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PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

VOTING IS A RIGHT ALL SHOULD USE

Online Editor Paris Burris says even if you aren't happy with the choices, everyone should vote this next election. Read her thoughts inside.

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GOLF SKILLS PUT TO USE BY STUDENT

OCCC student Alberto Nava, a Mexico native, has finished in the Top 10 in the Mexican National Golf Tournament. See inside for more.

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A student who moved to the U.S. from Iran to pursue her sport of kayaking has won numerous medals with a traveling team. Read about it inside.

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SUICIDE AWARENESS BROWN BAG

A Brown Bag luncheon and more is planned for Sept. 18. The topic is Suicide Awareness. Read more inside.

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PIONEER

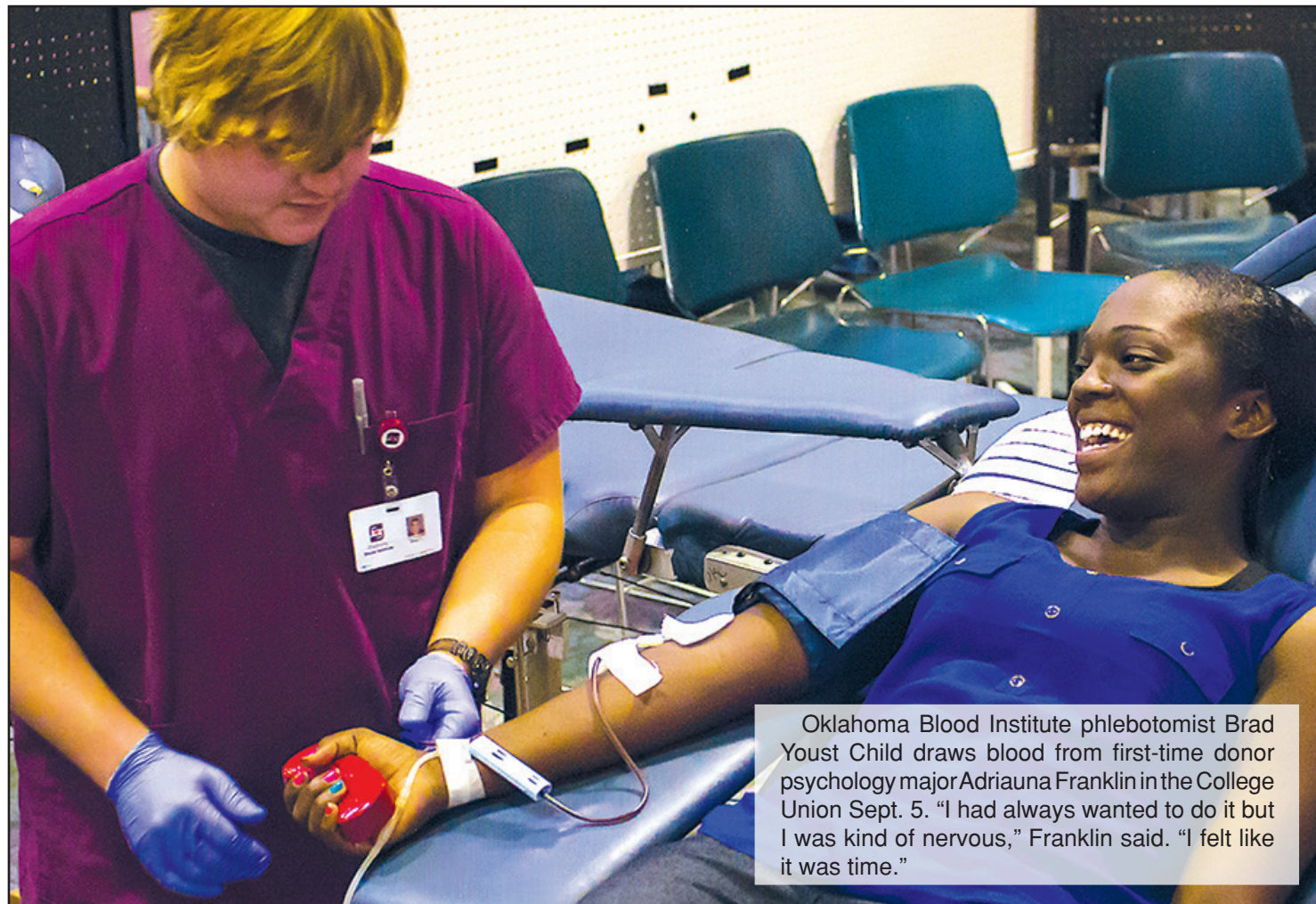
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Giving the gift of life



Oklahoma Blood Institute phlebotomist Brad Youst Child draws blood from first-time donor psychology major Adriauna Franklin in the College Union Sept. 5. "I had always wanted to do it but I was kind of nervous," Franklin said. "I felt like it was time."

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC committed to saving energy

College officials strive to stay within guidelines set by Senate Bill 1096

SARAH HUSSAIN
Editor
editor@occc.edu

A new policy on energy efficiency was approved by OCCC's Board of Regents during their monthly meeting Aug. 20, said Business and Finance Vice President John Boyd. Boyd said the policy is in place to reiterate the necessity of being energy efficient and conscientious in an effort to save energy costs as required under the new legislation signed by Gov. Mary Fallin, as set forth by SB 1096. "OCCC has always been energy efficient and energy

conscientious," Boyd said. "We have simply created a policy to align with the legislation."

The bill specifies that beginning with fiscal year 2013 and ending with fiscal year 2020, there must be a 20-percent energy savings in all state facilities.

Boyd said the policy is an effort on the part of the college to let the community, students, staff and employees know the board that governs OCCC is serious about energy conservation.

Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer said OCCC was green "before green was a word."

According to a PowerPoint presentation Messer organized with Trane's District

Manager Trey Fruge, between 1999 and 2009 there has been a 25.8 percent decrease in energy consumption campuswide. At the current electric utility rates,

that equates to roughly \$127,000 OCCC is saving annually.

Taking into account that this

See **ENERGY** page 6

CARE team in place to assist students

ERIN PEDEN
Staff Writer
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Students going through a difficult time academically or emotionally may find help with OCCC's Campus Area and Response Evaluation program.

Developed after the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, the

CARE program is designed to reach out to students who may be going through a difficult time..

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner said students can be referred for any number of reasons.

"We are currently advertising it on the TVs around campus so

See **CARE** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer disappointed in current presidential candidate choices

Use your right to rock the vote

Ever since I turned 18 in April of last year, the utmost exciting thing to me was not the fact that I could, if I wanted to, get into certain clubs, buy cigarettes, get piercings and tattoos, or any of the other average clichés.



**PARIS
BURRIS**

Rather, it was the realization that I would soon be voting in my first presidential election. I've been waiting for this opportunity for what seems to be so long and now that the opportunity has arrived, I must say that it is not what I was expecting. Why? Well, my answer is simply this: I'm not impressed by the candidates, to put it nicely.

