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EDITORIAL

RESTROOM ETIQUETTE ENCOURAGED

Sports Writer says he feels no need to interact with others in a public bathroom and, in fact, everyone needs to learn proper restroom rules. Read more inside.

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NEWS

SWIMMERS SPEAK OUT ON POOL CLOSING

The announcement that OCCC will close the Aquatic Center after Labor Day has some swim team members in the community concerned. See more on page 7.

NEWS, p. 7

SPORTS

DANCERS INVITED TO JOIN CLASS

Fitness class Instructor Elizabeth Hobi says she is looking for dancers who want to continue their careers to join her Theatrical Dance class. See more.

SPORTS, p. 8

COMMUNITY

PLAY FROM 1904 MAKING OCCC THEATER DEBUT

'The Cherry Orchard' will be performed at 7:30 p.m. April 30, May 1 and 2 in the Bruce Owen Theater said Theater professor and Director Brent Noel. Turn inside for more.

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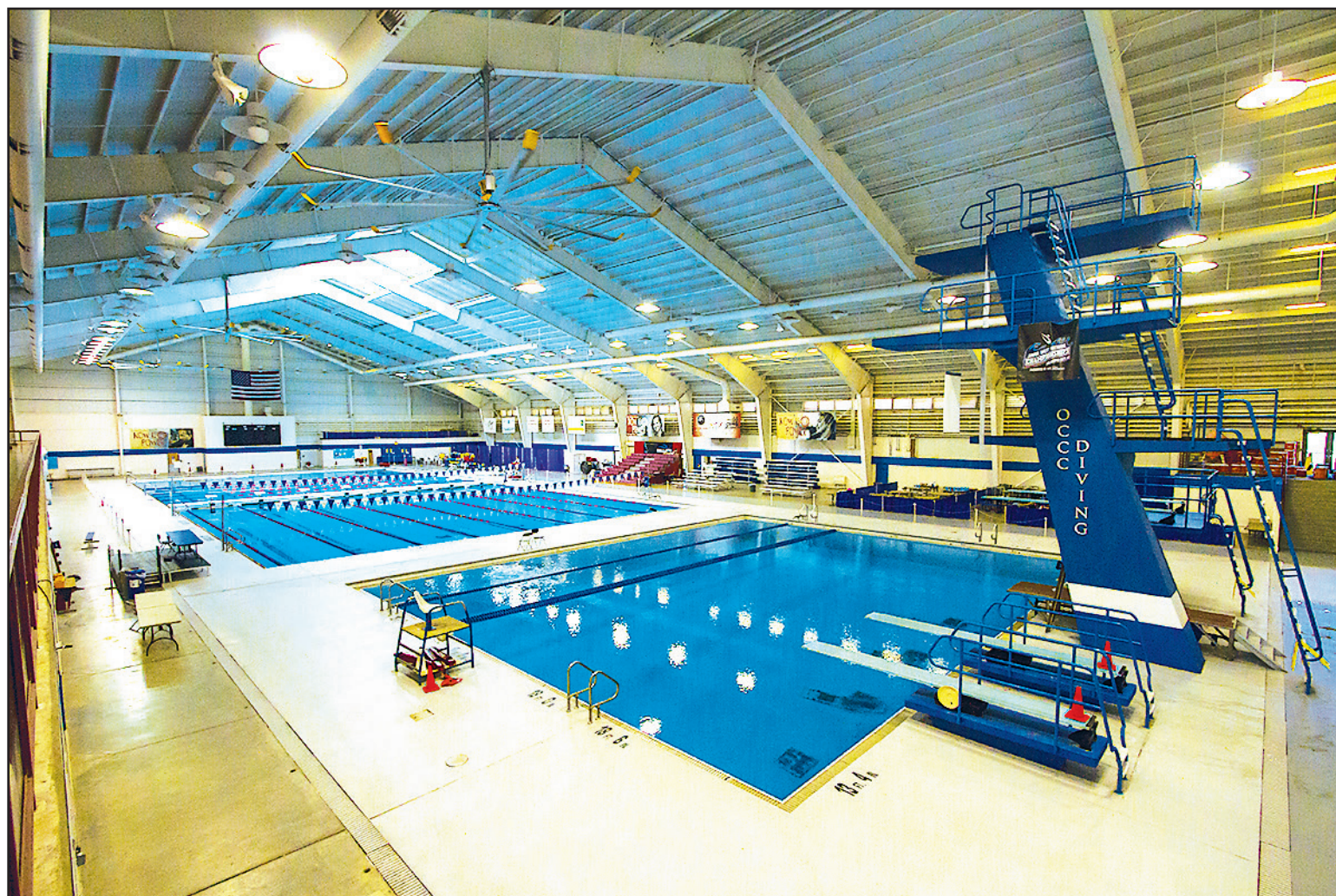


OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER

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PIONEER.OCCC.EDU

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



FILE PHOTO/PIONEER

In an email sent Wednesday, April 15, OCCC President Paul Sechrist said the college's pool area will close after Labor Day weekend, Sept. 7. He said the Aquatic Center, originally built for the summer Olympic Festival in 1989, is nearing its "functional and physical obsolescence." (Read reactions and see photos on pages 6 and 7.)

Aquatic Center closing after 25 years

OCCC can no longer afford the costs to maintain the pool, open since 1989

BRYCE MCELHANEY
 Editor
editor@occc.edu

After 25 years, OCCC's Aquatic Center is closing this fall.

In an email sent April 15, President Paul Sechrist said the pool area will close after Labor Day weekend, Sept. 7. He said the Aquatic Center, originally built for the summer Olympic Festival in 1989, is nearing its "functional and physical obsolescence."

The pool costs \$280,000 annually to maintain and needs \$6

million in repairs and upgrades, which the college doesn't have to spend.

"Without this significant investment, it is only a matter of time before the aging infrastructure experiences a catastrophic system/mechanical failure," Sechrist said.

"This scenario would require our partners with scheduled activities in the Aquatic Center to either cancel the activity or scramble to find another venue."

Sechrist said future plans for the Aquatic Center space have not yet been decided.

Community Development Vice President Steven Bloomberg said he doesn't know what will become of the area, but said it will be something that serves students directly.

According to a Pioneer story on June 20, 2014, OCCC hired the local architecture firm Crafton Tull to look into what it would take to upgrade the center. The report was released on Feb. 22, 2013. (See "Aquatic Center in need of upgrade.")

Sechrist said the decision wasn't an easy one.

"I assure you this decision was made following a careful review and with the full understanding of the significant contribution

See **POOL** page 6

Literary journal nears final round of edits

NICK KUGLER
 News Writing Student

English Professor Marybeth McCauley and her team of student editors have completed the 2015 edition of the Absolute journal.

The latest edition of the literary

and art journal will be released at a reception on campus at noon, April 30, said McCauley, a faculty adviser.

This year's edition will include 30 hand-picked submissions ranging from poetry to science

See **JOURNAL** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says bathroom etiquette should be common knowledge

Public loos going down the drain

There is one issue which drives me up the wall these days, not just here at OCCC, but in so many places I go. This issue I talk about is public restroom etiquette.

