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EDITORIAL

CURSE WORDS
NO DIFFERENT
THAN OTHERS

Photographer Jake McMahon says all language should be freely spoken, even words society looks upon as taboo. Read his thoughts inside.

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NEWS

UPCOMING
THEATER
EVENTS LISTED

Students have a chance to see a Broadway musical and a touring choir for as little as \$10. For more information about tickets, turn to page 6.

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INRAMURAL
BASKETBALL
SEASON STARTS

OCCC's intramural basketball season runs through March 14 with a championship game at the end of the season. Read more.

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COMMUNITY

NATIVE
AMERICAN CLUB
INVITES ALL

The Native American Student Association is open to all students. To find out how to join the club or when meetings are held, turn inside to page 10.

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEB. 21, 2014

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Keeping watch



JAKE MCMAHON/PIONEER

OCCC Lifeguard Grant Domstead watches over the college pool one last time. "It's my last day here," he said. "Monday morning, I start with EMSA." Students with a valid ID can use the pool free of charge. For more information visit www.occ.edu/rf/aquatic.

State funding cuts will impact OCCC

The exact amount of higher education cuts not yet known

LAUREN DANIEL
Editor
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College administrators began drafting OCCC's initiatives for the next school year in light of the state funding picture that shows no increase and possibly even a decline in state revenue.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist said the college must plan now,

even though the exact numbers are still unknown.

"If you're reading the paper and following things at the state capitol, it doesn't look encouraging again for funding," he said.

There could be a cut to the higher education budget as large as \$50 million.

"The governor's budget, which is the first volley in a long game, ... proposed a \$50 million cut to higher education," Sechrist said.

However, Sechrist said, final budget numbers won't be available until the last Friday

in May.

The four main sources of revenue at OCCC are funds from the state, student tuition and

fees, auxiliary enterprises, and the South Oklahoma School

See **OCCC** page 9

Former student charged in murder

SIALI SIAOSI
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Theater Professor Brent Noel said Ethan Spruill was the life of the classroom when

he attended OCCC.

"[Spruill] was a nice guy ... he was one of the leaders of the class."

Noel said he was stunned when he heard that Spruill was in

See **ARREST** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Studies show no real harm from using curse words

Writer says there are no bad words

Most parents teach their children to not say curse words. They do this for many reasons but typically it's so the child will fit better into society.

But therein lies the problem. Nobody truly knows why society is opposed to certain words.

The late Comedian George Carlin summed it up in his infamous '7 Dirty Words' routine.

"That's about the only thing that you can really say about them for sure," Carlin said. "That there are just some words — not many, either, just a few — that we've decided, 'Well, we won't use them all the time.'"

Curse words can arouse a response in people, from anger to happiness to fear, so perhaps it's the power one can wield by using a curse word that worries people. But the truth is — curse words only have that power because they are taboo. Censoring four-letter nonsense words, however, has no justification and people should never follow a rule that has no purpose.

Others say the Bible prohibits swearing. It doesn't. The Bible is very vague about language. The few verses that do restrict speech only instruct people not to blaspheme. Aside from that, the Bible really just tells

people not to use speech to be mean to one another or to lie. This has nothing to do with which specific words we use. For instance, compare "Your hair is awful!" to "Your hair is f----- great!" The religion argument just does not work.

If someone chooses not to curse, that is fine, but there is no reason to judge other people for which words they choose to use. Any word has the potential to be offensive. We never know when we'll stumble upon someone's hot button word. We can never be sure we won't offend someone. What we can choose, is what offends us. We can choose to ignore what we hear if we disagree with it.

Even experts agree cursing is not really an issue. "Swearing can occur with any emotion and yield positive or negative outcomes," concludes a study posted at www.psychologicalscience.org.

"Our work so far suggests that most uses of swear words are not problematic. We know this because we have recorded over 10,000 episodes of public swearing by children and adults, and rarely have we witnessed negative consequences. We have never seen public swearing lead to physical violence. Most public uses of taboo words are not in anger; they are innocuous or produce positive consequences (e.g., humor elicitation)."

Imagine if tomorrow there were no more censorship against certain words, and television and radio had



the F-word and the S-word in abundance across every channel. How long would it take before everyone got used to it? One week? Three days?

If everyone in the world began to curse on a regular basis, the planet would not explode. In fact, I would wager almost nothing would happen at all — except maybe America and the world, would finally genuinely be a place where people can say whatever they want.

It's time to end this ridiculous tradition. People need to trust their own intellects and shake off the brainwashing of their youth. Eventually, humanity will be forced to look in the mirror and ask, "Why did we ever care about cursing?"

—JAKE McMAHON
PHOTOGRAPHER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Pre-loaded content available in the event of no connectivity

Oklahomans can now access earthquake app for phones

To the Editor:

The American Red Cross has an Earthquake App, putting lifesaving information right in the hands of people who live in or who visit earthquake-prone areas.

This free app — available in English or Spanish — is the third in a series created by the American Red Cross for use on both iPhone and Android platforms.

"This newest app gives instant access to local and real time information on what to do before, during and after earthquakes," said Ken Garcia, Regional Communications director, Central and Western Oklahoma Region of the Red Cross.

"Oklahoma residents will receive earthquake notifications and can monitor activity where other family and friends reside. People who do not live in earthquake-prone areas can have peace of mind know-

ing you'll have instant information about loved ones."

The release of the app comes nearly a year after an earthquake occurred about 30 miles east of Oklahoma City near Prague, causing widespread damage. The November 2011 magnitude 5.6 earthquake is the strongest ever in Oklahoma. At least two people were injured, 14 homes destroyed and many others damaged in the Shawnee-Sparks area. Parts of U.S. Highway 62 between Meeker and Prague buckled by shaking along pre-existing cracks.

The App features 'Shock Zone Impact Maps' which gives users personalized local impact information to help them make crucial decisions.

Features of the app include:

- Earthquake notifications showing the epicenter, magnitude and intensity maps;
- One touch "I'm safe" messaging that allows users

to broadcast reassurance to family and friends via social media outlets that they are out of harm's way;

- Options to view the app in English or Spanish based on user handset settings;
- Locations of open Red Cross shelters;
- Simple steps and checklists people can use to create a family emergency plan;
- Pre-loaded content that gives users instant access to critical action steps, even without mobile connectivity;
- Information on events that may happen after earthquakes such as fires and tsunamis;
- Toolkit with flashlight, strobe light and audible alarm; and
- Badges that users can earn through interactive quizzes and share on social networks.