I'm not usually one to bring up politics and let me make one thing clear: I do not judge or discriminate against anyone based on political opinions. I just feel so passionate about this subject because, well, shouldn't we all be passionate and involved in what's going on in our country? The answer is yes. However, that is sadly not the case.

It seems that many people in America are extremely and increasingly apathetic toward political campaigns. They may feel that it doesn't affect them, and this is especially common for younger individuals because they may feel that since they haven't voted in the past, they don't need to now. Or, they feel as though their vote doesn't matter. Also, many are in

the same position as me: They are finding it hard to decide on who to vote for because neither of the candidates are desirable.

This apathy is obviously only going to hurt America. This is something that everyone should have a stand on, and if people aren't involved, that's when cruddy candidates like Romney and Obama make it through. And, in turn, when the individuals who are in the same position as I am are faced with this, instead of voting for the better candidate, it is more like we are voting for the lesser of the two evils.

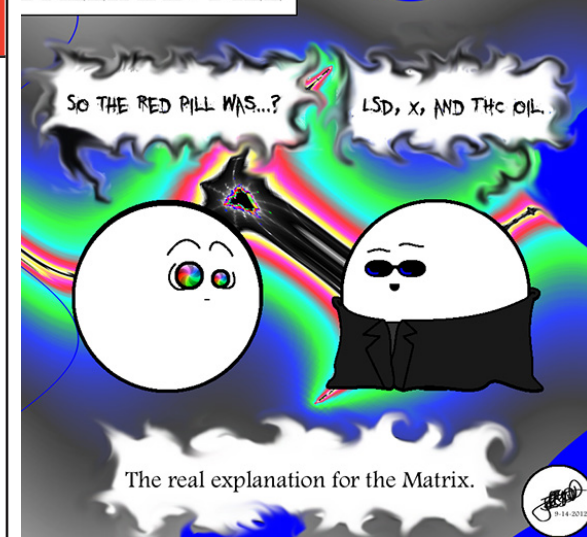
On one side, we have an arrogant Republican candidate who has changed his views on so many issues, such as abortion, immigration, education and health care. In my opinion, when it comes to big issues such as these, most people are pretty solid in how they feel.

As a presidential candidate, it would be a good idea to be more clear on this. How in the world is Romney supposed to make decisions for the country if he can't even make up his own mind on how he feels about an issue?

On the other side, we have the Democratic president who has increased the national debt by trillions and created Obamacare which is a huge step backwards from individual liberty. Many people, such as myself, fear that if he is re-elected, he will not do anything different from what he has been doing.

I'm not so ignorant to say that there will ever be a presidential candidate that doesn't have downfalls or that I will feel 100 percent confident in. However, there have been some way better candidates in the

BALLIARD BILL



JEREMY CLOUD

past, so why is it so hard to find better ones now?

The most important thing though, as Americans, whether we like the candidates or not, is to be involved and vote.

Apathy is not how we will improve our nation. Use your vote as your voice.

The process to vote is fairly easy as long as you are 18 and a U.S. citizen. I registered online at presidentialelection.com, where all I had to do was fill out simple information and mail in a form. The Student Life office on the first floor of the Main Building also has forms available.

The voter registration deadline in Oklahoma for the Nov. 6 presidential election is Oct. 12.

Locations of county election board offices in Oklahoma can be found at www.ok.gov/elections/documents/cebinform.pdf.

—**PARIS BURRIS**
ONLINE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Graduation rates, crime numbers available to all citizens

Oklahomans can use website to look up statistics

To the Editor:

Are you interested in how your county's high school graduation rate compares to the rest of the state? How the uninsurance rate has changed over the past decade? How your county ranks among the state's 77 counties in median personal income? Whether you have more property crime or violent crime in your area? Oklahoma Policy Institute is pleased to announce the release of two new resources.

An online database of state and county-level statistics is now available at www.okpolicy.org/ county-level-data. Our new interactive data app

is available for free, 24-hours a day and serves as a comprehensive hub for publicly available state and local data.

Use the database to generate, view, explore, and download statistics across a range of topics and time periods.

You can find statistics related to:

- individual & family income;
- crime rates & firearm licenses;
- demographics;
- health and education;
- & much more.

Anyone interested in reliable, easy-to-use, state

and local data can access it here, including students, teachers, researchers, entrepreneurs, professors, policymakers, journalists, grantwriters, etc. We will continue to build and expand the database, adding new indicators and providing timely updates for existing data.

We've also published county factsheets for each of Oklahoma's 77 counties. They provide quick and colorful access to key demographic, economic, and social indicators. Get important county-level statistics — as well as statewide rankings and comparisons — at a glance.

—**OKLAHOMA POLICY INSTITUTE**

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

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

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

ALBUM REVIEW | Moody Blues album still worth a listen decades later

‘Days of Future Passed’ a classic

What do classical music, rock, and poetry have in common? You will find all three on “Days of Future Passed,” a 1967 album by The Moody Blues. The album was the second from the English rock group and was groundbreaking to music history.

After a few modest hits off their first album, the group decided to try a different approach to their sound for their next. Although an orchestral/rock collaboration of Dvorak’s “New World Symphony” had been pushed by the record label, the album eventually became Moody Blues originals filled with accompaniment from the London Festival Orchestra after a suggestion from producer Tony Clarke.

The end results are phenomenal.

Designed to represent a typical workday, the album opens with “The Day Begins,” a beautiful overture which features excerpts from some of the album’s key tracks. Towards the end of the piece, a poem written by drummer Graeme Edge is recited, part of which is repeated at the end of the album.

“Dawn is a Feeling,” a soft piano ballad, represents as the first “proper” song on the record with actual singing vocals. The album continues with “Another Morning,” an upbeat dance tune written by and featuring the band’s flautist, Ray Thomas.



Keeping with the upbeat pace, “Lunch Break: Peak Hour” produces another instrumental arrangement which fades into an abrupt rock piece.

The album dives in to a slower, more melodic tempo with “Forever Afternoon” (more commonly known as “Tuesday Afternoon”), perhaps one of the most well-known songs off the album. You can almost feel the sunshine and breeze as lead singer Justin Haywood’s melodic vocals describe the perfect afternoon.

Following is “Evening” which winds down listeners, preparing them for “Nights in White Satin,” a piece iconic to the band that overwhelms with its eerie melody and intimate lyrics, and is sure to give listeners chills.

Another poem closing with the same lines as in the opening poem is recited, tying the entire album together.

Overall, the album surprisingly works. The orchestral music complements the rock lyrics and melodies nicely, creating a sound unique to its time. “Days of Future Passed” is a timeless album that is a must listen for anyone with an appreciation of older music.

Rating: A

—ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

GAME REVIEW | Role play meets action packed in latest game installment

‘Darksiders’ sequel an improvement

The latest in the “Darksiders” franchise is an interesting game, to say the least. According to various websites, the original game was rushed heavily and lost some content, such as the RPG system.

The RPG system is experience, levels, items such as potions, quests, and weapon and armor upgrades.