Now when I say restroom etiquette, I mean how people interact with others in the restroom, and with the restroom itself. I must start by admitting,



CLAYTON MITCHELL

I am not really too sure about the etiquette code of women in the restroom.

My issue may be more with males and men's rest rooms than with women and their restrooms. But I digress.

Let us start with scenario number one.

Say you walk into the restroom to relieve your bladder, and there are four urinals. No one else is in the restroom, and you choose one of the outside urinals. Then someone comes into the restroom and chooses the urinal right next to yours.

This is a big fat no-no. If there are multiple people using the urinals, the situation is different, but if there is any chance to leave a gap urinal between yourself and the person closest to you, absolutely do that.

The International Center for Bathroom Etiquette, found at icbe.org, refers to this code of staying farthest away from people as M.P.P.N.B.A., or Maximum People Peeing Not Beside Anyone. It is a great code to live by.

This stays the same for stalls, which can apply to women's restrooms as well. No one wants to hear someone pooping in the stall right next door.

Scenario two: you walk into the restroom and someone is at a urinal.

You approach the furthest urinal away from them (because it is courteous), and as you start your business, from the direction of the other person you hear, "So how about that weather?"

You should smack the person in the face with unwashed hands (but, of course, washing them afterwards — you are a decent human being after all).

Do not talk to other people in the restroom, especially people you do not know. Now this may be different for women, but ICBE confirms men should never converse in the restroom.

The same goes for phone calls. Do not take them while you are in the restroom. No one wants to hear your personal calls while they are trying to relieve themselves.

You will either be in the restroom too long, or not



long enough to be taking a phone call anyways, so just do not do it.

The reason they refer to going to the restroom as "doing your business" is because it should be business-like.

Going to the restroom is in no way a casual encounter; you should conduct your business and go on your way.

I know many readers are in the majority of those who actually use the restroom the way it was intended.

But for those who don't, please exhibit some courtesy to those who just want to deal with others as little as possible while our privates are slightly exposed.

—CLAYTON MITCHELL
SPORTS WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Women of the South provide opportunities for women who support families

Scholarship op offered to students in financial need

To the Editor:

The Women of the South (WOS) are continuing our commitment to higher education and our partnership with Oklahoma City Community College by offering a scholarship to women who might not be able to attend college without financial support.

The WOS Primary Provider Scholarship provides higher education opportunities to women who are the primary financial provider for their household.

WOS has always had a love for that single woman, trying to raise her children on a limited income who wants to give her family a better life by obtaining a degree. We hold dear each and every one of our scholarship winners and many have gone on to a 4-year

college. The stories we hear from these women are just heartbreaking and our mission is to give them the financial help they need.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent; reside in the south Oklahoma City metropolitan area; and fall within the income requirements.

Recipients of this scholarship will receive funding to help them obtain an associate degree from OCCC. The scholarship includes tuition, fees and books.

The application form and income requirements can be found online at www.womenofthesouth.org/education.htm.

Interviews will be conducted in June; application forms must be received by May 15. For more informa-

tion contact Joyce Mauldin 405-691-4770 or Linda Carr 405-919-1146.

Founded in 1995, WOS has given out approximately \$1 million in scholarships to deserving women in their 20-year history. The group has a strong working relationship with both the college and the OCCC Foundation.

WOS also offers a scholarship for young women graduating from a south Oklahoma City area high school. For more information about WOS, visit www.womenofthesouth.org.

—JOYCE MAULDIN
WOS SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR AND OCCC
FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER

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The PIONEER is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

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 no more 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 <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

Vol. 43 No. 30

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

TV REVIEW | Reviewer analyzes ongoing saga of a boy and his dog

‘Wilfred’ waxes philosophical on FX

Enter the world of Ryan Newman — a severely depressed man whose struggles are rooted in the emotional absence of his father during childhood, as well as dealing with his mentally ill mother and controlling sister who look down on him for just about everything.

Doesn't quite seem like a comedy series on FX, does it?

“Wilfred” is a show that's sure to give you life lessons with some fantastic comic relief on tough, real-life situations.

Ryan, played by Elijah Wood, has a sudden change in perspective when a girl named Jenna, played by Fiona Gubelmann, moves next door with her whacky dog named Wilfred, played by Jason Gann.

Viewers can instantly tell there's something different about Jenna and her dog Wilfred. I mean, Jenna is fine, but it's kind of weird how she doesn't see Wilfred as a grown man in a floppy gray dog suit.

Jenna and Ryan's friendship starts off abruptly, as she asks him to watch her dog for the day — and pretty much every day after that.

This leaves a lot of questions for Ryan. He had been very close to letting go completely, jumping off



into the void of death when Jenna approached him. So, why is he being asked by his attractive neighbor

to watch a grown man in a floppy gray dog suit? Is this the afterlife?

Ryan gets to know Wilfred pretty well after this point. In fact, Wilfred becomes Ryan's only real friend.

At first glance, this show is a typical comedy with a goofy plot. But looking closer at the details, this show is a deep, even philosophical, look into the life of a manically depressed man who learns to cope through the friendship of a talking dog.

My favorite part about the show is that, although it's easy to forget Wilfred is just a man in a dog suit as you slip into the fictive world, the writers of the show don't. They make sure to address all the ridiculous questions the show provokes. I'm getting too analytical about this.

In short, Wilfred is a happy, feel-good show that can be thought-provoking and hilarious at the same time.

Rating: A

—BRYCE McELHANEY
EDITOR

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘It's Such a Beautiful Day’ proves itself to reviewer as unique and lovely animated film

Stick figure faces grown-up issues

I love animated films. I always have and always will.

Heck, if I could choose any other career field to go into, it would be animation.

From Pixar to Studio Ghibli and many other animation studios, each has created timeless classics for all to enjoy.

But I can't help but feel as if good animated films are being released less and less as time goes on.

Or maybe that's just how they've always been?

Every year Pixar released a new film and every year I would anticipate their next project.

Like, each new Pixar movie had the potential to be one of my favorite movies.

But recently it seems as if good feature-length, animated films have sort of just — disappeared.

Don't get me wrong. There is still terrific animation around — especially on television. But it's been awhile since I've seen an animated film I could call one of my favorites.

I recently had a chance to watch the independent animated feature film “It's Such a Beautiful Day,” directed, written, animated and produced by Don



Hertzfeldt.

Hertzfeldt is best known for his animated short films, most notably the Academy Award nominated “Rejected.”

“It's Such a Beautiful Day” is about a stick-figure man named Bill who

struggles with a failing memory and abstract visions.

The film is three separate short films combined to create a 62-minute feature film.

The animation comes off as simple but at the same time, complex, absurd and extremely creative.

It's almost as if David Lynch and Pixar teamed up to create a comedy.

And if you're into dark comedies, you'll most certainly enjoy this hilarious, surreal, absurd mess.

“It's Such a Beautiful Day” is available to watch on Netflix Instant.

And while it is an animated film, it most definitely isn't intended for children.

I mean, unless you want your child exposed to juvenile, abstract vulgar images, I personally wouldn't show this movie to a kid.