—AMERICAN RED CROSS

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

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

BOOK REVIEW | 'The Fault in Our Stars' more than just a book about cancer

Book deserves at least two reads

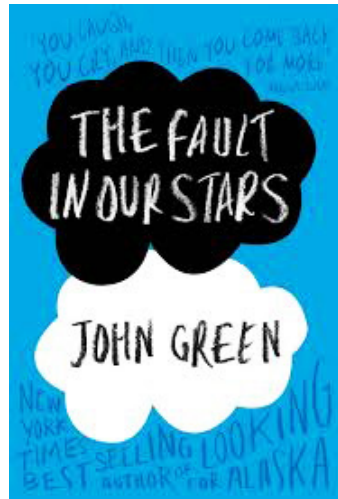
Most books are a one-time read and very rarely do we get caught up in a single book for too long. However, I will unashamedly say I have read one book three times this year, and that book is "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green.

First, let me warn you. This book will make you bawl like a baby. I know I have done so every time, but still, I always come back for more.

The main character Hazel Grace has thyroid cancer that has spread to her lungs, so she has to use an oxygen tank. She has a different outlook on her life as a cancer patient than most do. Her sarcasm, wit and bluntness made me laugh out loud during the entire book.

Hazel goes to a cancer support group and befriends a boy named Augustus Waters. Augustus is in remission from osteosarcoma, a bone cancer that caused him to have part of his leg amputated.

They are instantly attracted to each other and they begin to spend time together. A major thing that brings them together is Hazel's favorite book,



"An Imperial Affliction." The book ends abruptly and both Hazel and Augustus end up contacting the author, Peter van Houten, trying to get answers.

After Hazel has a scare and ends up in the ICU for a few days, Augustus decides to use his "cancer wish" on both of them.

Augustus plans a trip to Amsterdam, Netherlands, which is where the author of the book lives, so they can meet in person. The author ends up being a jerk, but the rest of their trip is perfect. When they get back home, things take a turn when Augustus' health declines and they both learn what true love is.

This book is about more than cancer. It's about love, friends, death, leaving a mark in this world, sacrifice, choices and infinities. It will leave you an emotional wreck, but I promise you will fall in love with "their little infinity."

Rating: A+

—LAUREN DANIEL
EDITOR

MUSIC REVIEW | Reviewer says the entire Cyrus clan must be crazy

'Achy Breaky Heart' still hurts

If you had access to social media in 2013, you witnessed former Disney princess Miley Cyrus twerk her way to the top of the music charts and offend almost every mom in America.

After giving the world the (foam) finger, smoking marijuana on live television and rebranding Michael Jordan's shoe label with the song "23," Cryus' actions have everyone asking the same question: Who the hell raised her?

Well, that answer is found in the latest idiocracy to hit the Internet — a video entitled "Achy Breaky 2" by debut artist Buck 22, featuring former country music superstar Billy Ray Cyrus, Miley's 52-year-old father.

Suggestive must be a Cyrus family speciality, as the entire video is dedicated to space cowboy heaven, complete with scantily clad women, an e-cigarette bar and Billy Ray in a sleeveless top.

In the beginning of the video, the elder Cyrus is beamed up to a spaceship, where he is greeted by Buck 22 and a group of would-be strippers. Buck 22, Cyrus, the women and various back-up dancers seem to enjoy themselves as the ship travels throughout space.

The song is nothing short of ridiculous, as Buck 22 raps unintelligible rhymes over a loud electronic



track while Billy Ray jumps around and pays no respect to his once-popular country hit.

At first, I considered Billy Ray's antics as pay-back for all of the media attention his daughter has gained recently, as Miley's twerking talents and her

single "Wrecking Ball" are referenced at different points in the song.

However, after hearing what the rest of the world has to say about "Achy Breaky 2," I've learned that Miley actually encouraged the song's production — making every member of the Cyrus clan just as crazy as the next.

At the very least, Billy Ray's "Achy Breaky 2" should be viewed for a hearty laugh. Personally, I considered it an excellent media stunt; however, it is not worthy of any musical praise nor is it something that listeners should take seriously.

But if a comedic chorus based on an old country song mixed with electronic beats is your favorite style of music, "Achy Breaky 2" is definitely something you want on your playlist.

Rating: C

—SIALI SIAOSI
STAFF WRITER

CYBER TALK 101

About 40 million people across the nation had their credit/debit card information stolen from the major retailer Target around the holiday season, putting personal identifiable information in the hands of a team of hackers who can now sell it to the highest bidder.

It's almost unthinkable that a major retailer like Target could allow hackers to get into their network and just walk away with their customers' personal information they trusted Target to protect. Well, it happens and it can happen to you as well. But there are things that you can do to keep yourself protected.

• **Create Strong Passwords and Change Them Often:** Avoid using easy to guess information like your birth date or phone number. Never share your password and never let the computer remember your username or password.

• **Safeguard Your Computer and Mobile Devices:** Keep your computer up-to-date with the most current anti-virus and anti-spam software, and install a firewall along with anti-spyware software. Just like your computer, your mobile devices can be susceptible to viruses and malware. Make sure your applications are current, and only install applications from trusted marketplaces.

• **Never Provide Personal Information to Unsolicited Requests:** Never provide sensitive information via email or reply to unknown URLs. Make sure the institution you are communicating with is legitimate, and call them directly if you are unsure.

• **Avoid Using Cybercafés or Public Wi-Fi Networks:** Public internet networks are unsafe places to access your online account, so avoid using them.

• **Watch Out for Copycat Websites:** Don't fall prey to a website that looks similar to your financial institution's site. Check the spelling of the URL carefully to make sure you are where you want to be.

• **Always Log Off:** While most banks will automatically log you off after a few minutes of inactivity, get in the habit of logging out when you conclude your business.

• **Check Your Online Banking Transactions and Statements Frequently:** Check your online account often to track your transactions and reconcile with your records.