The addition of these things makes the sequel to “Darksiders” much better in many ways than the original. Instead of having one weapon throughout the game with several unchanging subweapons, players are treated to several types of subweapons of various rarities that can be replaced with better weapons.

One of the new additions is haunted weapons which have no stats whatsoever, but you can essentially feed them your old gear

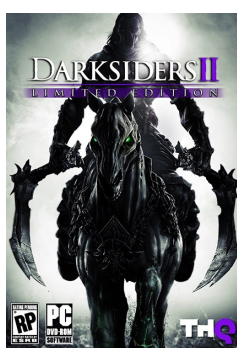
until they gain a level.

Once the weapon gets that level, all current stats go up a little, and a new stat is added, such as more experience, more money, critical strike damage and critical strike chance to name a few.

This of course makes it worth holding onto your old magical weapons.

Another addition to the “Darksiders” series is the inclusion of towns, or quest hubs. The player can go to town to buy supplies such as health and wrath potions as well as new weapons and armor. New moves are still obtainable from trainers, and Vulgrim is still floating around, overcharging for all of his wares.

The story is good thus far,



dealing with Death trying to prove that War was innocent of breaking the seals in the original game. This leads to a wild chase through several realms as Death fights his way through an army of corruption.

Graphically, the game is as dark as expected: a game with Death as the main character is bound to have dark themes, though some of the landscapes are bright and actually quite pretty.

I’m rather fond of the second area myself.

In all, the game is really good, especially if you like role playing games as well as action games.

Rating: A

—ROBERT BOLTON
ONLINE WRITER

JOB & CAREER POWER

Oct. 3 job fairs largest in state

The office of Student Employment & Career Services is pleased to announce that 100 employers have registered for the upcoming OCCC Job Fair & Health Job Fair scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 3.

Seventy general employers will occupy the College Union Greater Dining Area from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with many collecting job applications and conducting on-the-spot interviews during the event. Thirty health employers also will be on location from noon to 6 p.m. in CU2 and 3.

A sampling of the 70 General Employers include:

- 7-Eleven Stores
- Association of General Contractors
- Halliburton
- Hobby Lobby
- Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores
- Pillar Hotels & Restaurants
- Quad Graphics
- Saltgrass Steak House
- State of Oklahoma
- Southern Home Improvement
- Teleflora
- UPS
- Vaughan Foods, Inc
- XEROX

A sampling of the 30 Health Employers include:

- Carter Healthcare
- Comanche County Memorial Hospital
- Focus on Function/Functional Rehab
- INTEGRIS Health
- Kaplan Nursing
- Midwest Regional Medical Center
- Norman Regional Hospital
- OU Medical Center
- Southwestern Medical Center
- The Children’s Center

This employment event is the largest in Oklahoma and traditionally attracts 4,000 jobseekers from across the state.

Students, alumni, and community members are encouraged to dress professionally, and to bring an adequate supply of résumés. No job-seeker pre-registration is required and parking is free. For more information, call 405-682-7519, or email employmentservices@occc.edu

—DEBRA VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES DIRECTOR

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

EVENT REVIEW | Writer says 'Hulk Hogan' shaped his early years

Area wrestling brings back childhood memories

When I was a baby, my brother did his job of teaching me to love the things he loved. It was 1985 and there was nothing bigger at the time than professional wrestling, or at least in our little world. My brother Matt taught me my first words. After the usual "momma" and "dadda," he taught me how to say "Hulk Hogan."

From that moment on, Hogan was my hero. I had WWF (now WWE) everything, from action figures, lunchboxes and T-shirts to Halloween costumes, coloring books, and bed sheets. I watched wrestling all throughout my childhood. I remember wanting to fight my neighbor, Danny, when he told me it was fake.

I watched WWE throughout the Attitude era, up to when I was in high school when I stopped watching it. Since then, I have kept tabs on it but have not been fully devoted to wrestling's storylines.

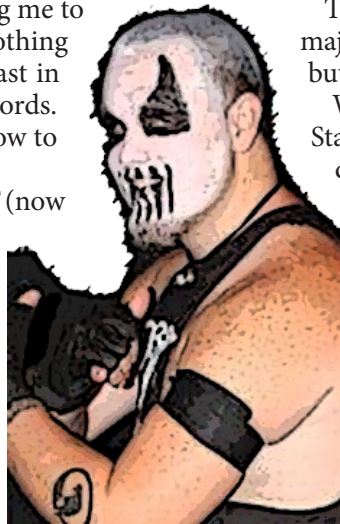
About a month ago, I had one of those blackout moments while surfing the Internet. I came to and realized I had stumbled upon a local wrestling promotion, Sooner World Class Wrestling, and found an old time wrestling show happening the coming weekend. It was \$7. I had to go.

I had a little trouble finding out exact details of the event. It seemed like I had to bounce around a few different websites to get all the info, but I finally found it all on the promotions Facebook site.

SWCW holds the majority of their wrestling events at a place called the "Underground Arena" on SW 25th. The place is the perfect setting for a small-time wrestling promotion: dingy, dimly lit, and smelling like beer and popcorn.

When the show started, it was easy to engage in the storylines already in progress from the previous events. However, the sound equipment was terrible that night and I had a hard time understanding anything the wrestlers said. But true to wrestling form, it is always easy to tell the good guys from the bad guys.

The first match was a hardcore match which means there are no rules and a perfect introduction to SWCW wrestling. About two minutes into the match, the top rope broke on the ring. The brawling went outside the ring as the crew repaired it.



The quality of all the wrestling is subpar, their timing is a little off, and the majority of the wrestlers are not nearly as athletic as their WWE counterparts, but all of this is to be expected.

Wrestling quality aside, I found the event highly entertaining. It was one part State Fair people-watching, one part entertainment, with a little sports event dashed in. There was an older lady, in her late 60s perhaps, yelling, "You suck!" over and over again at the bad guys as they worked the crowd.

I talked to a kid during intermission while we were in line for a hot dog, and he gave me some tips on who to cheer for in the coming matches. He told me his mother worked with one of the wrestlers Demarco Tate. The kid said he was nice and his favorite wrestler.

My personal favorite wrestler was named Maniac Mike. He was tall and slender, with long dark hair. After winning his match, he introduced the crowd to Pinny, a bowling pin whom he held to his ear as if it were talking to him, and then would relay Pinny's message to the crowd.

I enjoyed SWCW the way many people enjoy NASCAR. It isn't really the left turns people find exciting, it's the wrecks. There were plenty of wrecks that night.

The main event of the evening was a handicapped match, two men versus one, leaving all three men bleeding by the end. One of the men had to be pushing 50 and had a body that reminded me of a wooden barrel if wooden barrels could grow chest hair.

Overall, I enjoyed the evening. Cheap entertainment, cheap hot dogs, and cheap thrills rounded out my first SWCW experience. Maybe it was a callback to my childhood days as a Hulkamaniac making me feel nostalgic, or maybe it was because it was something more genuine: seeing normal, everyday people do something they love.