All I'm saying is it may or may not traumatize



Easy study with free app

Taking a second language class requires constant study and practice. Carrying around a large book and box of flashcards may not be an ideal way to stay on top of it all.

The easy way I have found to keep studying the endless vocab and continuous grammar rules without the hassle of books and paper comes via the Quizlet app.

Quizlet gives its users an easier way to study without having to juggle and struggle different notes and books. Users can pull it up on their phones where they have the chance to go through the easy-access flash cards or notes.

Quizlet allows users to make their own flashcards and study concepts on the go. It also lets users search for other people's notes and subjects for a wider learning experience.

The app is not just for languages, but a broad and varied range of subjects from languages to science and English composition to math.

Quizlet gives you the opportunity to carry around a textbook and notes in your pocket or purse.

It gives me an easy study tool while my husband drives, waiting at the doctor's office, or just sitting at home on the couch and not wanting to be crowded and covered with books, notes, and out-of-order, messy notecards.

Quizlet has more than just flashcards to offer. It will read the words and vocab to you, gives you a chance to test your knowledge, and play games to help with fast recognition of words and phrases.

The tests it gives are in different forms such as matching, written questions, multiple choice, and true and false.

It can give students, or anyone who would like to learn something new, an opportunity to use it on a computer or phone.

The app is available for both iPhones and Androids.

Quizlet is hassle free and best of all, it is free.

To get the app or to learn more about Quizlet, go to quizlet.com or search for Quizlet on your phone's app store.

—KATIE AXTELL
COMMUNITY WRITER

children.

Never forget — animation is a medium, not a genre.

Rating: A+

—ETHAN COOPER
PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FOOD REVIEW | Chick-fil-A unveils new dessert drink

Lemonade plus Ice Dream equals one happy customer

A few weeks ago, I received an email that changed my life. I learned that my wildest dreams had finally come true and someone at Chick-fil-A had finally seen the light. I have been waiting for the birth of frosted lemonade for well over nine months.

Frosted lemonade sounds like it would be a Frosty (this doesn't make much sense because only Wendy's has Frostys) or a lemonade with frosting (this also wouldn't make sense because it seems impossible) but it is neither.

Let me break down the combination for you.

First, they start with their fresh, hand-squeezed lemonade, which only contains lemon juice, sugar and water — unless you get the diet lemonade, which contains lemon juice, Splenda and water. The quality and taste of their lemonade is second-to-none. I catch myself craving it, leading me to believe I'm an addict. If you drink this glorious liquid, I bet you understand.

Next, they add Ice Dream. No, that's not a typo. Their "ice cream" is truly a dream, hence the name. I don't know what it is about their ice cream that separates it from all the other soft-serve in the world, but it just tastes so refreshing with its great texture and flavor. I dream about Ice Dream.

Then, the two are carefully blended together, creating the best combination

since Chick-fil-A nuggets and Polynesian sauce.

I knew the moment I took my first drink of the frothy, tart, smooth, chilled substance that I soon would be addicted to this, too.

Frosted Lemonade is the best of both worlds. It has the consistency of a runny shake, but tastes like fresh-squeezed lemonade. It's great for a drink to accompany your spicy chicken sandwich and warm waffle fries, or great to act as a dessert after you've already consumed your main course.

There's only one down side to Frosted Lemonade — it costs \$2.59. I suppose this isn't much of a surprise because Chick-fil-A is one of the most expensive fast-food restaurants, but you're paying for quality.

Chick-fil-A didn't invent the "chickin," just the chicken sandwich, and of course, my new favorite menu item, Frosted Lemonade.

Rating: A

—LAUREN DANIEL
ONLINE EDITOR



MUSIC REVIEW | 'Super chill' vibes are killing rock 'n' roll

Hipster music movement disgraceful

Oh my children, I tell you there's a pox descending upon this land.

I've seen it with my own eyes. Screamin' Jay Hawkins howls from the swamps of the hereafter. Jimi Hendrix turns in his grave and Joey Ramone weeps.

The spirit of rock 'n' roll is angry. Now is the time to repent!

We've let ourselves be putrefied by this pestilence long enough. Look upon this wicked thing that calls itself "hipster."

The hipster walks amongst us in peach-colored shorts and boating shoes so as not to intimidate by appearance. But I swear to you, unnecessary, oversized glasses and clever mustaches are but a ruse.

Don't be fooled for the hipster has his ways about him, and he is working day and night to destroy everything you know in your heart to be real and good.

I say it plainly; hipsters are killing rock 'n' roll.

They make a perverse mockery of the punk ethic of performing with instruments of which they don't yet know how to play.

The demented hipster does so in his quest to be ever more clever than his peers, with cellos, banjos and other such implements never intended to be

bastardized upon the dive-bar stage.

Do not be tempted by the hipster's ways; the novelty white deejays and soft music. Do not succumb to the lure of cantankerous sounds they claim to be "chill" or "super chill."

Cast out its lack of melody and its trite lyrics about acorns, always whispered so stone-faced toward over-priced microphones. This is an abomination!

Music is not made to be chill. Youth is not to squander on lethargicality. Music was made for aggression and lament.

Pursuing disgusting trends is no reason to let slip everything about the human soul that makes us powerful and intimidating.

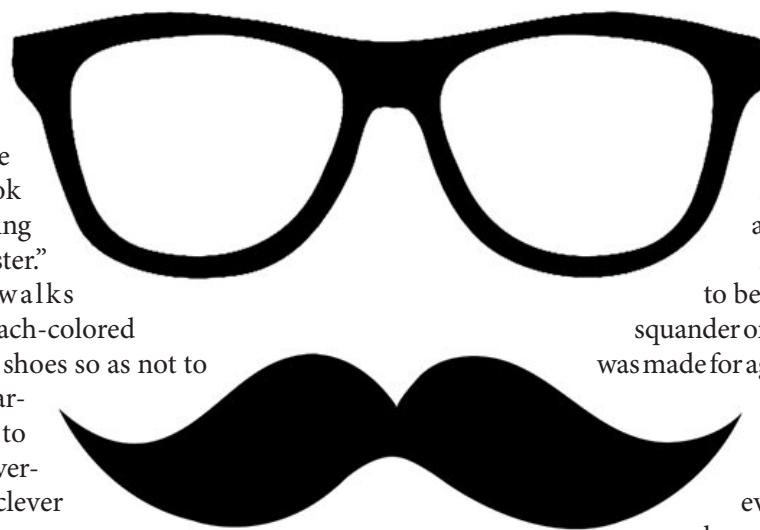
The spirit of rock 'n' roll compels you. Be gone you worthless hipster music.

In the name of G.G. Allin I say unto you hipsters, "Bite it, you scum." Take your music and be gone.

For the hipsters and all their terrible music I give the most deserved rating. May the almighty Henry Rollins have mercy upon your souls.