• **Shred Documents and Receipts:** Dumpster divers also look for personal and financial information on paper receipts and other documents. Be sure to shred them before discarding.

• **Check Your Credit Report Annually:** Review credit reports annually and correct any errors you find. You can order free copies by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com.

• **Report Suspicious Activity Immediately:** If you think you may be a victim of fraud or identify theft, contact your bank immediately. Report suspicious emails, texts or calls to the Federal Trade Commission at consumer.gov/IDtheft or by calling 1-877-ID-THEFT.

—OCCC CYBER SECURITY CLUB

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

PRODUCT REVIEW | If you want more than call and text features, look for a different product

A raccoon might enjoy a Pantech Link phone

Imagine a phone that has more than 40 buttons, can make a call or send a text message from anywhere in the state and take pictures with a 1.3 megapixel camera. You're not dreaming. You're in the world of Pantech.

The Pantech Link is loaded with little buttons. They're kind of hard to press if you're a grown man or any species with hands larger than a raccoon. I like to use a pencil.

As far as charging the phone goes, you need to pull off the protective plug over the charging port to do that. It's difficult to do but there is a small slit on the side of the plug where you can get underneath it to pry it off. Admittedly, it's kind of hard to pry off if you don't have raccoon hands. I like to use a pencil.



The Link has another interesting feature. I'm not entirely sure what it is and I haven't seen any references to it on the Internet.

If I were to guess, I'd say it was some kind of artificial intelligence because the phone actually seems to go through moods.

For instance, sometimes it is in what I call "happy mode." In this mode, the phone will ring every time someone calls — as it should.

Then there's "sad mode." I'm not sure what stimuli makes the phone sad but when it happens, the phone gets moody.

It will light up during a call but it won't ring. It will light up when it receives a text but it won't vibrate.

I also assume the phone responds to human contact since it sometimes shuts off the second I place it on a surface. It also seems to favor turning off in the middle of me typing a text. It's an interesting quirk but one I tired of pretty quickly.

The folks at Pantech surely wouldn't claim the Link as a luxury phone.

Yes, it is inexpensive and surely exists for those of us who can't afford an Internet data plan (although it actually does have an email feature).

It is simply a phone. It makes calls and sends text messages, period.

If you want fancy, be willing to spend the money on a different phone.

Rating: F

—JAKE MCMAHON
PHOTOGRAPHER

MOVIE REVIEW | Reviewer says save your money and catch this movie on Netflix

'RoboCop' remake fails to deliver

When you're dealing with an action-packed, man-against-the-world movie such as "RoboCop," there are two things that can either go completely right or utterly wrong: the action and the ability to keep the audience on the edge of their seats.

Sadly, the movie accomplished neither for me and in contrast was disappointingly plain and uneventful.

The movie follows Detroit cop Alex Murphy, played by Joel Kinnaman, in the year 2028.

When Alex is critically injured in a murder attempt, his quality of life is jeopardized.

His wife Clara, played by Abbie Cornish, is given two options: let her husband live the rest of his life as a vegetable or turn his body over to OmniCorp in order to turn him into their first American half-man, half-machine cop.

When Clara hesitantly makes the decision to give Alex a second shot at life, the corporation intends to use Alex's ability to perform above-average physical tasks without fatigue to turn him into the perfect crime-fighting machine.

However, when Alex's human characteristics and instincts interfere with the system, he takes matters into his own hands — facing his own enemies and making new ones along the way.

When it comes to plot, "RoboCop" nails it.

The highlight of the movie is the outstanding performances by Cornish and Gary Oldman, who plays leading scientist Dr. Dennett Norton.



However, their performances don't make up for Kinnaman's lackluster one.

The movie also offers some pretty innovative concepts and interesting CGI.

However, it fails to deliver excitement and avoid predictability.

The action scenes are bland at best and while the 2014 reboot is quite different from the 1987 original, I wouldn't say it's necessarily better.

The movie isn't bad but it definitely did not meet my expectations.

For a movie whose concept is better than its execution, "RoboCop" is great if action and excitement aren't top priorities.

Otherwise, save your money and wait until the movie is available on Netflix or Redbox.

Or better yet, watch the original 1987 movie.

Rating: B-

—PARIS BURRIS
CONTRIBUTING REVIEWER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Feb. 14 through Feb. 16
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *The Lego Movie*
2. *About Last Night*
3. *RoboCop*
4. *The Monuments Men*
5. *Endless Love*
6. *Ride Along*
7. *Winter's Tale*
8. *Frozen*
9. *Lone Survivor*
10. *That Awkward Moment*
11. *American Hustle*
12. *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*
13. *Vampire Academy*
14. *The Wolf of Wall Street*
15. *The Nut Job*
16. *Philomena*
17. *Labor Day*
18. *Gravity*
19. *August: Osage County*
20. *Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones*

OCCC students converge on Capitol for Higher Ed Day

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OCCC students, as well as college and university students from all over the state, attended Higher Education Day at the Capitol on Feb. 11.

Students were able to attend the main session and were given the opportunity to meet with their senators.

The main focus of Higher Education Day was to address Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin's recommended 5 percent decrease for higher education in the state budget for FY '15.

The cut would take \$49.4 million out of the budget, which would make the state budget for higher education \$939.1 million.

Brian Bingman, president pro tempore of Oklahoma senate, said lawmakers are looking for a solution.

"We've got a shortfall to overcome this year, which we will ...," Bingman said. "We're doing everything we can to make sure funding is there."

The Oklahoma State Re-

gents for Higher Education requested an increase in the budget by 7.7 percent, which would mean \$76.3 million in new funds.

State Regents framed their budget request from the Complete College America initiative that was adopted as the top priority for the year. The goal of CCA is to increase certificate and degree earning numbers by 67 percent by the year 2023.

Oklahoma went above and beyond the year's annual goal of 1,700 by increasing the number of degrees earned by 2,945 in FY '13.

"Higher education will be one of the top priorities in the state government this year," said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, chief executive officer for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

Johnson said 87 percent of Oklahoma graduates have jobs here in the state. He said for every \$1 invested into higher education, the state gets \$4.72 of revenue.

Higher education creates more than 85,000 jobs, he said.