Rating: B-

—MITCHELL RICHARDS
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS
REPORTER

STYLE REVIEW | Black is the new black, old black and current black

Black a classic color that will never fade

There are a great many uses of color in our world. Our eyes use it to distinguish outlines and form, artists use it to express emotion, clothiers use it to enhance the appearance of the various styles and outfits they create. And while all colors are useful, and have a place and time, perhaps the most versatile is black.

The old fashion saying that black goes with anything is incredibly accurate. A splash of black in a garden, using pavers or paint, highlights bright flowers, or delineates the borders clearly. Using it in mobiles or getting a black gazing ball adds just that hint of elegance that can elevate a garden. Black gravel and sand used to create a Zen garden adds a hint of mystery to a peaceful meditation spot.

Used indoors, black can create relief for the eyes in a brightly colored room,

drawing the eye from oasis to oasis and calling attention to various points. Slipcovers or table cloths in black can bring disparate furniture together for those on a budget. They'll also match more readily and have less chance of clashing as they fade than printed patterns, or bright colors.

For clothing, black is fantastic for everything from a full outfit, to just a few accents. Black head to toe can give an impression of neatness and professionalism, even if it's jeans and a polo. It's a bit easier to hide stains in most black fabrics, making it a good choice for those who might be working with materials that can stain. It's supposedly slimming, though I've yet to see firm evidence of that. Accents, such as jewelry, watches, bandanas and so on, are easier to use when black, since they swap and mix with nearly any outfit.

Black has found its way into so many aspect of our lives. It's the color we write and print in most commonly, making it the primary color of our language. It denotes authority and power, being the color of many police cars, the color associated with the Secret Service, the color of SWAT officers in action.

It's also the color of rebellion, of leather, and motorcycles, or tattoo outlines, and metal band t-shirts. It's the color of night, and sleep, and can mean peace.

No matter what the fashionistas might claim, black is the new black. Also the old black, and the current black. Accept no substitutes.

Rating: A

—JEREMY CLOUD
COMMUNITY WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Sept. 7 through 9
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *The Possession*
2. *Lawless*
3. *The Words*
4. *The Expendables 2*
5. *The Bourne Legacy*
6. *ParaNorman*
7. *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*
8. *The Campaign*
9. *The Dark Knight Rises*
10. *2016 Obama's America*
11. *Hope Springs*
12. *Premium Rush*
13. *The Cold Light of Day*
14. *Raiders of the Lost Ark*
15. *Hit and Run*
16. *Ice Age: Continental Drift*
17. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*
18. *Sparkle*
19. *Marvel's The Avengers*
20. *Brave*

FORMER PROFESSOR APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR FALLIN

Board of Regents to gain new member

SARAH HUSSAIN

Editor

editor@occc.edu

Rick Moore has recently been appointed interim regent for OCCC's Board of Regents by Governor Mary Fallin. He has been appointed to fulfill the term of former Regent Tony Tyler, said President Paul Sechrist.

"Its interim basis, for two reasons," Moore said. "One, its filling a vacancy that has come open because of a resignation and my understanding is, obviously, I have to be confirmed by the Senate and [they] don't meet again until the spring. So this is all interim until the confirmation is approved by the Senate."

In the meantime, Moore said he is greatly looking forward to serving for OCCC again.

"I taught American Federal Government from about 1993 until the fall of 2009," Moore said.

History and Geography Department Chair and History Professor Ray McCullar also chaired political science while Moore was an adjunct professor.

"His student evaluations were always good, his class was always filled, he was always looking at what he could do to better serve students," McCullar said.

Moore no longer teaches since becoming the executive director of Oklahoma Municipal Contractors Association in 1999.

He said he is also in the process of working on his doctorate in curriculum studies at Oklahoma State University.

OMCA is a statewide trade association, Moore said.

"I represent contractors all over the state who do business with cities - the guys who do the streets, water, sewer, drainage, bridges, signal lights and those kinds of things," Moore said. "So they do work for the city of Okla-

homa City, Moore, Norman, Tulsa. They also work for the state, for ODOT and do jobs for them - interstates and turnpikes. A lot of them do more than just cities, but my area of focus is in their municipal work."

With his background of serving the state of Oklahoma, Moore has much to bring to the board.

"Regent Moore brings a commitment to making our community a better place and understands that education and OCCC play a key role in creating our community's future," Sechrist said.

The Board of Regents serves as the supervisor of the president, Sechrist said. When the board makes decisions at meetings, the president is then expected to implement the decision.

"Knowing that they're basically the governing body of the college, I'm sure that we will talk about the direction that [OCCC] will go, the fu-

ture, accreditation, all those kinds of issues," Moore said. "I'm excited about that because [in] my PhD program ... that's an area I'm already kind of focusing in."

Moore said he sees the opportunities OCCC gives to each individual who walks in the doors, and in turn what those individuals turn around and do for the community.

"When I taught [at OCCC] I used to always hear that you have a large population of students in any college that are pretty well traditional college students, then you have some that aren't.

"You have some that are first generation college stu-

dents, some that are there because they've lost their job in hopes to better themselves, some that are there for a licensing.

"Not everybody is a four-year university student or beyond, but there should be a place they can go for some certification training.

"That's an exciting thing to think this is a place that gives people a chance. I see the ability to make a difference and I think that's awesome."



Regent Rick Moore

Campus officials say OCCC is ADA compliant

SARAH HUSSAIN

Editor

editor@occc.edu

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which ensures nondiscrimination against individuals with disabilities, can help protect those students in need. All public venues, colleges and schools must follow the guidelines set forth by the ADA, but one student says OCCC is not in compliance.

Sociology major James Hill said he went to Student Support Services to file a complaint about the lack of a sidewalk between the northwest side of the library and parking lot C. He said he was told by a secretary to email Student Support Services Director Pat Stowe.

"[There's] the little turn in for people to get dropped off and there's a cutout through the bushes for a walkway and there's a road there," Hill said. "After the road there's that big center island that everybody just walks across to get to the parking lot."

"For me, I have to go all the way down to where the cutout is for the cars to go past and I have to take the sidewalk all the way around just to get to the parking lot."

Hill said he is able to hop up on some curbs in his wheelchair, but that specific curb is too high. "I feel

like I should have a direct path just like everybody else does," he said.

Hill said he is hoping for a ramp and walkway to be built for easier access to the parking lot.

"I just think it should be accessible to everybody."

The Pioneer contacted the group of people who handle ADA at OCCC about Hill's request.

Employment and Employee Relations Director and Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Acting Director Jana Legako responded in an email on behalf of Stowe, Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer and Facilities Management Assistant Chris Snow.

They said OCCC is in full ADA compliance which is determined by a committee that inspects the campus and reviews OCCC's policies and procedures, according to the email.

"If an individual has a particular need or concern, the process would be for a student to report the concern and/or need to Student Support Services and an employee to report the concern and/or need to Human Resources," Legako said in the email.

