

PIONEER

College weighs in on bathroom politics

In accordance with Title IX, OCCC condemns discrimination based on gender identity

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Transgender students at OCCC may safely use whichever bathroom is consistent with their gender identity without fear of facing discipline from school officials, according to college policy and Dr. Regina Switzer, OCCC's Title IX coordinator, making the college compliant with government recommendations about the issue.

This means that a transgender student may use whichever locker room, shower, changing room or bathroom correlates with their gender identity, said Switzer.

Last month, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice released a joint directive on the equal and nondiscriminatory treatment of transgender

students in government funded schools.

OCCC receives funding from federal government coffers.

The directive included guidance for educators about transgender students using restrooms and locker rooms, as well as recommendations related to athletics and gender identity.

College Policy NO. 1012 assures that OCCC is already on track with the Obama administration's recent guidance on transgender students Switzer said.

"We have advised consistently with the directive when the question has come about the bathroom situation. It's been our position for a long time," Switzer said.

"Under Title IX, a law prohibiting gender discrimination in any federally funded education program, a school must treat students consistent with their gender identity even if their education records or identification documents indicate a different sex," said Switzer.

OCCC's college policy NO. 1012 directly corresponds with this guidance, stating, "The College condemns discrimination based on sex or gender, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual orientation discrimination, discrimination based on gender identity or expression, and sexual misconduct."

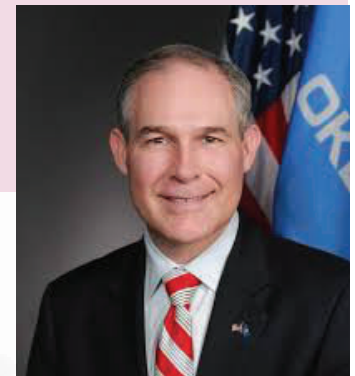
The policy was last updated in February of 2016.

While the college has allowed transgendered students to use the bathrooms that fit their identities for years, some on campus, however, are concerned about the chance that this directive would pave the way for nefarious activity.

"My concern is not about transgender students, but rather depraved men with malicious intent choosing to abuse this new rule," Speech Communication Professor Julie Corff said in an email.

"I teach several night intersession classes and am many times here when others aren't. It would be a huge concern for me personally."

State representatives are also providing pushback against the directive. Oklahoma is one of 10 states to join in a lawsuit against the President's directive, with



Scott Pruitt
ok.gov

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Appropriations even less than expected in budget crisis

Tuition and fees rising to adjust

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OCCC will be seeing a larger cut than anticipated for its fiscal year 2017 budget.

The expected cut was 14 percent while the plan approved by the legislature landed at 15.95 percent. It's a sum that Chief Financial Officer John Boyd said is unlikely to lead to cutting any more personnel or services.

Boyd said OCCC has already cut its budget wherever it can by having some individual departments close all open positions and reduce expenditures while retaining personnel but additional revenue failures, a lack of income to the state, could seriously impact OCCC's ability to provide current services to students.

Some money-saving measures instituted recently include the closure of the school's aquatic center and ending the yearly Festival of the Arts.

During a June 13 presentation of the school's

newest annual plan to the OCCC Board of Regents, Human Resources Vice President Angie Christopher explained the personnel changes that had already taken place in response to the last fiscal year's budget cuts.

Sixteen employees took different positions within the college, she said, and in the end, ten positions were cut. Of those 10 people, three were offered other positions on campus but two chose to take their severance instead and one retired.

"This was a challenging year to do what we needed to do for the college and for our employees as well," Christopher told the Regents.

The 2016 revenue failures led to mid year budget cuts the college has been struggling to absorb.

"We have been on pins and needles most of the year in anticipation of what our available revenue for expenditure is going to be," Boyd said.

When the state budget agreement was signed, it was revealed that higher education was being cut by 16.95 percent from the year before, translating to a reduction of about \$3.9 million in state appropriations, Boyd said.

At the Regents meeting, Boyd also explained that the state has lessened its contributions to funding

tuition waivers for members of the National Guard and for concurrently enrolled students. The state has cut funding for each of these waivers by more than 30 percent.

Boyd said, when including these cuts, OCCC has effectively received an overall reduction of 19.2 percent cut in state appropriations.

He said the mindset of the legislature is that higher education is bloated, but while they are thinking of

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EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | Conversation's focus after Orlando shooting wrong

Don't target the guns after every tragedy



TREY BELL

A night on the town with friends - that's what 49 individuals who lost their lives, along with 53 others who were injured expected Saturday night at Pulse, a gay bar located in Orlando, Fla., before a gunman opened fire inside the bar around 2 a.m. Sunday, June 12.

I'd like to begin by saying I, along with all of the Pioneer staff offer our condolences, our prayers, and our thoughts to the victims of this tragedy and to their families, along with the citizens of Orlando.

The gunman has been identified as Omar Mateen, a U.S. citizen of Afghan descent from Port St. Lucie, Fla. During the attack, Mateen called 911 pledging allegiance to ISIS, according to the FBI, and the terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The incident has spurred much discussion on many issues, including LGBT rights, and gun control.