Rating: F

—JORGE KRZYZANIAK
SENIOR WRITER



TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of April 17 through April 19
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Furious 7*
2. *Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2*
3. *Unfriended*
4. *Home*
5. *The Longest Ride*
6. *Get Hard*
7. *Monkey Kingdom*
8. *Woman in Gold*
9. *The Divergent Series: Insurgent*
10. *Cinderella*
11. *True Story*
12. *While We're Young*
13. *Danny Collins*
14. *It Follows*
15. *Ex Machina*
16. *Kingsman: The Secret Service*
17. *Child 44*
18. *OK Kanmani*
19. *American Sniper*
20. *The Spongebob Movie: Sponge Out of Water*

Future teachers attend informative seminar

JAELYN BROCK
News Writing Student

Education has never seen a teacher shortage like the one the nation is facing right now, said Professor Kim Pennington, at the Prospective Teachers Academy seminar put on by the University of Central Oklahoma's College of Education and Professional Studies.

She spoke to a handful of students at the OCCC campus March 24.

Education majors attending the event expressed their concern for, and interest in, the public education community with questions about the national crisis in the teaching profession.

Pennington, who has been

in public education for 20 years, lectured the audience about the hard truths and meaningful rewards of being a public educator.

"The state of Oklahoma fluctuates between 47th and 49th as worst state for teacher pay," she said, noting the salary for beginning teachers is around \$31,600.

"Because of this, more teachers are retiring and fewer teachers are entering the teaching profession."

UCO's goal is to make it easier for students to graduate into the education field, Pennington said.

"The UCO campus maximizes the classes that you take



so that you don't have to double up on anything," she said.

"Scholarships are also offered to help people compensate for the cost of a degree in teaching and education."

Focusing along the lines of financial help, Pennington explained the TEACH Grant Program which offers full-ride federal grants to students who agree to work at a school

that serves low-income families for four years after graduation.

Pennington told students how to begin the education pathway, describing the soft and hard deadlines for applications and certification tests.

She ended the seminar with a video of two teachers expressing the passion and fulfillment they have received as teachers.

"There are many rewards to teaching besides the paycheck," Pennington said.

"[Teaching] is for people [who] want to live in a better world."

UCO Transfer Specialist Jeffrey Hicks also spoke about

the ease of applying to UCO and outlined the transferring process.

"What we want students to know is that our campus offers a 19:1 student to teacher ratio, we have a big international presence, we offer 114 majors, and the transferring process is really simple," he said.

Pennington said the next Prospective Teachers Academy seminar will be held in the fall.

For information about the Prospective Teachers Academy, contact Karen Davis at kdavis49@uco.edu or Pennington at kpennington8@uco.edu.

Visit www.uco.edu/ceps to find news about certification tests, transfers and degree requirements.

Language pathology assistant pinning to be held May 2

JESSICA FAITH MCCLUNG
News Writing Student

2015 graduates of the OCCC speech-language pathology assistant program will participate in a pinning ceremony 2 p.m., Saturday, May 2, in CU3, said Kathy Wheat, director of the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant program.

"This ceremony culminates in a pinning and pledge symbolizing their dedication to the field and the clients they will serve," Wheat said.

She said the ceremony is an important and memorable event for the graduates.

Raquel Rosa, who will be participating in the ceremony, gave her thoughts on the event.

"Our class is the first to be doing the pinning ceremony to honor SLPA graduates and I know that we are all very excited to be given the honor," she said.

Wheat said the pinning signifies what the students have accomplished.

The two-year speech-language pathology assistant program at OCCC is the first and only one of its kind in Oklahoma. Is it mainly an online program — with on-site clinicals.

"It is a program with a lot of academic rigor," Rosa said.

"I think that is what makes it even more valuable."

SLPAs are trained to work with certified speech language pathologists in healthcare and school settings, Rosa said.

"As SLPAs some of us will be working with children, some with adolescents, and some with adult and geriatric patients," she said. "It will all depend on the work setting."

Rosa said working with children and adults who are experiencing communication delays and disorders is the primary focus of the career path.

"I really think that the decision to be a part of the SLPA program was worth it," she said.

Rosa said the program has helped to contribute to her academic and professional goals.

"A lot of us are planning to continue our education in this field, and we feel confident in all that we have learned at OCCC to help us go even further,"

she said.

"We really have great professors who are always invested in us doing well."

Wheat said there is still time to apply for the fall of 2015.

"We continue to accept applications until the first week of June."

Wheat said the program will accept 25 applicants a year.

Rosa said, like all of OCCC's healthcare programs, the SLPA program is highly competitive.

"I would encourage anyone interested in the program to apply," she said.

For details on the application process or more information on the program, visit www.occc.edu, or contact Wheat at kathy.j.wheat@occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7395.

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FILE PHOTO/PIONEER

In the 25 years since the Aquatic Center pool opened in 1989 for the summer Olympic Festival, it has been used for many things: swim lessons, national and local dive and swim meets, a place to learn scuba diving and kayaking, water aerobics and more. It will close the day after Labor Day for lack of funding.

Pool: Aquatic Center set to close after 25 years in operation

Continued from page 1

the Center has made to the College and Oklahoma City since it was built in 1989.”

For more information on the Aquatic Center, visit www.occc.edu/rf/aquatic.html.

The full text of Sechrist’s email is below:

“I have approved a recommendation to suspend operations of the OCCC Aquatic Center following the Labor Day Weekend of this year. I assure you this decision was made following a careful review and with the full understanding of the significant contribution the Center has made to the College and Oklahoma City since it was built in 1989.

The rationale for the decision is as follows:

- A highly respected and experienced consulting firm concluded that the Aquatic Center at OCCC, which is over

25 years old, is nearing “functional and physical obsolescence.” In order for OCCC to continue operations, the facility requires an investment of over \$6 million in needed repairs, upgrades, and replacement of equipment and systems.

- Without this significant investment, it is only a matter of time before the aging infrastructure experiences a catastrophic system/mechanical failure. OCCC does not have the funds needed to recover from a major system/mechanical failure, forcing the closure of the facility. This scenario would require our partners with scheduled activities in the Aquatic Center to either cancel the activity or scramble to find another venue.

- The consultant also concluded that even with a significant investment in the infrastructure and mechanical systems, the Aquatic Center

“does not have the ability to be a national caliber, state-of-the-art, long-course venue.” This conclusion is based on changed water depth requirements and wall inlet system differences that are now required for national/international competitive venues. In addition, the materials and finishes used at the Aquatic Center at OCCC are not consistent with newer, national/international level, long-course aquatic venues. Even with a significant investment in the current facility, the consultant concluded that the OCCC Aquatic Center would at best be a good training venue.

- The costs to operate the Aquatic Center are an ongoing concern. Although OCCC does charge for use of the Aquatic Center, the direct costs to operate the center far exceed the revenue resulting in an average annual operating

loss of \$280,000.

As a state-funded college, OCCC faces continued financial challenges to meet the increasing mandatory cost increases necessary to serve our college students. The operational financial losses of the Aquatic Center, coupled with the looming requirement to devote millions of dollars in the infrastructure and mechanical systems to maintain a training venue that is not core to the mission of the college, has in many ways, forced this decision.

There is no doubt that the Aquatic Center has played a significant role in the history of OCCC and Oklahoma City. For over 25 years, this center has hosted numerous swim teams, diving clubs, state events, and national tournaments. However, the present day functional, operational, financial, and mission realities

are overwhelming and compelling, resulting in the decision to close the Aquatic Center.