When a student, employee, faculty or staff member goes to Student Support Services with a complaint either in a class,

or around campus, each complaint is investigated on a case-by-case basis and reasonable accommodations are made if warranted, she said in the email.

Legako gave the example of a low vision student's request for a visual delineation between steps on the VPAC Plaza.

The student's suggestion was investigated and the conclusion was made that the visual delineation between steps was an excellent universal decision and was implemented campuswide.

For more information about Student Support Services or to make a complaint, contact 405-682-1611, ext. 7520.

OCCC

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

OPTIMAL RESUME

www.occc.optimalresume.com

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

Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills

New water fountain helps green efforts



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Physical therapy major Diana Rivera refills a water bottle at the new fountain outside of the Safety and Security Office on Sept. 7. There also is a new fountain by the College Union. A total of four are planned to be placed on campus.

MITCHELL RICHARDS

Special Assignments
staffwriter4@occc.edu

In the Main Building on campus, in between the Security Office and the coffee shop there are two water fountains. One of those water fountains is a normal one while the other is a small part in OCCC's ongoing attempt to go green.

The water fountain is an Elkay EZH2O bottle filling station.

The station allows thirsty patrons an easier way to fill up their personal water bottles by using motion sensor technology.

A user places the water bottle in the designated area and the fountain fills the bottle with a quick and steady stream, three times faster than a standard drinking fountain, according to the Elkay product guide.

The filling station also has a counter estimating the number of plastic water bottles "saved" from landfills during its use.

At the time of writing, the filling station has saved over 5,000 16-ounce bottles from landfills.

Facilities Management bought five of the water fountains originally, with the first one installed in their office area as an experiment.

The second was installed in the Main Building by the security office, and a third installed in late August in the College Union, said Facilities Assistant Director Chris Snow.

"We are getting a huge favorable response from people, and we are anticipating more being installed in the future," Snow said.

Snow said two more are set to be installed soon — one on the first floor of the Arts and Humanities building and the other on the first floor of the library.

The fountains cost \$700 apiece, but come with perks, Snow said.

"The ... cool thing is they are filtered, which the other water fountains are not, so it's like getting filtered bottled water," he said.

Snow said the filling stations also are touchless and therefore more sanitary; one only needs to place the bottle in the fill zone and the fountain fills it up.

Snow said he hopes the college will have the money to install more of the fountains or possibly retrofit some of the older fountains on campus, which would be cheaper.

Snow said the filling stations are not a part in the school's official green initiative. Instead, the idea was pitched to them by the vendor.

"When they pitched it, it looked like something economically friendly for everyone involved," Snow said.

Energy: OCCC on track to additional energy savings

Continued from page 1

projection only includes electricity, Boyd said he believes a 20-percent energy savings is very attainable.

"I think our total utility cost — gas, water, sewage and electric — is a little over \$1.7 million [a year]," Boyd said.

"When you think about over one million square feet, that's not bad.

"If you take 20 percent of that, that's [between] \$340,000, \$350,000. That is around \$45,000 a year [in savings]."

Fallin approved the legislation on May 8, but Boyd said he believes it officially became effective Aug. 23.

"We jumped on this the moment our president emailed us saying, 'I am going to communicate to Governor Fallin our support for this effort and I want to ascertain that I have your support,'" Boyd said.

OCCC officials had heard of the energy conservation efforts Oklahoma State University had implemented and already seen a large savings from, so Boyd said a meeting was set up with the OSU facility management team.

"Myself, J.B. Messer and Chris Snow drove up there to have a meeting with them," Boyd said.

"We didn't let any dust settle on this."

He said the strategic opportunities OCCC is working on and will continue to work on include new construction, renovations, system upgrades, and training and research, according to the presentation.

"We have the Trane Tracer System," Boyd said.

"That system allows us to centralize through computers all of our HVAC systems, so we can sit at a computer and we can tell where we have a situation

or circumstance in our system. We can also control our energy usage through that."

Boyd said OCCC has a chiller system in which water is heated and cooled.

"We cool our water down at night so that we'll be ready to cool the next day," he said.

Along with the chiller system, Boyd said, other energy efficiency efforts include two recently purchased hybrid vehicles that are gas and electric, and replacement of the former lightballasts to more efficient ones, according to the PowerPoint.

"We can't just go out and replace everything," Boyd said.

Boyd is confident in OCCC's efforts to save on energy costs, but is also realistic when looking at the big picture.

"I think we are way ahead of other

“There's more to come. It's going to evolve as we go.

—JOHN BOYD

BUSINESS AND FINANCE VICE PRESIDENT

campuses, but I think all educational institutions have been very conscientious of this," Boyd said.

He said it may be tough for institutions such as OCCC that have already implemented energy-saving plans they won't get credit for to achieve an additional 20 percent figure over the next eight years.

"There's more to come," Boyd said. "It's going to evolve as we go."

"I take great pride because we are very proactive. We believe we will achieve this 20-percent savings.

I don't have any doubt that we will achieve it. I think we will exceed it."

Student makes top 10 at Mexico golf tournament



Alberto Nava at Earlywine Golf Course located in south Oklahoma City. Nava, who was born in Mexico, said he made the recent move to Oklahoma to pursue his education and to get better at his game. Nava recently finished a national tournament in the top 10.



PHOTOS COURTESY ALBERTO NAVA

Alberto Nava takes a swing on the course at Club Campestre San Jose in Los Cabos, Mexico. Nava said Golf Pro Steve Dodson moved to Los Cabos and helped make him a better golfer.

BRANDON WILLIS
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Alberto Nava and his golf coach Steve Dodson have a special relationship on and off the golf course. Nava credits Dodson for making him the successful golfer he is today. Nava recently finished in the top 10 in a Mexican national golf tournament.

"He has helped me in so many ways, in my golf game and in my life and my family. He basically made me the golf player that I am today. I consider him as my grandpa," Nava said.

Born in Los Cabos, Mexico located near the Pacific Ocean, Nava said he made the move to Oklahoma recently to pursue his education and to get better at his game.

Nava has had a close relationship with Dodson for the majority of his life, he said. Dodson moved to Los Cabos and didn't speak any Spanish, so Nava's mother helped Dodson and his family adjust to the new area. Nava said they have worked together ever since, which is what began the relationship that would bring the two even closer.

Nava and his older sister Ana, who attends the University of Oklahoma, now live with Dodson here in Oklahoma.

Nava is no stranger to Oklahoma seeing how he has participated in the Oklahoma State University golf camp for two years. Nava said he appreciates the wisdom that was passed on to him about golf.

"I learned many things at OSU golf camp," Nava said.

"Golf coach Mike McGraw is a great coach and great person that cares about the people around him. I spoke with him many times and he has told me many

"I would like to have a chance to play professional golf, that's my dream and I think that with this program I'll have a better chance."

—ALBERTO NAVA
OCCC STUDENT

things about golf that really helped me when I got back home after the golf camp," Nava said.