Sen. Clark Jolley, (R-Edmond) chair of the appropriations committee, said higher education has to be a priority.

"We cannot expect Oklahoma to succeed unless [students earn] the degrees to fill these jobs," Jolley said.

Students from several colleges and universities were given the floor to voice their opinions.

"One thing that unites us all as Oklahomans is education, especially higher education," said Blaine Boyd, Southwestern Oklahoma State University student.

OCCC students were just as vocal as the students who were given the opportunity to speak.

"I'm very interested in getting involved in ... the political side of everything," said Jessica Caddis, occupational therapy assistant and allied health major. However, Caddis said, meeting with her senator did not prove to be helpful.

"What I found very interesting is that it seems like ... she didn't even know what bills she had agreed on. It was very disappointing," Caddis said.

Brenton Conrad, nursing major, said the progress the

“Legislators want to hear from people in their districts. So, a personal visit can be powerful in impacting legislation and funding.”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

state has made regarding higher education is important.

"I don't think we should be taking any steps back from what we've made," Conrad said.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist attended the event. He said student voices do have an impact.

"This activity has the potential to make a significant difference," Sechrist said.

"Legislators want to hear from people in their districts. So, a personal visit can be powerful in impacting legislation and funding."

For more information about the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education visit www.okhighered.org.

Campus police respond to numerous reports

LAUREN DANIEL
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An arrest, a student with a rubber gun, a student smoking marijuana and a stolen cell phone were all listed on the most current crime reports received by the Pioneer.

At approximately 12:03 p.m. Feb. 7, OCCC Police Officer David Madden made an arrest at the intersection of Faculty Circle and Parking Lot F after OCCC student Jayme Archer was stopped for speeding. Madden reported that Archer wasn't able to produce a driver's license but had a student ID.

A check revealed that Archer did have a valid driver's license. She also had an outstanding warrant in Pottawattamie County for possession of credit default swap.

Archer was cited for failure to have a driver's license in her possession. After being taken into custody for the prior warrant, she was transferred to Oklahoma County Jail.

A report of a man with a toy gun sent Officer Daniel Piazza to the SEM Center at approximately 11:34 a.m. Feb. 10.

A 23-year-old white male had a toy handgun made of rubber that resembled a semiautomatic pistol, the report showed. The student told Piazza he was using the toy gun as a training aid to teach a female student about gun safety.

Piazza took pictures of each student and took a written statement. The officer also took the rubber gun and a knife the man had. Both students were released soon after.

Officer Nelson Gordon responded to a report of someone smoking marijuana in a car in Parking Lot C. At 2:12 p.m. Feb. 12, Gordon approached student Kameron Barton, 20, and instructed him to roll down his car window.

Gordon reported that when the window was down, he smelled marijuana. A passenger in the car, Siarrah Mitchell, 19, also is an OCCC student. Barton was instructed to get out of the vehicle, where he was then searched by Madden.

Gordon said he was unable to comment on the case because it is a pending investigation.

Student Meagan Zamudio reported that her Galaxy Nokia 3 phone with a purple case had been stolen from Arts and Humanities classroom 1D1 at approximately 5:46 p.m. on Feb. 13.

She reported that she had left her personal cell phone on a table while she stepped out to make a call on a work cell phone. When she returned to the classroom, her personal cell phone was missing.

There were about 10 other classmates in the room, but Zamudio said she did not ask any of them if they had taken the phone.

Zamudio said when she tried to call the phone, it went straight to voicemail.

Officer Jeremy McIntire instructed her to ask her classmates about the phone, and to call her service provider to get the serial number so he could place the phone into a database as stolen.

Names redacted on the reports received are done so under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld."

To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872.

'FLIPSIDE: THE PATTI PAGE STORY' AND SOWETA GOSPEL CHOIR ON THE CALENDAR

Performing Arts Series events affordable night out

LAUREN DANIEL

Editor

editor@occc.edu

For as little as \$10 per ticket, students can attend the two remaining upcoming events of the Performing Arts Series, said Cultural Programs Director Lemuel Bardeguez.

"It's a great opportunity for students to get to experience live professional performing arts for very little money," Bardeguez said.

Bardeguez said the two upcoming events include the Broadway musical "Flipside: The Patti Page Story," and the Soweto Gospel Choir.

"These are artists and productions that are on tour . . . They stop here on their way to somewhere else, so they only perform one night," he said.

"Flipside: The Patti Page Story" will be performed at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, in the VPAC Theater.

"That is essentially a musical about the story of Patti Page, who was an Oklahoman and is the highest-selling artist of all time," Bardeguez said.

He said Page sold more than 100 million records during her career.

The second performance of the semester will be the Soweto Gospel Choir. They will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, in the VPAC theater.

"They are a gospel choir out of South Africa," Bardeguez said. "They are a multi-Grammy award-winning group," he said.

According to their website www.sowetogospelchoir.com, the 52-person choir has won both Grammy and Emmy awards, and sing in seven different languages.

Tickets for "Flipside: The Patti Page Story" and the Soweto Gospel Choir range in price from \$10 to \$45, and can be purchased in the Visual and Performing



The Soweto Gospel Choir

Arts Center, room 161, Bardeguez said.

Tickets also are available for purchase the night of the performance or online. However, by purchasing the tickets online students will incur a convenience fee.

"So, if they're on campus, they're encouraged to come to the office of Cultural Programs or the box office area to purchase the tickets 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday," Bardeguez said.

The office is located in room 161 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center, to the left of the Sarkey's Foundation Atrium.

Bardeguez said he hopes students will make it to both shows.

"Both of those are great opportunities for students to experience professional performing arts at not a whole lot of expense.

"I mean, it's less than going to the movies."

For more information, contact Bardeguez at 405-682-1611, ext. 7352, or visit the Performing Arts Series website at www.occc.edu/cas.

Students encouraged to attend transfer fair Feb. 26

MYCALYN BLOMSTROM

News Writing Student

Students planning to transfer to a university can speak to representatives from those institutions at the OCCC Transfer Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the Student Union lobby.

The event will feature representatives from more than 30 universities who will talk with students about their programs and the transfer process.

Among universities being represented are the University of Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and many more.