The future plans for the Aquatic Center space have not yet been determined. The space is contiguous to the existing Wellness Center, Social Sciences Division, College/Student Union, and outdoor space that the College’s Master Site Plan has as a future site for other sports venues (baseball diamond, volleyball courts, and running track).

Therefore, the Aquatic Center space will be evaluated and eventually repurposed for programs and services that take into consideration its location and that align with the College’s strategic plans, the Master Site Plan, and the needs of our students and the community.”

Look for more information and updates at the Pioneer Online: <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

Swimmers upset at news of pool closure

LAUREN DANIEL
Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

Just hours after the news came of OCCC's plan to close the college's Aquatic Center after Labor Day, Oklahoma high school students and their parents sprang into action, taking to social media to oppose the closure.

With seven high school swim teams — Westmoore, Moore and Southmoore high schools, Putnam City, PC North and PC West high schools, and Mustang High School — using the pool for practice and meets, many are speaking up.

The hashtag #SaveOCCCAquaticCenter was created by Justin Wu, an Oklahoma swimming athlete representative and Norman North High School senior. It elicited more than 300 tweets in less than 48 hours.

Wu said he was shocked when he heard about the closure through Facebook. He said he posted on Twitter to help spread the word about how he believes the community will be negatively affected by the decision.

Wu said he attends multiple swim meets each year in the Aquatic Center and sees the pool as an important part of the swim community.

"The direct community surrounding OCCC will definitely be affected because it provides recreation for the people," he said. "People won't be able to swim and it's just a really healthy sport."

Wu said with the pool being the largest in Oklahoma City, several swim teams rely on it to host their meets. He said, if it closes, it will hinder the growth of the swim community in the area.

"... We're already at a shortage of pools ..."

Wu said an email sent by OCCC President Paul Sechrist on April 15, telling of the closing, did not address all of his questions.

Wu said he wants a breakdown of costs and wants to know, what, if anything, the college is willing to spend on the pool.

"I just want to get a feel for it,

because it's just kind of vague right now. They just said they would close it because they didn't really feel like spending the \$6 million. I hope there's a little bit more (information) to be released."

Wu said swimming is important to him and many others in the community.

"... I've been swimming for 11 years and swimming's just been my whole life," he said. "I'm part of the Oklahoma Swimming Organization serving as the Athlete Representative, so it's my job to express views of swimmers [who] have talked to me — and they've been really upset ..."

"... This will affect many people ..."

Talitha Vicente, Aquatic Center employee and Westmoore High School senior, said she heard the news on April 14, in a meeting with the rest of her co-workers. She said it's upsetting.

Vicente said she wants the administration to see the benefit of keeping the pool open.

"I've swam there for eight years and now I work there," she said. "I just want to help ... It helped me and helped be a sport for me that I felt comfortable doing, and now I teach little kids how to swim."

"I've watched them go from not knowing how to swim to swimming on a swim team and wanting to swim in college, and I don't want their dreams to die."

To raise awareness and gain support in the community, she created the @occcpool Twitter account. Vicente said the page serves as a resource to spread the word and share stories. She encourages people to follow @occcpool to learn more about how they can help.

"The more people that get involved, the more people are going to find out about it and possibly help us persuade the board to reconsider their closing decision," she said.

Vicente said she also is currently in the process of creating a swim-off to help raise funds to keep the Aquatic Center open.

Julie Moran, a concurrent OCCC student and Aquatic Center employee, plans to start a petition and do anything and

everything it takes to help save the pool. She said it is an iconic landmark for Oklahoma City and she will fight to prevent the closing.

"This is what the college is known for," Moran said. "[OCCC is] known for having an Olympic-sized swimming pool ... We've had Olympians swim in this pool and break records ... This is a place of history and you can't take it."

Home is a word many high school students use to describe the pool because they spend more time in the water than at their house. The swimmers consider one another family, Moran said.

When things in her life took a turn for the worse after contracting a deadly disease from a stingray sting, she said she turned to her peers and the Aquatic Center.

"I would probably not be alive today if it was not for this pool," she said. "I was lying on my deathbed and my last wish was just to come swim one last time. I had people supporting me and that's why I'm here today."

Students are not the only ones against the closure of the Aquatic Center. Parents also are shocked by the decision.

Community member Suzan Haizlip said her family frequently uses the facility because her daughter attends practice for the King Marlin Swim Club four nights a week.

She said the closure will affect a large area outside of the college and she wants administrators to realize the impact.

"It's affecting Oklahoma City. It's affecting our image and how we view swimming as a sport and how we view water safety and other water things — the diving, the scuba divers, the geriatrics. A lot of different swim members in our community use that pool."

"It's not just for the community college and it wasn't built just for the community college," Haizlip said. "It was built for the community in 1989. So, I hope they get a sense that this decision wasn't just a decision that affected them and how it's going to affect them financially, but how it affects the community. I think



FILE PHOTO/PIONEER

Swimmers participate in a YMCA swim meet at the OCCC Aquatic Center. The pool will close the day after Labor Day after 25 years in operation.

you can't put a price tag on the effect it's going to have on the community."

Like the students, Haizlip has been active on social media and plans to approach lawmakers in Moore and Oklahoma City.

The students agree that no other pool in the metro area offers enough practice space.

Kirsten Howell, Westmoore senior and Aquatic Center employee, said OCCC is the only viable space for swim teams to practice. She said taking away the pool will mean taking away the sport.

"I think it's going to be really hard for [the teams] because each team usually takes from three to four lanes ... and [the Aquatic Center has] a lot of lanes," she said. "Where are they going to go?"

Hannah Hall, Westmoore Swim Team member, said although nothing has yet been decided as far as the team goes, they are currently looking for options. They have hope that the OCCC administration will reconsider their decision and give the Jaguars and other swim teams the ability to keep their teams together.

"We've looked into other

locations that we could start going to and nothing is showing up, so we don't know for sure what we're going to do ...," she said.

"I would love for them to reconsider, to think about some other options. I know that financially it's hard and I don't know specifics on that, but I personally believe what they have here is worth keeping and worth looking into — just figuring out what they can do instead of closing it."

Haizlip said the closing could prove to be detrimental to the swim community in Oklahoma and create a ripple effect that could impact the nation.

"Since 2013, Oklahoma swimming has led the nation in growth and we're going to continue to grow if we're given the opportunity. But if we lose our pool, then we lose our place to practice, and we lose our kids having their safe place to go and practice, (and) we can't continue to grow."

"As a nation, we'll lose our swimming, but as a state, it will hurt us even more."

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rf/aquatic.html.

SPORTS

Training
for the
long run

Mechanical Engineering major Pome Mang exercises on a treadmill April 15 in OCCC's Recreation and Fitness Center, located on the first floor of the Main Building. He said he was practicing for the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon. The Wellness Center provides many fitness areas free to students with a valid OCCC ID. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness.html.



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

EVENT
NEWS

SPRING 2015:

- Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the Aquatic Center free of charge. The Aquatic Center features two pools, and an 18½-ft. deep diving well with 1- and 3-meter spring boards and 5-, 7- and 10-meter platforms. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/RF.