The latter, is what needs to be addressed.

After every tragedy similar to this, the issue of increasing gun control becomes ever more prevalent,

and the Obama Administration takes its opportunity, once again, to blame "assault weapons" for the crime. In reality, however, does gun control prevent criminals, let alone terrorists, from finding weapons and using them? Did it stop them in Paris? Did it stop them in the 2014 Ottawa Parliament shooting? In the 2016 Brussels bombings, the terrorists didn't even use guns.

When drunk drivers wreck and kill people, do we outlaw the use of cars?

When an individual stabs someone, do we blame Kitchen-Aid?

According to the National Institute of Justice, "Juveniles and young adults can easily obtain guns illegally," and most gun offenders "acquire guns 'off the street' through the illicit gun market."

This can easily apply to terrorists, individuals who have likely been planning their moves for quite some time, with connections to sources everyday criminals often don't have.

Imagine if multiple, law-abiding citizens inside the club were armed. It is certain that these armed individuals would have been able to stop the threat much sooner than the police could have. The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun, is a good guy with a gun.

The reason the Second Amendment is in the U.S.

Constitution's Bill of Rights is not for sport or hunting purposes.

It is there for personal protection. It's there to defend against corrupt governments, just as our ancestors did during the conception of this nation.

All of this being said, I'm not against ensuring we keep guns out of the wrong people's hands. It is imperative that we make efforts to filter out people who are unfit to carry and use firearms. We need to reform our background check system, ensuring that individuals with mental disabilities and those on criminal watch lists are unable to legally obtain firearms.

The Orlando shooter had been under investigation from the FBI previously and was still able to legally purchase a firearm, and according to CNN, Mateen was "one of hundreds of people on the [FBI]'s radar suspected of being ISIS sympathizers."

You're telling me that wasn't a red flag?

My hope is that instead of using tragedies like this to push political agendas, we use them to identify who the real enemy is, because incidents like the Orlando shooting won't stop until then.

—TREY BELL
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Finding the right place to stay can be difficult amidst studying

Housing search website prioritizes needs of students

To the editor:

As you might know, searching for an apartment determines more than where you'll live, it can define your college experience. As many college students realize, finding housing off-campus can be stressful. Many of the apartment search sites fail to acknowledge the unique needs that students have in their college apartment search, as well as the listing efficiency that landlords crave.

uCribs launched in 2013 to simplify the housing

search for college students. We started at one university with 50 properties and have since expanded nationally to become the largest search site dedicated to apartments near universities.

So why would you want to use uCribs? Well, of course it's free to use for renters and landlords. Listings include all the information you need to make an informed decision including photos, descriptions of the property, property and unit amenities and what's included in rent. If you're interested in an apartment, you can contact the landlord directly either by phone

or by email. There's no need to register and contacting a property is very seamless.

uCribs remains committed in increasing our property portfolio to cater to more students. We've already helped a lot of students at Oklahoma City Community College find housing near campus and are excited to help many more over the coming months.

For more information visit ucribs.com.

YEL PAGUNURAN
UCRIBS

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

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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 no more than 250 words. Students must list a major. OCCC staff and faculty must list a 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>.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

EDITORIAL | After leniency, a petition to remove judge is circulating

No real justice in Stanford rape case



GRACE BABB

Brock Turner, a 20-year-old former Stanford student, was convicted for the intent to commit rape of an intoxicated person in March.

The victim of the assault and her family were relieved to know that this crime would not go unpunished.

Prosecutors recommended that Turner be given a six-year

prison sentence.

Three months later, Judge Aaron Persky sentenced Turner to only six months in jail.

Yes – You read that right – only six months.

Turner was charged with and convicted of assault with intent to commit rape of an intoxicated woman, sexually penetrating an intoxicated person with a foreign object, and sexually penetrating an unconscious person with a foreign object.

Under California Penal Code 289, forcible sexual penetration can result in a sentence of three, six, or eight years. So why not half of the average minimum of three years?

Why not even one year?

According to reports, Santa Clara County Judge Aaron Persky told the courtroom he thought “a prison sentence would have a severe impact on him.”

Turner’s young age and clear criminal record made him feel the sentence, along with probation was sufficient, he said.

Thousands have responded to this sentencing with shock, dismay, and anger, with the hashtag “#BrockTurner” trending across Twitter in recent weeks.

As of this week, a Change.org petition to remove Judge Persky from his position garnered over one million signatures.

Judge Persky should know that being a young, white male athlete at a prestigious college does not cancel out being a sexual predator.

Despite guilty charges, Turner has taken no responsibility and has not changed his defense that, yes, though the victim was unconscious at the time--she wanted it.