This is an opportunity for students to connect to their next institution, learn about programs available, and plan their future, said Javier Puebla, Transfer and Academic Advis-

OCCC TRANSFER FAIR

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 26

ing coordinator.

"At the Transfer Fair students will also learn about scholarships, the application process, multiple majors, and financial aid," Puebla said.

He said students should bring pen and paper, their questions, and a bag to hold all of the college brochures and information.

"It is helpful for students to consider printing out self-stick labels with their address, contact information, and graduation date to stick on college information cards at the fair," Puebla said.

He said this would be helpful to save time in writing that information at every university table the students go to.

Sophomore Shristi Singh said she plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma.

"I have never attended a transfer fair but I plan to go to this upcoming one," Singh said.

Ten out of 12 OCCC students interviewed for this story said they plan to transfer to a university but had never heard of, nor attended, a transfer fair.

Puebla said during the fair students can enter to win great prizes.

"The prizes include four iPads and lots of items from the bookstore," he said.

Student get one ticket to enter in the drawing for each university they talk to, up to 10 tickets.

Students also will receive 10

additional tickets for filling out a graduation application that day at the fair.

Those who have already filled out a graduation application will receive five tickets for checking the status of their application.

"Whether it is your first semester at OCCC or your last, it is never too early to plan for your transfer to a university,"

Whether it is your first semester at OCCC or your last, it is never too early to plan for your transfer to a university."

—JAVIER PUEBLA
TRANSFER AND ACADEMIC
ADVISING COORDINATOR

Puebla said.

For more information, contact Puebla at javier.puebla@occc.edu or at 405-682-7567.

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Children bring Valentine joy to an older generation

LEAH B. SWEET
News Writing Student

Preschoolers brightened the day for some older adults Feb. 14 by making and delivering Valentine cards for participants at the Daily Living Center, an adult daycare in southwest Oklahoma City.

The children of the OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School spent much of their week making the cards, said teacher Constance Pigeon.

Lee Ann Townsend, Child Development Center supervisor, said this is the third year the children have connected with this community through a Valentine's Day project.

A delegation of parents, teachers and children personally delivered the handmade cards to the residents of the facility.

"I think this is great," said Sherri Knox, nurse and director of the living center.

"The residents really look forward to the kids coming out. It puts a big smile on their face."

Knox said the adults looked forward to the interaction with the children.

Townsend said the two age



There are no stereotypes. The grownups love the interaction. It brightens their day and helps their self-esteem."

—LEEANN TOWNSEND
CDCLS SUPERVISOR

groups are a great blend.

"There are no stereotypes," she said. "The grownups love the interaction. It brightens their day and helps their self-esteem."

A half dozen 3- and 4-year-olds, along with their parents, arrived at the adult daycare center about 3 p.m. They brought red-and-white paper hearts and Valentine cards for each participant.

The children walked around the room, shyly handing cards to each individual.

They were rewarded with broad smiles from the adults, many of whom have developmental disabilities or memory problems.

Kendra Miller, a teacher at the OCCC center and mother of 4-year-old Halle, was part of the delivery team.



PHOTO BY LEAH B. SWEET

A child from OCCC's Child Development Center and Lab School delivers a handmade Valentine heart to Helen England, 75, during a recent visit to the Daily Living Center in south Oklahoma City.

"It's just a great experience for the kids and everyone involved," Miller said.

The children, parents and participants of the Daily Living Center talked, laughed and admired the handmade valentines.

"I loved it," said Phoebe Brewer. "These little kids make

my life."

The children of the Child Development Center and Lab School won't have long to wait before their next artistic project.

Their art will be displayed during the Annual Children's Art Show at the Child Development Center and Lab School

from April 7 through 12. The center is located at 6500 S Land Ave., about one mile north of campus.

The center enrolls 111 children, age 6 weeks to 5 years, secretary Aryn Balfour said.

For more information, call 405-682-7561 or email ltownsend@occc.edu.

Club leader hopes summit will unite all people

SIALI SIAOSI
Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

One campus club leader hopes an upcoming summit will help students become more open-minded and connect with one another.

Chris Reece, Leading Individuals for Equality club president, said LIFE is partnering with The Equality Network to host the 3rd-annual 2014 Oklahoma LGBTQIA College Summit from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 1 in the College Union.

He said the summit aims to facilitate dialogue between students, faculty, and community leaders regarding Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Questioning Intersex and Allied student topics.

"This free summit is jam-packed with information ... that they would not get anywhere else but a conference such as this," Reece said.

"In addition, the summit will be a great way to network with students from other colleges around



the state."

Reece said this year's conference will include topics such as:

- How to start and sustain a Gay-Straight Alliance
- Achieving equality on campus
- Reflections living as an allied member of the LGBT community
- Sexual responsibility and the LGBT community

Reece said students can visit www.tinyurl.com/2014CollegeSummit to register for the summit. He said the registration deadline is 5:30 p.m. Feb. 28.

Reece said "Many Voices, One Spirit Creating Communities of Inclusion" is the theme for this year's summit. He said the summit's itinerary is loaded with guest speakers, break-out sessions and round-table discussions.

The summit also will feature vendors such as the Latino Center HIV Testing in Room 1X5, he said.

Among other community leaders, Reece said, speakers will include OCCC President Paul Sechrist and Toby Beauchamp, assistant professor of Gender and Women's Studies at Oklahoma State University.

Reece said lunch is included and each registrant will receive a T-shirt and other take-home goodies. He said registration will begin at 9 a.m. March 1.

For more information regarding the LGBTQIA College Summit, contact Reece at 405-761-1031 or visit www.tinyurl.com/2014CollegeSummit to register.

SPORTS

Concentration



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

The Thunder Chickens (green jerseys) and OSU-OKC in black jerseys face off in the battle of the balls during an OCCC intramural basketball game.

SPORTS | Additional sports will be added to the lineup after spring break

Intramural basketball season starts

SIALI SIAOSI

Staff Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC's intramural basketball season has gotten off to a great start, said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

"We've got four teams with between eight to 10 guys on each team," he said.

"So basketball is doing well."

Wright said the teams compete at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. each Friday in the OCCC gym.

"We'll have a little 4- or 5-game season," he said.