- OCCC Group Fitness classes are offered at a variety of fitness levels and are spaced conveniently throughout the afternoon and late evening hours. Classes are free to OCCC students with a valid ID. See more at www.occc.edu/rf/cr-group-fitness.

- The Recreation & Fitness Center is open to students, faculty, staff and community members. The center features a 15,000-square-foot gym with two basketball courts and one recreational volleyball court, a cardio room with three treadmills, two cross trainers and two recumbent bikes as well as a weight room featuring a complete circuit of Cybex equipment and free weights. Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the facilities free of charge. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/RF or call 405-682-7860.

SPORTS | Sessions meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and cost \$15 for five classes

Experience helpful in Theatrical Dance class

CLAYTON MITCHELL
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Fitness class Instructor Elizabeth Hobi said she knows this is a busy time for many students, but hopes any dancers looking to continue their dancing careers while in college will make their way to her theatrical dance class.

"This is the time of year when everyone is so busy they can't ever come, and the class has gotten very small," she said. "We've lost people to illness, or who had to get a job. That's our challenge being a commuter school."

Theatrical Dance is a distinct class which touches on aspects of multiple dance types used in professional theatrical dancing, Hobi said. She said the class's difficulty is higher than beginner and even minimal experience can be helpful.

"Theatrical dance is grounded in ballet and contemporary dance techniques, and it does have conditioning," she said.

"We still let anyone in, but we're to the point where we're saying that previous experience in ballet, jazz and even modern dance is suggested."

Diversified Studies major Francesca Knight said she found

out about the class after her grandmother pointed out a flyer on campus.

"I just e-mailed Liz and said, 'Hey, I want to go to this, because I've been trying to get back into dance, but I haven't found anywhere that worked with my work schedule,'" Knight said.

"I asked if I was going to be awkward and bad compared to everyone else, and she said, 'No. Just come check it out. We're all at different levels of dance.'

"I came that one night and I've been coming ever since." Knight hadn't danced in several years and was quick to jump on the opportunity to rekindle her dancing practice.

"I was in pom in high school ... and I was really out of practice," she said, "but once I got back in, I picked it all up again really quick. I've been able to get back into my passion. I told myself, 'You love to dance, and this is something you're really going to enjoy.' And I do."

The class meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday evenings, and costs \$15 for every five classes.

For more information, contact Hobi at elizabeth.hobi@gmail.com, or Health and Fitness Specialist Carole Valentine at carole.m.valentine@occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7662.



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.

Physics prof wins chili cookoff; \$2,045 raised

JOEL GWARTNEY
News Writing Student

Physics Professor Tad Thurston has done it again — concocted the winning chili recipe for the Faculty Association's annual contest.

"He is a regular winner," said Librarian Ann Raia, one of the coordinators for the scholarship fundraiser, referring to Thurston's Chili Cook-Off victory.

Eleven chefs entered this year, Raia said. Business professors Charles Myrick and Michael Machiorlatti took second place, and Gerree Rol-

lins, sister of Professor Ginnett Rollins, took third place.

Several of the contestants have been trying to knock Thurston out of the top spot for years, Raia said.

In the past, contestants would just submit their name with the chili; however, this year the contest was changed to be anonymous and the contestants named their chili whatever they wanted, Raia said, making the judges unaware of whose chili belonged to whom.

Thurston submitted his chili under the name "Larry Chili."

The name has a story behind

it, he said.

"When my son was younger and working on his first essay using a word processor, the program asked him to name his file before he quit the program.

"He took it bit too literally and named it like a pet, calling his essay 'Larry,'" Thurston said. "It's been a bit of an inside joke in the family for a long time. So when the organizers said they'd like a name for my chili, I couldn't resist and named it Larry.

As for Thurston's recipe, "I'll give it to anyone who asks," he said. "If someone likes it, it would be great if they could

enjoy it at home and change it to suit their tastes."

There also was a silent auction at the scholarship fundraiser which had about 20 items.

The best selling auction item was lunch with President Paul Sechrist which ended up going for \$250.

Between all the baked goods, chili and silent auction, \$2,045 was raised, Raia said. The money will be allocated to student scholarships in the fall to help with tuition costs.

This scholarship fundraiser was one of a few that the Faculty Association puts on each

year. In the fall there also is a soup contest and sometimes a garage sale.

Thurston said he plans to enter the soup contest this fall.

"Oh, sure," he said about submitting a chili for next year.

"It's a fun way to support the student scholarships and gets me connecting with people across campus I don't typically see from day-to-day."

Raia said the success of the fundraiser was due to the work of many volunteers who contributed to the fundraiser, from the cooks who made chili to the workers who served customers during the event.

Area meteorologist gives 'Wild Weather' presentation

VICTORIA HARRELL
News Writing Student

The number-one cause of weather-related deaths is from people driving into high waters on the road and getting swept away, said Meteorologist David Payne in a presentation on campus earlier this month.

He said being washed away by high water kills more people than the combination of hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning and hail.

Payne, Emmy award-winning meteorologist for News 9, talked about how to stay safe in Oklahoma's ever-changing weather season.

Payne said too many drivers are unaware of the dangers of flooded streets.

"Most people don't realize it takes only two feet of moving



water to sweep a car off the road," he said.

Payne said it's better to go a mile out of the way than drive through water.

When an audience member asked Payne why the city of Moore continued getting hit by tornadoes, he said there is no good data on that. However, he

said, it has nothing to do with any rivers, elevation or hills.

"Tornadoes could care less what's going on on the ground," Payne said. "Everything in a tornado is all aloft, it's 10,000 to 40,000 feet up.

"What's been slightly out of character is that the tornadoes that they have had, have been

very violent tornadoes ...," Payne said, while reminding the audience that scientists have only been taking good data on tornadoes since the late '50s and '60s.

Payne said every year and every season, tornado "hot spots" shift and that he believes it would be shifting within the next few years.

One audience member, Keisha Williams, said Payne gave some advice she will pay attention to. Williams is state coordinator for the Single Mothers Academic Resource Team program. She said her biggest take-away from the session was to shelter at home during a tornado.

"I learned to not get in the car and try to leave when a tornado is coming," Williams said, "because most people

want to leave their homes."

That leaves drivers vulnerable to being caught in a car in traffic during a storm, she said.

Payne said tornadoes are so unpredictable that there is no way to know where the tornado is going. He said one can change directions in a matter of minutes. Payne described cars as toys to a tornado.

However, he said, when it comes to lightning, you are safe inside your vehicle.

"Your tires are not what keep you safe," he said. "It's the fact that you are inside a metal car."

The lightning that touches your car will wrap itself around the car, keeping you safe inside, Payne said.

For more information, contact Payne at david.payne@news9.net, at 405-843-6641, or at www.News9.com.

Journal: Absolute reception, readings to take place April 30

Continued from page 1

fiction, McCauley said.

When selecting material for the annual journal, student editors looked first for good content.

"We read all of the submissions and we make decisions based on how well the content is structured, including gram-

mar and so forth," said student editor Kimberly Avery. "But more importantly on the content itself."

Avery, a literature major, has been an editor since McCauley recommended the position to her in her creative writing class.

"I ended up loving being a part of the Absolute," Avery said. "So she said I could con-

tinue to be an editor."