"I also learned that you have to practice all day to achieve what you really want, not to give up because if you give up you will never achieve what you want. If something doesn't work the first time do it again and again and again till they do."

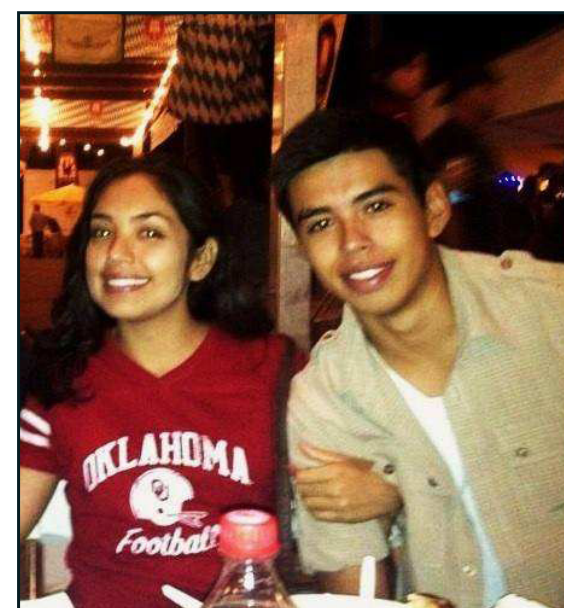
"I learned many exercises and techniques, and most important of all to have fun when you are playing, keep your head up, enjoy the beautiful day that God gave you, and every minute of it."

Nava said his biggest influences, as far as professional golfers, are Tiger Woods, Camilo Villegas and Lee Westwood.

Nava said he credits Dodson for making his dream of being a PGA star more and more possible each and every day.

"Steve Dodson, he is a golf professional. When he moved to Los Cabos, Mexico, he was the director of golf and the golf pro at Cabo San Lucas Country Club. He is, in my opinion and a lot of people's opinions one of the best golf coaches in Mexico, and a lot of people know him and respect him because of the great person he is."

Nava has high hopes for his future, but said no matter what he ends up doing, he wants it to involve the game he fell in love with as a child.



Alberto Nava and his sister Ana Lilia Ruiz Nava pose for a picture together. Nava said his sister Ana attends the University of Oklahoma.

"I would like to have a chance to play professional golf. That's my dream and I think that with this program I'll have a better chance,

"But if that doesn't work, I would like to manage a golf course and make each and every golf course that I manage the most or one of the most successful in Mexico or USA."

"I also would like to teach golf, look for talented young players and help them to succeed," Nava said.

Nava said he currently attends regular classes at OCCC, but said he plans on transferring to the University of Central Oklahoma, because of its distinguished PGA Golf Management degree program.

SPORTS

Swim fan



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Engineering major Curtis Mitchell takes a swim in the OCCC Aquatic Center after class to relax a little before heading to work Sept. 7. The Aquatic Center has an Olympic sized pool and diving well, and hosts many state, regional and national competitions. Students can swim for free.

SPORTS | Arezou Motamedi Fakhr has traveled the world competing in kayaking

Student leaves Iran to pursue sport

BRANDON WILLIS
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

In this day and age not many accomplished athletes would choose education over their promising future in a particular sport. It takes courage to start all over with a new challenge in a new place but that was the bravery shown by student Arezou Motamedi Fakhr.

"My plans changed and I came here to pursue my athletic training and an education," Fakhr said.

Fakhr is a 23-year-old woman who has won international gold and silver medals in kayaking for her home country of Iran.

Fakhr said she has traveled the world competing in locations such as Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, China, Korea, Croatia, Romania and across the U.S. She said she has been

a part of the Iran National Kayaking team for five years but has only been kayaking for six years.

"I recently got back from a competition in Seattle where we won a gold, two silver and three bronze medals," Fakhr said.

Born in Tehran, the capital city of Iran, Fakhr's love for the water began at a young age, she said.

"I was originally a swimmer first," she said. "I began at age 3 and was on the Iran Youth National Swim team from age 5 to 6," Fakhr said.

"I have always loved water sports."

Fakhr said she decided to convert from swimming to kayaking because of her home country's strict requirements for swimming.

"In Iran we do not have the opportunity to compete in national or international competitions because we have to cover our bodies so we could only compete in Islamic countries or

just in Iran," Fakhr said. "I wanted to improve because in kayaking we can compete internationally."

Fakhr said she moved to Oklahoma City just three months ago and had her mind made up on what she wanted to accomplish here.

"I want to continue my training and to get my education," Fakhr said.

Fakhr mentioned that one of the main attractions that brought her to Oklahoma City is the Devon Boathouse.

The Devon Boathouse is a state-of-the-art \$10 million facility in downtown Oklahoma City which is used to enhance rowing and paddling performance and much more, according to boathousedistrict.org.

Fakhr said she is taking English classes at OCCC now to improve her communication skills but eventually wants to pursue an athletic training degree.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Oct. 6: Lifesaver 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run begins on the main campus at 8 a.m. For more information, call Deborah Myers at 405-682-1611, ext. 7138.

Oct. 13: OK Senior Games Swim Meet begins. The pool will be open to the public during the meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Oct. 26 through Oct. 28: Chesapeake Halloween Invitational Swim Meet. The pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Nov. 3 through Nov. 5: Oklahoma Baptist University Swim Meet. The pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Nov. 10 through Nov. 12: Westmoore Jaguar High School Invitational Swim Meet. The pool will be closed to the public. 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 your news to sportswriter@occc.edu.

Have sports news you want to share?

Email Brandon at: sportswriter@occc.edu, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676

Fakhr said she prays before every competition to help her focus and she hopes to bring that same focus to accomplishing her dreams here in the U.S. and Oklahoma City.

"I want to be an athletic trainer and reach the highest level I possibly can," Fakhr said.

About 60 attend John Massey Center open house



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

John Massey gets a laugh from President Paul Sechrist while giving a speech to an audience of OCCC regents and faculty in the new building named in his honor on Sept. 6. The John Massey Center has recently been moved to the southeast corner of the OCCC campus from its previous location.

KELLYE TALLENT
News Writing Student

An open house at the John Massey Center on Sept. 6 allowed students, staff and community members a chance to pay homage to the building's namesake and take a tour of the new facility.

Massey is a southeastern Oklahoma banker serving his third term as a member of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the governing board that oversees all state colleges and universities.

Massey addressed the audience of 60 with a warm smile, candid honesty and a sense of humor that left a smile on many faces.

Among other topics, Massey championed the value of hard work.

"Hard work never hurt anybody and helped everybody," said Massey with a vehemence that stressed this as a personal creed which has led him to be a man that his peers, and even strangers, can respect.

Massey is walking proof that education and strength of character can be the

defining difference in lifestyle.

Massey donated the building used for the first location of the center.

The off-campus facility was later purchased by Chesapeake Energy.

The proceeds from that transaction funded the new building which was completed within budget, costing \$2.3 million, according to an April 5, 2012, article in the Pioneer.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist introduced Massey as a man of substance.