Wright said the intramural basketball season lasts from now through March 14 with a championship game on the final day of the season.

Wright said basketball is the only intramural sport occurring at OCCC until after spring break.

Sports and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson said intramural sports are free for all OCCC students with a valid ID.

After everyone has returned from spring break, Wright said, Campus Recreation has a number of other intramural sports planned for students to join.

"After spring break, I have scheduled ... kickball, 4-v-4 flag football, soccer, badmitnton and ping pong."

—MATTHEW WRIGHT
OCCC INTRAMURAL SPORTS
ASSISTANT

"After spring break, I have scheduled ... kickball, 4-vs-4 flag football, soccer, badminton and ping pong," he said.

He said most intramurals are played indoors with the exception of soccer and football.

Wright said some of the planned activities, such as foam hockey, have not been popular with students so were canceled.

Wright said no one showed up for those sports.

Students can visit the OCCC

Intramural Sports homepage at www.occc.edu/rf/intramural to register for all intramural activities.

For more information about intramural sports, contact Wright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7684, or visit www.occc.edu/rf/intramural to register.

**Have Sports News?
Share it with the Pioneer!
email editor@occc.edu**

UPCOMING
INTRAMURALS
EVENTS

•Feb. 27

Men's Spring Open Basketball League pre-season open run for registered teams at 7 p.m. in the OCCC gym. Teams will be assigned to their divisions according to their performance. Open Divisions: A and B. League Fee: \$275 per team. League dates are March 6 through May 1. Game days are Thursdays at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. End of season tournament is May 8 and May 15 (single elimination). For more information, call 405-682-7861 or visit www.occc.edu/rf/adultsports.

• March 1

Final day for Spring Coed Volleyball registration with payment. League starts March 10 and runs through April 21. Games are at 6:30 p.m. each Monday. Each team will play 12 games plus tournament using USVBA rules with some modifications. League fees: \$230 per team. Roster limit is 12. For more information, call 405-682-7861 or visit www.occc.edu/rf/adultsports.

• Spring semester:

Visit www.occc.edu/rf/swimming-diving to enroll in a number of events held in the college's Aquatic Center.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to be directed to a list of OCCC Intramural events, complete with the most current updates.

(Free QR code reader apps can be found online or in app stores on smart phones. Follow the directions for the app you download.)

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Email your news to sportswriter@occc.edu.

OCCC: College is hoping to find funding for all needs

Continued from page 1

District property taxes.

The governor's proposed cut would have a direct effect on OCCC and would cause the college's budget to decrease by more than \$1 million.

"I think for OCCC that is \$1.3 million," Sechrist said. "For us that is a significant part ..."

"My conversation with legislators seems to be that they're going to try to do better than that."

"Hopefully the equalization board will meet again — I think, this week or next week — to create a new figure."

At the discussion of Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Initiatives Feb. 10, vice presidents from each OCCC department requested new equipment or repairs for their specific areas on campus.

However, this year's proposal has not looked like ones in the past, said Stu Harvey, execu-

tive director of Planning and Research.

"We have fewer initiatives this year than we've had in the past ...," Harvey said.

For instance, Felix Aquino, vice president for Academic Affairs, requested computers, cameras, and other various equipment totaling \$836,980 to enhance students' learning experiences.

Aquino said most of the funds for the Academic Affairs initiatives would come out of student technology fees.

"You'll see that most of the proposed initiatives are going to be funded out of student technology fees, so they will not be funded out of the [Education & General budget]," he said.

The E&G Operating Budget is the primary budget for OCCC.

Student technology fees are \$5 per credit hour and are meant to maintain and improve college computers,

and update them with current software.

Marion Paden, vice president for Enrollment and Student Services, set a low estimate for the cost of initiatives in her area at \$152,400 and a high estimate of \$174,000. Paden said the initiatives are still important regardless of funding.

Business and Finance initiatives were presented by John Boyd, vice president for Business and Finance, which included new equipment for the police department.

"We never know when a significant event is going to occur on our campus ...," he said.

Boyd expressed the need not only for tactical equipment, but also a need for new firearms and even a facility that would allow the Campus Police to have a better ability to assist students in an emergency.

"If we have an issue on the campus, we have no way without great inconvenience of separating the victim from

... the crime," he said.

Boyd said some of the initiatives have been on the list for several years.

Boyd said maintenance also is a big issue on the OCCC campus.

"We're going to run into a point when all this deferred maintenance is not going to be able to be excluded," he said.

Sechrist agreed, saying some of the things on campus in need of attention are parking lots, air coolers and the ceiling in the Arts and Humanities building.

"I think that as we go forward, if we look at all of the roofs of our property, the condition of some of our parking lots, the condition of our loop road, the coolers, (we see) some areas of the campus that we would like to upgrade..." Sechrist said.

Steven Bloomberg, vice president for community development, advocated for new pump equipment and attention to the electrical aspect of the Aquatic Center.

"I don't believe as an institution we're in a case where the status quo can be maintained," Bloomberg said.

Sechrist said while maintenance issues need to be taken care of, the struggle with state funds will make it difficult.

"I don't see millions of dollars coming available out of operations to be able to fund these things like it has been able to in the past ...," he said.

"This maintenance issue is just going to get worse and worse."

Campus administrators will be discussing alternate options of how to fund the initiatives should state funding not come through.

Sechrist said OCCC students should not be worried.

"We are in a good financial picture."

"(The) overall debt for an institution our size is low."

For more information about OCCC initiatives, contact Boyd at 405-682-7501.

Arrest: Former OCCC thespian jailed on murder charges

Continued from page 1

Cleveland County jail, facing first degree murder charges.

Spruill, 22, of Norman, was arrested at approximately 10:30 p.m. Feb. 15 after police responded to a disturbance complaint, according to a Norman Police Department press release.

The release shows Spruill had an altercation with his neighbor, Aaron Donelle McCray Jr., 22. McCray received multiple gunshot wounds and later died at a Norman Regional Hospital.

According to the criminal charges pressed by Cleveland County District Attorney Greg Mashburn, Spruill became upset when McCray's wife came to his apartment and asked him to keep the noise level down.

Spruill then followed McCray's wife downstairs and began banging on the door, screaming at her to open it,



Ethan Spruill

according to the charges.