Everyone is invited to attend the reception at noon April 30 in CU 1 and 2 to recognize the writers and artists published in the Absolute.

The event will include an awards ceremony and live readings of some published pieces, McCauley said.

The awards ceremony will

kick off at 12:30. Copies of the Absolute will be sold at the reception and after the reception for \$5 in the bookstore.

For those eager to get in on the action, the deadline to submit material for the 2016 edition is Dec. 1.

"We encourage multiple submissions," McCauley said. Anyone can submit their pieces

through the online submission form under the Academics section of the OCCC homepage.

While you are there you should also look through the archive of past editions of the Absolute as far back as 2002.

For more information email mmccauley@occc.edu or call the English and Humanities division at 405-682-7558

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Brain Break



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Management Information Systems major Sweekar BC uses his smart phone to watch "Supernatural" on the second floor of OCCC's Keith Leftwich Library. OCCC offers numerous locations throughout the campus for students to study or relax.

COMMUNITY | 'The Cherry Orchard' being directed at OCCC by theater professor

Play brings comedy with tragedy

KATIE AXTELL

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

"The Cherry Orchard" is an early 20th-century Russian version of a dysfunctional family, said theater Professor Brent Noel.

"The family gets together for about three months, and fights happen and people fall in love, so it tends to be fairly subtle."

Noel is directing the play comprised of an all-student cast with the exception of one former student and retired professor Richard Rouillard, all of whom have been rehearsing for almost five weeks.

"The Cherry Orchard" was written by playwright Anton Chekhov in 1904 and directed by Constantin Stanislavski," Noel said.

"Chekhov — this was the last play he wrote — was dying as it was being produced, but he and the director had a big argument whether ... it was comedy or tragedy.

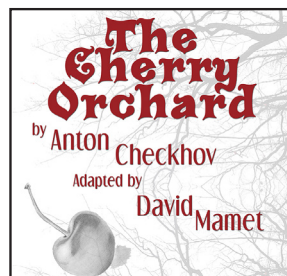
"The author thought it was a comedy and the director thought it was a tragedy, so it kinda walks that line between tragedy and comedy.

"There are some sad things. It's a story of loss and unfulfilled promises," Noel said.

"There are a lot of people who are in love, but they tend to be in love with the wrong person. As a result, everything just kinda misses."

Theater major Taylor Reich, who is performing, said the play has become easier to understand.

"It's going to be a great show. It's going to be an



amazing show."

Noel said this play is one of the early examples of realistic theater.

"Stanislavski developed a method of acting that we still use today called the Stanislavski system, where actors were trained to act as realistically as possible," he said. "Previous to that it was almost balletic in its use of gestures and movement."

The challenge of acting in this play is one of the reasons Noel said he chose it.

"We are trying to teach our students a certain level of this style of acting. It was very influential and developed into method acting in the U.S."

Theater major Samm Miller said she would recommend the show to those who enjoy good acting.

"It's going to be artfully done. It's going to focus on the acting."

Noel said the performance is an adaptation by American playwright David Mamet.

"There's a lot of subtext. It's not really what the actors are saying, but what they're not saying. A lot of it is about being able to read between the lines. A lot of times things are spoon fed to us so that we don't have the training and can't see what's happening beneath the surface."

"The Cherry Orchard" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. April 30, through May 2 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

For more information, contact Arts Division Secretary Jessica De Arman at jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu or at 405-686-6278.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

'The Cherry Orchard' on stage at OCCC

"The Cherry Orchard" by Anton Chekhov is showing at 7:30 p.m. from April 30 through May 2 in the Bruce Owen Theater. Student tickets are \$5 and \$10 for general admission. For more information, contact Jessica DeArman at jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu or 405-686-6278.

Adopt-a-Street for service learning

Students can take part in Student Life's Adopt-a-Street campus impact opportunity from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, May 1. Registration is required for a limited number of spots. For more information, email studentlife@occc.edu or call 405-682-7523.

OCCC Jazz Band performing in theater

The OCCC Jazz Band will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free. For more information, contact Jessica DeArman in the Arts division at jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu or 405-686-6278.

Women's scholarship taking applications

The Women of the South Primary Provider Scholarship is now taking applications for women who are the primary financial provider for their household. Recipients of the scholarship will receive funding to help them obtain an associate degree from OCCC. For more information, contact Joyce Mauldin at 405-691-4770 or Linda Carr at 405-919-1146.

Graduation Ceremony at Cox Convention Center

This year's graduation ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8, at the Cox Convention Center. For more information, contact the Graduate Service Office at 405-682-1611 ext. 7470.

ESL group to help with communication skills

The ESL Conversation Club meets at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room VPAC146. The ESL group is there to help international students improve their English communication skills. For more information, contact James Sellers at james.f.sellers@occc.edu or 405-682-1611.

Reception to celebrate Dr. Sechrist

Students and alumni are invited to a reception celebrating Dr. Paul Sechrist's time as president of OCCC from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, in the VPAC Atrium. For more information, contact Deirdre Steiner at deirdre.k.steiner@occc.edu or 405-682-1611 ext. 7248.

Christians on Campus to meet each Monday

Christians on Campus host Bible studies at noon on Mondays in room AH1C3. All students are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Christians on Campus at christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu or club president Kaie Huizar at kaie.huizar@gmail.com.

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

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.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: 19" CRT television in fair condition. Great for a gaming TV or in a child's room. \$25. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures or more details.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1997 Isuzu 4x4 Trooper; 5-speed. Runs great. Body in GC. Leather seats, CD player, premium speakers, Draw Tight hitch system can pull max 5k pounds. Power windows need repair. High miles. One owner. \$1,900. 405-812-4082.


FOR SALE: This space for \$8 per week. Place your business classified today and reach thousands of potential customers. Up to seven lines. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or email adman@occc.edu.

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Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7307, or e-mail: adman@occc.edu

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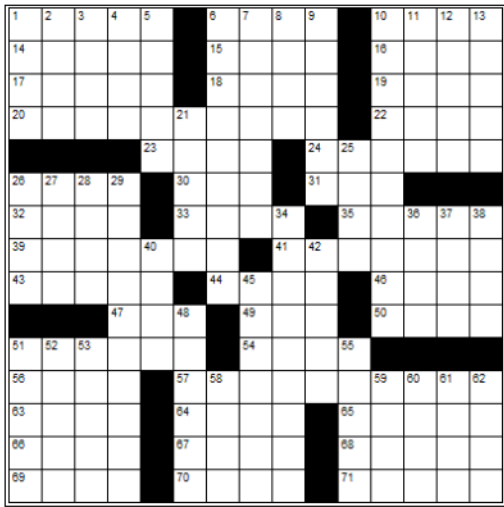
Available at Planned Parenthood.
www.ppfa.org/ppfa