"The depth is not just in the pocketbook, it's in the heart," Sechrist said.

The occasion also was marked by remarks from Mike Vorhees, chairman of the OCCC Board of Regents; Dr. Glen Johnson, chancellor of Higher Education; and Marlin "Ike" Glass Jr., chairman of the Oklahoma State Regents.

The true story was not in the opening of the building, which houses OCCC offices and classrooms for staff development, but in the generosity of the humble and humorous Massey.

"Some people make the world a better place just by being in it, and one of those men is John Massey," Glass said.

CARE: Referrals made for students needing assistance

Continued from page 1

students are aware that faculty may refer them if they are concerned about them academically or about their attendance," Turner said.

She said the CARE staff takes each case into great consideration before calling students in to talk.

"Essentially, a person, faculty or staff, would submit a case to us and indicate what their concern is.

"We use it to get together and talk about it from our different areas of expertise," Turner said.

"It's designed if there's a concern the person may harm themselves or others, or both, we have to research that and determine whether its legitimate."

Student Support Services Director

Pat Stowe said she believes the program has been successful in reaching out to students while still maintaining confidentiality.

"I can say the team considers each referral very individually and any intervention has had a positive outcome," Stowe said.

"CARE is as the name suggests ... a team that represents OCCC who really cares about the welfare of its students."

Although the program is not designed to be disciplinary, Turner said students can be written up after a referral.

"Sometimes people are referred when they really need to be written up on a conduct code violation.

"It does stay on your file," Turner said.

"It's just a way for us to be aware of potential problems on campus and to work with the individuals involved so we can have a good outcome."

Diversified studies major Justin Swift said he believes the program is beneficial to the school.

"Due to recent events such as the shooting in Colorado, I think the program is a good idea," Swift said.

"There are a lot of people out there who need help and this is a great way

to reach out to students before they do something harmful to themselves or others."

Turner said not all cases are extreme but students do need to be aware that it is something to be taken seriously.

"It's not something anybody needs to be afraid of but we do have to follow up," she said.

For more information on the CARE program or to seek help, contact Student Support Services at 405-682-7520 or email mtturner@occc.edu.

An advertisement for Kids and Cars.org. It features a photograph of a baby in a car seat, looking out the window. The text reads: "It's 70 degrees outside... It's 125 degrees inside the car." Below the photo is the logo for "KIDS AND CARS.ORG" with the tagline "Love Them, Protect Them".

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Big Brothers



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Business major Luis DeLaRosa speaks with Recruiting Director Jason Johnson about the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma at the OCCC Volunteer Fair, Sept. 5. The Big Brothers Big Sisters help provide positive role models and mentors to youth across the country.

COMMUNITY | Luncheon scheduled to help raise awareness

Tips to prevent suicide

JEREMY CLOUD

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

"People don't often talk about suicide, even if they think someone they love might be having suicidal thoughts," said OCCC mental health counselor Jenna Howard.

"They're afraid that if they talk about it, it will put those thoughts in the person's head."

That fear is one of the reasons Student Support Services is teaming up with Student Life to host a Brown Bag luncheon to raise awareness of suicide and how to prevent it.

The event will start with a "first responder" technique called QPR, which will run 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, in MB 1X5.

"It's an acronym that stands for question, persuade, refer," Howard said.

"You have to question in situations where you think someone might be thinking of suicide, if you think they might be, they probably are."

"You're not going to put those thoughts in their head. Persuade means just that, you need to talk to

"If you have to question in situations where you think someone might be thinking of suicide, if you think they might be, they probably are."

—JENNA HOWARD

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COUNSELOR

them, to try and remind them that suicide isn't the way out. And you need to refer them to a professional, get them help."

Howard compared the technique to CPR.

"It's not a perfect solution, and it won't let you fix the problem, but it will help you keep them alive and safe until a doctor can get there and help."

Howard said the training has been available to faculty and staff, and is now being made available to students. In addition to the Brown Bag speech, there also will be a table with information on suicide awareness that will be available Sept. 18 through 19, in the Main Building, Howard said.

Howard said the project was initiated by students, who created and staffed the awareness information table last year.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

College Poets and Writers meeting

Students interested in writing should become part of the College Poets and Writers group. The first meeting will be held from noon to 12:50 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17, in room 1X5 of the Main Building. Free food and drinks will be provided. For more information, contact cverschage@occc.edu.

Career exploration workshop

The Student Employment and Career Services department will be hosting a workshop on how to choose the best college major for your career. The workshop will be from 12:30 to 1 p.m., Sept. 20, in the Student Employment and Career Services offices in room 1G7 of the Main Building.

Cellphone photo contest

The OCCC art department is looking for OCCC's best cellphone photographs for a February 2013 exhibition. Entrants must be current OCCC students or employees, and may only submit one photo.

Photos must be submitted in their original file size as an attachment using their OCCC email address. Entries should include the photo's title, if any, type of cellphone used, any other software used to manipulate the image, and the photographer's name. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 15. Jurying will take place in November.

For more information, or to submit a photo, email dblake@occc.edu. Entries should have the heading "Cellphone Entry."

Narrative Writing Workshop

The Communications Lab is hosting a workshop at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17 in CU1. The workshop is called "Telling Your Story: Writing a Narrative." Presenter Lydia Rucker will help students better understand how to add feeling, description, and dialogue to their personal writing.

Pell disbursement dates

Pell disbursement dates for the fall semester are Sept. 14, Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7. For a full listing of loan disbursement dates, visit www.occc.edu/financialaid/dates.

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

Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu or drop by the Pioneer office located at AH Entry 2 in room 1F2.

"We're trying to do a little more each year," she said. "Last year, it was just the table, this year the table and the training. Next year, we might be able to do something more."

For more information, go to occc.com/support or occc.edu/studentlife, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.

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. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

ANIMALS

FOR SALE: Three young husky/German Shepherd mixes. Two males, one female. Already vaccinated. Nine months old. Call/text: 405-517-4117.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 2010 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup. 14,000 miles, city miles only. Silver color. Tinted rear window. Clean. Like new. Tags current. Email claudette-robertson@occc.edu.

MUST SELL: 1995 Vulcan 750 motorcycle. (needs carb repair and more) \$1,000. (Includes parts bikes.) Text 405-532-6262 for more information.

FOR SALE: 1965 Chevy truck. \$4,000 OBO. Rebuilt motor. Runs. Needs painting. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

FOR SALE: 1962 Chevy car. \$2,000 OBO. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

FOR RENT

ROOM FOR RENT: \$450/mo. Bills included. 3-bedroom located near OCCC. Males only. One friendly dog already, no more pets. No smoking preferred. Call/text Reginald at 405-249-4550.

MISCELLANEOUS

BABY ITEMS FOR SALE: Fisher Price infant to toddler blue baby rocker w/ activity bar, barely used: \$20. Slightly used clean Jumperoo with accessories: \$50. Bright Starts baby activity gym, new: \$15. wickitiwack@yahoo.com.