Charges show Spruill then entered the apartment and struggled with McCray before he shot McCray multiple times.

Alcohol may have been a factor, according to police.

At the police station, Spruill

"made numerous spontaneous utterances about shooting McCray and about drinking alcohol before the incident occurred," according to the charges.

According to a source in Records and Graduation Services, Spruill last attended OCCC in spring 2013. The source said he was enrolled in fall 2013 but dropped his classes.

Noel said Spruill was in "Romeo and Juliet" when it was performed at OCCC. He said Spruill often socialized with his fellow classmates and showed no outright signs of aggression.

"He was an up-and-coming young actor," Noel said. "He showed promise."

Despite Spruill's size, Noel said, he was a nice guy and did not exhibit any unusual or violent behavior.

"There was never any indication that [Spruill was violent]," Noel said.

"I'd heard through the grapevine that he'd had some issues with volatility ... but he was never violent in any classes."

"He was large, but not intimidating ... In fact, we had several people refer to him as 'the Gentle Giant.'"

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

The write stuff



JAKE MCMAHON/PIONEER

Communications Lab Assistant Tonja Nelson helps student Bashar Bawatnah with his English Comp II thesis. “[I come here] every time I need help with essays and stuff,” Bawatnah said. For more information about the lab, visit www.occc.edu/comlab.

COMMUNITY | Meetings are at 12:30 p.m. every other Tuesday

Native American club off to great start

SIALI SIAOSI

Staff Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Ashlee Standridge, Native American Student Association public relations coordinator, said the club is eager to get back on its feet after a few years of being inactive.

Standridge said at last year’s Organizations Fair, all she did to join NASA was leave her information at the club’s sign-up sheet.

“There was nobody at the booth — there was just a sheet of paper,” Standridge said.

“We’ve been building [NASA] back up.”

As a club member, Standridge said, students often ask her where they can access information about their Native American heritage.

“We want [NASA] to be open for everybody to know about their Native American culture,” Standridge said. “We also want to provide information about where to go to find out more.”

Standridge said the club also wants to provide important information that is specific to Native Americans, such as how the recent Affordable Care Act affects them.

She said to join the club, members do not have to be Native American. NASA is open to all people, Standridge said.

The club’s main goal is to educate people regarding

“We want [NASA] to be open for everybody to know about their Native American culture.”

—ASHLEE STANDRIDGE
NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT
ASSOCIATION PUBLIC RELATIONS
COORDINATOR

Native American culture.

Standridge said last semester, NASA celebrated Native American Heritage Week at OCCC.

“We had events for the whole week ...” she said. “The Apache Fire Dancers came up and did a ceremony.”

“We also had a Native American Spirituality speaker [and] a Native American paranormal activity director play one of his films.”

Standridge said NASA has already been busy. She said the club held a

bake sale on Feb. 11, as well as its first Indian taco sale on Feb. 13.

“[Indian tacos] are really hard to make but we make them homemade ourselves,” Standridge said.

She said there will be more Indian taco sales this semester.

Standridge said NASA holds its meetings at 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday in room 1X5 MB.

For more information about joining NASA, contact faculty sponsor Jeff Carlisle at 405-682-1611 ext. 7391 or at jeffrey.d.carlisle@occc.edu.

HAVE CLUB NEWS?

Share it with the world!
Email communitywriter@occc.edu
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get your club news in the Pioneer

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Find destination university at Transfer Fair

Students planning to transfer to a university can attend the OCCC Transfer Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the Campus Union Lobby. Representatives from more than 30 universities will talk with students about their programs and transfer process. This is an opportunity for students to connect to their next institution, learn about programs available, and plan their future, said Javier Puebla, coordinator of Transfer and Academic Advising. For more information you can contact Puebla at javier.puebla@occc.edu or 405-682-7529.

Critical Thinking Writing Workshop March 3

Join presenter Josh Shultz from 11 a.m. to noon on March 3 in CU1 in the General Dining Area as he explores the essence of critical thinking. Attendees will apply critical thinking to their own and others’ ideas in order to become better critical thinkers and writers. For more information, contact the Communications Lab at 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

Choral concert in the VPAC Theater March 4

The OCCC choral program will host its first performance in the new Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4. Three choirs will perform including the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Symphonic Community Choir. The concert is free to the public. For more information, contact Ron Staton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7249, or rstaton@occc.edu.

Cyber Crime Investigation Presentation March 11

SSA Preston Ackerman will present “An Overview of FBI Cyber Crime Investigations” from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on March 11 in CU1 in the General Dining Area. Ackerman is currently assigned to the FBI’s Oklahoma City Division Cyber Squad where he is the program coordinator for computer intrusion matters. For more information, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7519.

Apply now for leadership institute at OU

Students have until Friday, March 14, to apply for the N.E.W. Leadership, a program of the Women’s Leadership Initiative to be held May 16 through 20 at the University of Oklahoma. Undergraduate women enrolled in any Oklahoma college are eligible. The program is free. It is designed to teach women how to become effective leaders in public service and elective office. Apply at www.ou.edu/wli. For more information, contact Assistant Director Lauren Schueler at 405-325-6372 or at lschueler@ou.edu.

Rogierian traits to be taught at April 1 workshop

“Learning to Compromise the Rogierian Way” will be offered from 11 a.m. until noon Monday, March 31 in CU1 and from 6 until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, in the VPAC building, room 146. For more information, contact the Communications Lab at 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to editor@occc.edu with HIGHLIGHT in the subject line or visit the Pioneer office located in 1F2 AH.

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.

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FOR SALE: New size 26 jeans — never been worn. Brands include Vans, Levi's and Zumiez. \$10 per pair. Retail for \$40 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: Collector's Item! "Star Wars" Hayden Christensen autographed photo in plastic protector & Certificate of Authenticity. \$60. Text 405-818-0083 for more information.

FOR SALE: HP office jet all-in-one printer. New color and B&W cartridges. Power cord. Works great. \$50. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

TUTOR WANTED: Part-time tutor wanted for Accounting I and Macroeconomics. Pay is negotiable. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to make extra money. Text 405-443-8448.