 **Planned Parenthood**
1-800-230-PLAN

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Equipment
- 6. Vipers
- 10. Prohibits
- 14. Not rented
- 15. Cooking fat
- 16. Distinctive flair
- 17. Drive
- 18. Box
- 19. Exploded star
- 20. Australian kingfisher
- 22. Blacken
- 23. Cut back
- 24. Breathe in
- 26. Curdled soybean milk
- 30. Precious stone
- 31. French for "Name"
- 32. Atop
- 33. Biblical garden
- 35. Scrapes gently
- 39. Accomplish
- 41. Chair part
- 43. Requested
- 44. Abominable Snowman
- 46. Gambling game
- 47. 2,000 pounds
- 49. Muck
- 50. Gush
- 51. Get cozy
- 54. Angers
- 56. A single time
- 57. Exile
- 63. Russian emperor
- 64. Hawaiian strings
- 65. Turbine part
- 66. Medical breakthrough
- 67. Fluff
- 68. Chopin composition
- 69. Pay attention to
- 70. Picnic insects
- 71. Move quickly



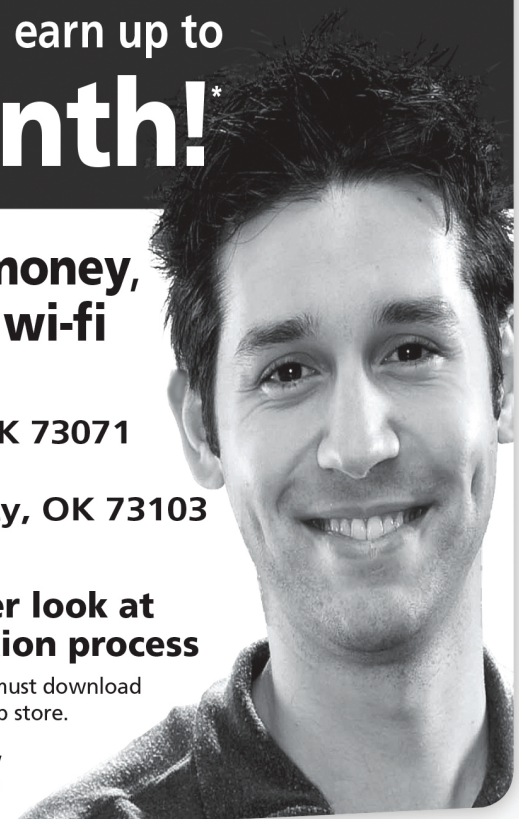
DOWN

- 1. Ivory colored dentine
- 2. Savvy about
- 3. Margarine
- 4. Scallion
- 5. An elongated leather strip
- 6. Without a doubt
- 7. Ultimate
- 8. Sweet gritty-textured fruit
- 9. Exert vigorously
- 10. Standards
- 11. Hello or goodbye
- 12. Pertaining to the oceans
- 13. Type of drum
- 21. Deli item
- 25. Standard
- 26. A soft porous rock
- 27. Creative work
- 28. Common people
- 29. Unshackled
- 34. Nudists
- 36. Retain
- 37. Feudal worker
- 38. Put away
- 40. False god
- 42. Carnival attractions
- 45. Distinguished
- 48. Interstellar cloud
- 51. Tally mark
- 52. Follow as a result
- 53. Frighten
- 55. Termagant
- 58. Analogous
- 59. Sweater eater
- 60. Decorative case
- 61. Gestures of assent
- 62. Journey

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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.

Former professor dies after long illness

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Retired OCCC professor Lyn McDonald died Friday, April 3, of COPD, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The former graphic communications professor and program adviser was remembered by some on campus who knew her well.

McDonald is said to have pioneered OCCC's graphic communications program.

English Professor Susan VanSchuyver served as her division dean while McDonald taught on campus.

"She really brought graphic communication into this decade," VanSchuyver said. "She brought it from when airbrushing was one of the big deals in graphic communication to the most advanced Mac and the most advanced software and most advanced computers."

"She brought it from a very different place. It even had a different name and then she changed it to graphic communications when she made a big program change and changed the curriculum."

OCCC's Macintosh Computer Technician Cathy Bowman was McDonald's friend and saw her toward the end.

"She was a force," she said. "She really was. She'll be missed."

VanSchuyver said, as a professor, McDonald had a love for graphic communications.

"That was her baby. She was really passionate about that and protected it like a mother bear."

Randy Anderson, who in-

herited his role as graphic communications professor from McDonald, said she should be remembered for her dedication to teaching the subject.

"She worked hard to put together a good program," he said.

"She really had a strong program when she retired so it made my job so much easier."

Bowman said McDonald developed a program for the sake of empowering her students.

"I think that the GCOM program is certainly something she should be remembered for," Bowman said.

"In her classes she made it abundantly clear that after [she earned a] four-year university degree, she was in no way qualified to step out into the job market."

"She had this opportunity to see that other people didn't have to suffer that (same fate.)"

"She was passionate about the program and she wanted people to be ready to step into job entry once they graduated ...," Bowman said.

VanSchuyver agrees.

"She could help students get jobs because she knew everybody in the industry," she said.

VanSchuyver said it was a venture off campus that gave McDonald the insight she put to use in teaching.

"She had her own Graphic Communications business that she ran with a partner."

"She kept in touch with what the industry was doing and could make changes and suggestions."

VanSchuyver said when students completed McDonald's program, they were ready to enter the job market.



Lyn McDonald

PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHY BOWMAN

Bowman said she is living proof.

"She hired me, and she was my professor when I started going to school here — and she created this job that I'm in," she said.

VanSchuyver spoke of McDonald's character as well.

"She was an interesting person to work with," she said. "She had some quirks like we all do but we never had a disagreement that we couldn't work out."

"She had kind of a gruff exterior but she was very warm-hearted and cared about people."

Anderson said McDonald should be remembered for that.

"I think a lot of Lyn," he said. "She's great."

VanSchuyver, Anderson and Bowman remained friends with McDonald after she left

OCCC.

"We used to throw pots together," Bowman said, referring to her pottery skills.

VanSchuyver said she and McDonald stayed in touch up through the day she died.

"We stayed in touch once she retired and I talked to her the day that she passed away."

"We really just said goodbye. She knew she was dying. She was ready by that time."

"She'd fought it. Maybe three weeks before, I talked to her and she was saying, 'I'm going to get out of the hospital. I'm going to stop smoking. I've still got two or three months. I'm going to do these things,'" VanSchuyver said.

"But after she was in the hospital for a while and they just couldn't get everything on the level and she started deteriorating, she just said

“She really brought graphic communications into this decade.”

—SUSAN VANSCHUYVER
ENGLISH PROFESSOR

'Ok. I'm ready and I just want to say goodbye to everybody' and that's what we did."

"We just told each other that we appreciated each other and I appreciated all the things that she had done for me and we said goodbye."

Bowman said McDonald maintained a lust for life and found ways to enjoy herself and make people smile, even in her final days.

"Her last week in the hospital, she was pressing the doctor, 'Do you think I'll be out to make that poker tournament?'"

Obscene, threatening texts reported to campus police

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A student receiving what she described as harassing text messages that were "obscene and threatening" reported

the texts to campus police on Monday, March 9.

In a police report provided about the incident, Officer Daniel Piazza said the female student believes the messages were sent from another OCCC student.

The report provides limited details regarding a suspect.

Additional information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

Some information was redacted from the reports under

the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted "according to OCCC PD 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.