FATIGUE? Diabetic? Arthritis? Weight issues? Anxiety? Or just looking for a NATURAL boost? Try **ZEAL**, a NATURAL wellness formula. You can even earn extra \$\$\$ as a consultant! To order and/or learn more, check out my website at kedwards.zealforlife.com or email Kerrie at kepsych@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged: \$100; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, \$100. 405-818-0083.

LOOKING FOR RIDE: Need ride from Norman to OCCC. Legally blind student. Will pay for gasoline. Classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call: 405-598-5052 or 405-395-2779.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Would split rent. Looking to rent in OKC area. Must be at least 21. Call: 405-474-8454.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Would split rent/utilities. Looking to rent apartment in SW OKC. Either gender, pets and smokers welcome. Call: 405-651-3421.

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: American Realities Vol. 1 history textbook. Slightly used. \$50. Text Robert at 405-248-8849.

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OR September 24- 26: M/T/W 5:30-8:45pm

24-Hour Class- Start anytime, call for times

Assessments- Call for appointment

NW OKC, 3160 N. Portland
Call: 94-DRIVE (943-7483)
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Classifieds are FREE for OCCC students, faculty, and staff members. To place a classified, email adman@occc.edu. Include your full name, student or faculty ID number, and preferred way to be contacted.

THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Going Green

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U.S. representative meets with his constituents

CHRIS JAMES

Pioneer Photographer
pioneerphotog@occc.edu

U.S. Rep. James Lankford addressed a room full of Oklahomans who gathered at OCCC with hopes of having their issues addressed Sept. 4.

Lankford answered questions about the current direction and future of the nation.

Everyone was invited to write down a question for the Fifth District Republican congressman to answer. The cards were then put in a bucket to be drawn at random. Lankford started the show by answering questions from citizens who met certain criteria.

The first question came from the oldest veteran in the room. The 75-year-old Air Force veteran asked about the national debt.

Lankford said the national debt is currently around \$16 trillion, and the problem in resolving the situation is the gridlock in Congress over two differing philosophies involving the role of government.

The next question came from the person who had traveled the farthest to attend — a man from Edmond asked a question about the Medicare voucher plan put forth by vice presidential hopeful Paul Ryan.

Lankford called the voucher system a premium support plan, much like the Medicare part D already in existence. "This is not passing you a check and saying good luck on finding insurance."

Next, Lankford asked who had the oldest running car and gave the floor to a woman owning a 1928 Ford. She started with a statement:

"The biggest mistake of health care reform is starting with the opinions of the insurance companies. You talk about death squads. You talk about panels deciding who gets the care. The insurance companies have been doing it for decades."

Part of Lankford's response was, "I'm not recommending deregulation of insurance, but I am saying that it's far better in a free market system than central controlled health care."

Lankford then received a topic from the youngest person in the room, a 13-year-old named Ian, who asked about support for families with kids who have disabilities. He responded with a two-part answer.

"One is, nominally, that is a state issue, and number two is, that is something the federal government has done extremely poorly."

"We have to decide, in education, are we going to run all aspects of education from the federal level based on our mandates and funding or will our funding be focused on children with disabilities."

"My preference would be that our focus is driven towards children with disabilities, and allow states to have greater control and more freedom in mandates on a local level for the rest of the population."

The first question drawn from the bucket focused on the General Motors automobile bailout.

Lankford said his personal struggle is with saving large corporations but ignoring smaller companies.

"President Obama is traveling around the country saying we bailed out General Motors and saved jobs, but neglected saving many small and medium businesses."

In addition, Lankford said, there is a prevailing mentality that a company disappears after going bankrupt. He said bankruptcy laws were established to prevent just that. He cited Delta and American

Airlines as examples of bankrupt companies still being in business.

Next, Lankford was asked if he had heard economists say that since the Internal Revenue Service began collecting taxes, there has been five instances in which the income tax for the wealthy has been lowered and all five times the economy improved.

He said that is true.

Lankford referred to the Laffer Curve — an economic principle indicating a tax rate that is too high or too low will fail to produce sufficient revenue.

"You tax so much that people start to slow down in how much money they make or they find other ways to get tax shelters."

"If you tax everyone 80 percent, they suddenly find ways to not have income, to do it all by cash or to do it all overseas. They find some way to be able to move their money. Not to be cynical on this, the absolute best at it are the wealthiest."

Lankford gave the example of children studying the American Revolution. Second graders were the Americans and fifth graders the British.

The fifth graders would impose one cent taxes on the second graders for things like sharpening pencils or going to the restroom. The second graders would try to avoid the taxes by sharpening their pencils at home or only using the restroom at lunchtime when the fifth graders weren't around. The point, he said, is even grade schoolers will find ways to avoid being taxed.

Then a question came concerning the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act — specifically how and when it would benefit those in need.

Lankford said it would take two years, because lawmakers don't want to do it all with one large bill, but rather a series of smaller bills that will give citizens an opportunity to have input and to promote bipartisan compromise.

Lankford was then asked if he would pledge not to increase the debt ceiling and make Congress live within its means. He said this would force them to balance the budget now and cut \$1 trillion dollars from the budget in a single year. Lankford said he would be all for that if someone could come up with a way to do it.

The next issue was about current sanctions placed on Iran, and how it hurts the people rather than the Iranian government. Lankford said Iran seems to be pushing toward a nuclear weapon program. The man who posed the question related the Iran situation to when Iraq was wrongly said to have weapons of mass destruction but had none.

Lankford countered, saying Iranian



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

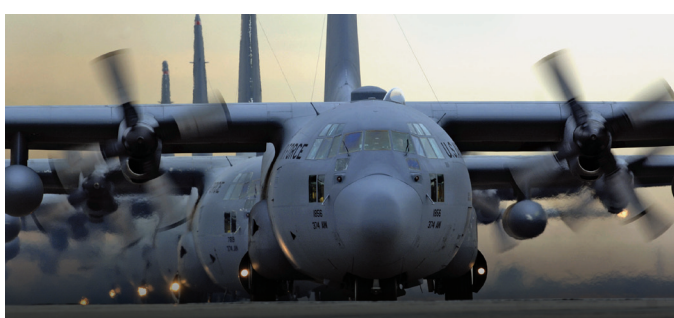
U.S. Rep. James Lankford, far right, talks to citizens who gathered at OCCC Sept. 4 to ask questions about the past and current direction of the nation.

leaders have declared a desire to destroy Israel. For this reason, he said, the Iranian government cannot be allowed to obtain nuclear capability.

The congressman closed with a statement about how the American people will have to resolve this in the upcoming elections.

"The issues we deal with as a nation are not simple. Anyone who says to you ... 'if we will only do this, it'll fix it,' doesn't understand the difficulties we all are facing. Because there are no simple issues that we are dealing with at this point with this amount of debt and the complexity of what the federal government has become. But that does not mean we can back off."

"Now, this is for me personally. You might have a different perspective and a different background. I have not lost hope."



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