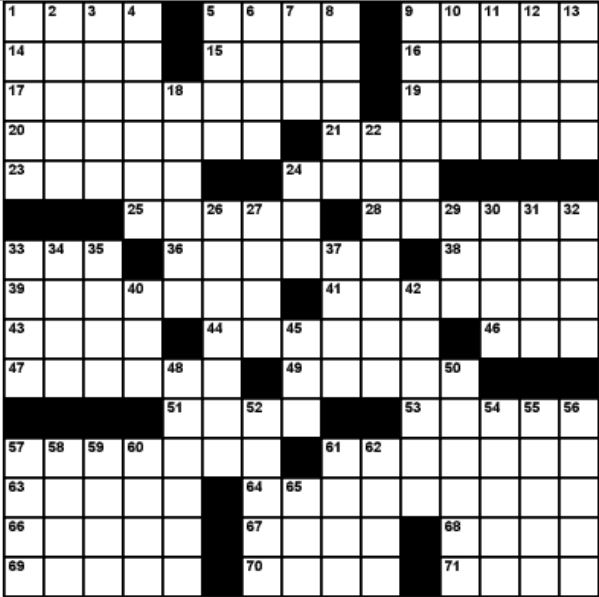
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Port
- 5. Interval
- 9. Hooded creature
- 14. The Segway has one
- 15. Tower town
- 16. Use
- 17. Swedish
- 19. Anvil Chorus composer
- 20. Backseat feature, maybe
- 21. Kitchen worker's headgear
- 23. Whistle blower?
- 24. Island, beverage, and computer language
- 25. Creed
- 28. Astray
- 33. Sound of 9 Across
- 36. Mythological ferryman
- 38. Buck ender
- 39. Irish
- 41. English
- 43. Leeds' river
- 44. Tennis player, Roscoe
- 46. Moines
- 47. Team's luck bringer
- 49. Part of a stair
- 51. Linda, CA
- 53. Planted
- 57. Go gaga over, in Great Britain
- 61. Type of reaction
- 63. Israeli desert
- 64. Swiss
- 66. Russian ballet great, Diaghilev
- 67. Fossil fuel
- 68. The 24th and 31st
- 69. Lock
- 70. Turkish title
- 71. Hideouts

Down

- 1. Buddhist priests



- 2. Wield
- 3. Sweetheart, symbolically
- 4. Foursome
- 5. Things with springs
- 6. Medieval combat
- 7. Immigrant's course
- 8. Ottoman ruler
- 9. Russian
- 10. Done
- 11. Animal house?
- 12. Do dressage
- 13. Dismounted
- 18. Treat with contempt
- 22. Park and 5th
- 24. Preserve, in a way
- 26. Certain urban areas
- 27. Yucatan settler
- 29. Ump
- 30. Anti-perspirant brand
- 31. What the fourth little piggy got

- 32. Chuck
- 33. Took a dip
- 34. Sunni counterpart
- 35. Titles of knighthood
- 37. Dodge model, once
- 40. Word on a wine bottle
- 42. Mural
- 45. Org. for Heston
- 48. Spanish
- 50. Oats, often
- 52. Pilgrim's destination
- 54. Make a mat
- 55. Consumed
- 56. Prepare game
- 57. Tech. coll.
- 58. Tractor company symbol
- 59. Grimm character
- 60. Endurance, slangily
- 61. Big boat builder
- 62. Westwood campus
- 65. Be greedy

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THIS YEAR, ABOUT 25,000 STUDENTS RECEIVED HELP FROM PROGRAM

TRiO students show Capitol leaders their importance



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JERMAINE PETERSON

TRiO students Jeanna Dodd, Salyna Jackson, Stephen Herrell, and Lisa Lasater attend TRiO Day at the State Capitol Feb. 12. OCCC TRiO adviser Jermaine Peterson said for the first time at this event, a TRiO Works Flag Rally was held.

MYCALYN BLOMSTROM
News Writing Student

The federally funded TRiO support programs are necessary because they help students go from high school to college, as well as make sure the students graduate college, said Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

Oklahoma leaders want the number of students graduating from college to continue to rise, Johnson said.

He spoke to hundreds of students, including four from OCCC, at TRiO Day at the State Capitol on Feb. 12, pointing to the success of more than 79 federally funded grant programs in the state. The event featured state legislators as

speakers, as well as alumni students of the TRiO programs across the state.

"The work TRiO is engaged in is very important," Johnson said. "TRiO every day changes lives in our state."

Eighty-seven percent of all college students who graduate from an Oklahoma institution remain in Oklahoma, and have jobs, Johnson said. This year, about 25,000 students received help from TRiO programs across the state.

OCCC TRiO adviser Jermaine Peterson said for the first time at this event, they held a TRiO Works Flag Rally.

All the students and faculty took TRiO flags and planted them in the lawn in front of the state capitol building. The flags represented all of the

"The TRiO program helps me learn how to find time for school and studying, even with a family and full-time job."

—STEPHEN HARRELL
OCCC STUDENT

students the TRiO programs have touched, Peterson said. They let the legislators know how important funding for the TRiO programs is.

"TRiO Works Day is a celebration of success stories from students of programs across the state," Peterson said.

One OCCC student explained how he benefits from the program.

"The TRiO program helps me learn how to find time for school and studying, even with a family and full-time job," said Stephen Herrell.

"It can get really hard, but the TRiO family helps me work through it, and do my best."

Herrell said the TRiO program at OCCC is great.

"They help you to get to that next level, or with anything they possibly can."

The other OCCC students who attended the event are Jeanna Dodd, Salyna Jackson and Lisa Lasater.

The TRiO program is available for students who are first-generation college students, low income or any student with a documented disability.

For students in the program,

it provides help with filling out financial aid documents, tutoring, workshops on topics like transferring and scholarships, and tours to college and universities they might transfer to, Peterson said.

"The ultimate goal is to really push students to get a bachelor's degree," Peterson said. "Our program here at OCCC wants to brand ourselves as helping our students get to a four-year university."

The motto for the OCCC TRiO program is Graduate, Transfer, Succeed.

Students can apply for the program in the TRiO office located next to the Bursar's office. All the services are free to students who qualify.

For more information, contact TRiO at 405-682-7865.