET	SPONGE
BIOPSY	FORCEPS	NEEDLE	STAPLER
BLOOD	GRASPERS	OCCLUDERS	SUCTION
BONE SAW	HEART	PROBE	SURGEON
BRAIN	HEMOSTAT	RETRACTORS	SUTURE
CALIPER	HOOK	RIBS	SYRINGE
CANNULA	INCISION	RULER	TISSUE
CATHETER	INJECTION	SCALPEL	TRACHEOTOME
CLAMPS	IRRIGATION	SCISSORS	TRANSPLANT
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# Records: Experts dispute OCCC's compliance

*Continued from page 1*

what he was doing.

Campus police came to the scene and took the student, Isaac Ward Jr., to the campus police office. There he was arrested by Oklahoma City police officers and later charged with two criminal felony counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

When campus police provided the report to the Pioneer staff for the first time three weeks later, Ward's name and other information was blacked out.

To get more information Pioneer reporters called Master Sgt. Gary Knight of the Oklahoma City Police Department who sent a copy of their report by email within five minutes of receiving the phone call. The required information, including the name, was part of the report.

In other campus incidents, Pioneer reporters find the redaction of public information to be a common practice for college police.

College attorney Nancy Gerrity explained OCCC's position regarding these records in a message she described as "for educational purposes only" and "not legal advice."

She wrote: "The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of students ... (A) college may not release 'personally identifiable information' derived from education records ... An 'education record' under FERPA is any record maintained by the college that is directly related to a student."

Student Press Law Center Attorney Advocate Adam Goldstein sent his response via email from his office in Washington, D.C.

He took a different stand on the matter.

"FERPA applies to educational institutions, but has an exception (1232g)(a)(4)(B) that says it doesn't apply to records in the possession of campus law enforcement."

OCCC police also respond to accidents and injuries on campus, involving both students and employees.

Pioneer reporters are regularly denied any record where OCCC police or security officers are on the scene as first responders. These are reports of incidents such as dizziness, vomiting or cut fingers.

Media Relations Coordinator Cordell

Jordan cites both FERPA and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as reasons to redact information from those reports if it involves students.

Jordan will send the Pioneer general information but not give Pioneer reporters the actual incident report. He then instructs reporters to contact him for more information.

Jordan cites the Americans with

**“Any OCCC official using FERPA, HIPAA, and the ADA as excuses to withhold information in police reports either doesn't really know these laws or is hoping you don't.”**

—JOEY SENAT

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FOR THE SCHOOL OF MEDIA & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Disability Act (ADA) if the incident involves OCCC faculty or staff as the reason for denying reporters those records.

He said, in an email, that medical records involving employees are protected from release under ADA.

"On medical reports involving students, it would more likely be protected under FERPA instead of HIPAA."

"The 'law enforcement records' exception to FERPA applies only to records made and maintained for law enforcement purposes."

Jordan said on medical call requests, student reporters will be given information on a "case-by-case basis, because if the record is not an employee or a student, and the record is not a sole medical response (administration of medical care under HIPAA) then, we can release the report."

Gerrity also defends that practice.

"The Americans with Disabilities Act ... requires employers to treat any medical- or health-related information voluntarily provided by an employee or obtained from an employee as a result of an employer inquiry as a confidential medical record," she wrote.

Pertaining to HIPAA, Gerrity wrote: "The HIPAA Privacy Rule imposes confidentiality requirements on covered entities, and applies to all forms of an individual's health information,

whether written, oral or electronic.

"Covered entities include health care providers, paraprofessionals such as EMTs and paramedics, and health care plans."

Gerrity's four-page response can be read in its entirety online at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).

Goldstein argues neither HIPAA nor FERPA apply to campus police records.

"HIPAA applies to organizations that have a primary business of providing health care, insurance, or electronic records transactions for those companies; obviously, law enforcement has a primary business of enforcing the law and thus, none of its records are HIPAA records."

Goldstein said every time a person in campus law enforcement cites FERPA or HIPAA as the basis for not disclosing a record, "that person is misinformed, lying, or both."

He said the same applies to ADA.

"The ADA isn't a privacy statute at all," he said. "It's an anti-discrimination statute."

"It requires employers to treat individuals with qualified disabilities fairly and make reasonable accommodations for their disabilities."

"It has nothing whatsoever to do with records of any kind or the release of those records. If someone is citing

**“OCCC has to remain in compliance with all applicable state, federal and local laws, as does any other agency or individual.”**

—CORDELL JORDAN

OCCC MEDIA RELATIONS COORDINATOR

the ADA as a basis for not releasing records, they're not even misinterpreting the law, they're just saying the names of laws they've heard that sound kind of official."

Student Press Law Center Executive Director Frank D. LoMonte agreed with Goldstein, saying HIPAA and FERPA are never valid reasons for a college to withhold police department reports. LoMonte provided his comments in an email message.

"First of all, HIPAA is almost always a false justification for refusing to turn over public records. HIPAA applies only to two types of people: Health care professionals, or insurers."

"If the college has someone's medical

information because that person, for example, committed a crime or was injured in an accident, the college is in no way restricted by HIPAA from releasing that information. HIPAA is not a blanket health care secrecy law — it applies only to your doctor or your medical insurance carrier, not to colleges.

"FERPA is never, ever a valid reason for a college to withhold or redact crime reports, period," LoMonte said.

"Congress amended FERPA in 1991 to say that records created for law enforcement purposes are not FERPA records."

"If [OCCC] is relying on FERPA as a reason for releasing only partial crime reports, then the college is in violation of the Oklahoma Open Records Act."

LoMonte said citing ADA as a "justification for withholding public records is so frivolous that it almost seems like it must be a joke."

"There is absolutely, positively nothing in the Americans with Disabilities Act that says government agencies are not to release police reports."

Joey Senat, Oklahoma State University associate professor for the School of Media and Strategic Communications and former Freedom of Information Oklahoma president, reviewed several of the emails where Jordan refused to provide requested records and his reasons for doing so.

In an email response, Senat said, "Any OCCC official using FERPA, HIPAA, and the ADA as excuses to withhold information in police reports either doesn't really know these laws or is hoping you don't."

When Jordan was asked to respond to the same set of questions as the other sources in this story, he made the following statement in an email:

"It doesn't matter if I personally agree or disagree with the information. OCCC has to remain in compliance with all applicable state, federal and local laws, as does any other agency or individual."

To learn more, read part two of the Pioneer's Open Records investigative coverage in next week's newspaper.

Find out what experts had to say regarding the law when it comes to timeliness in filling Open Records requests and the availability of employees during business hours to fill the requests.

Additional information also is available at the Pioneer Online at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).