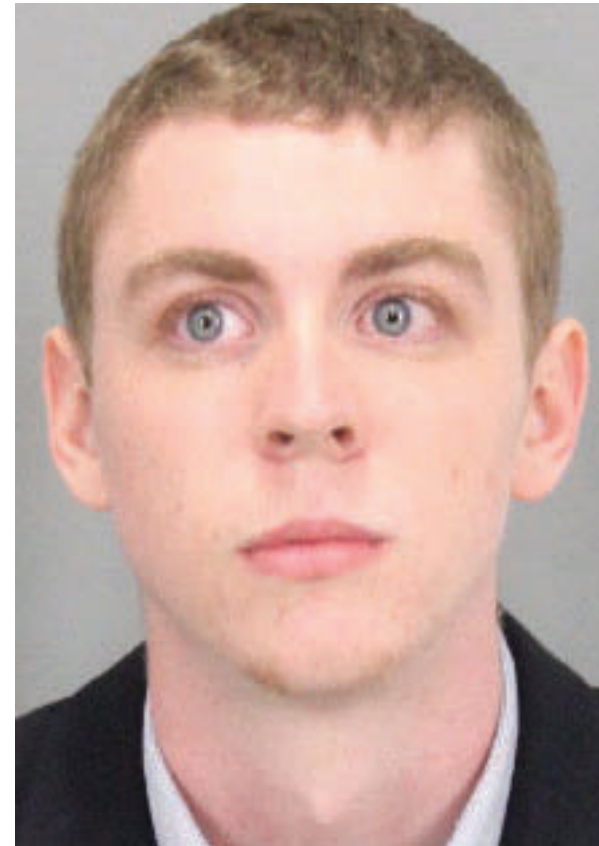
According to Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network of Justice Department data, only three out of every 100 rapists will spend a day in prison.

The numbers for those convicted of intent are even lower.



Left: Federal Judge Aaron Persky in a photo from his 2002 campaign website. *perskyforjudge.com*

Right: Brock Turner as he was booked into the Santa Clara County Jail on June 2 after being found guilty in federal court for the crime of raping an unconscious woman. *Department of Corrections.*



It is not so comforting to know that a convicted sexual predator might only be serving six months. Turner is scheduled to be released on September 2 according to the Santa Clara County government website.

Other sentences have not been as forgiving.

Did Turner get lucky, or was the light sentencing determined by the combination of his socioeconomic status, background, and skin color?

Brian Banks, a star athlete, was only 16 when he was charged with rape and tried as an adult. Younger than Turner, Banks had a seemingly brighter future as he was being prepped for the National Football League.

There had been no evidence for the crime he was accused of committing, and no witnesses, unlike in Turner’s case.

Banks was sentenced to six years in prison, a stark contrast to the minimal sentencing time for Turner.

Worse, as it was a crime Banks did not commit.

Years later, his accuser revealed that she had lied about it all, but only after he had spent six years of his life in a prison cell.

What’s the catch, here? Oh yeah, Banks is black.

Banks did not have parents to post a \$150,000 bond, or the money to hire a defense team to win at sentencing. Would Turner’s sentence have been different if he had been in the same spot?

Banks spoke against Turner’s lenient sentencing in a

New York Daily News interview, calling out the injustice of the contrast between his and Turner’s case.

“I would say it’s a case of privilege,” he said. “What about the kid who has nothing?”

“What about the kid who has no choice who he is born to and has drug-addicted parents or a non-parent household? Where is the consideration for them when they commit a crime?” Turner said.

Judge Persky utterly failed in his position of power, exchanging pity for justice. A slap on the wrist for a convicted sexual predator shows other potential perpetrators of privilege that their actions hold no more weight than a shoplifter’s.

Sexual assault is a serious crime that deserves serious punishment.

While Judge Persky did not hold a convicted sexual predator sufficiently accountable, those with voices of their own and internet access can contribute to holding this failed judge accountable by signing the petition to remove Judge Aaron Persky from his position.

The petition can be found at change.org.

—GRACE BABB
STAFF WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MUSIC REVIEW | Writer offers glimpse into a night out, enjoying local talent at an OKC venue.

Blue Door showcases rousing musicians

Simultaneously serving as a tiny listening room and a folk music mecca, every show at The Blue Door is intimate and personal.

Located on 805 N McKinley Ave. in Oklahoma City, The Blue Door is an almost-hidden oasis for singer songwriters and folk listeners.

Recently, I visited the intimate listening room to enjoy the sounds of Nick Jaina and Samantha Crain.

I had spotted Jaina before the show, outside on the patio, practicing his songs on a glittery, unplugged electric.

He was quiet, smiled nicely, and seemed like he had been thinking all afternoon.

Later, as I took my seat, Jaina had already taken the stage.

He began with stories of his home in Portland, and he wove audio clips of crickets, frogs, and the sound of rainwater into loops behind his songs.

Each song he played was full of personal anecdotes and imagery, conjuring up some distant memory most people have had but had forgotten about until then.

Consistent with his quiet disposition off stage, Jaina's voice remained delicate and was still hushed, despite the microphone.

I sat still on the edge of my seat, leaning inward to catch every lyric he gave away.

He ended his set with a long poem – a list of reasons why he loves the world. Some of these reasons included quips and appreciation for dinosaurs, images of his mom and dad at holiday dinners, and the breathy sound of a saxophone being played softly.

There was a comforting, familiar feeling after his set was over, and Samantha Crain was ready to take her turn.

Before she started, I heard Crain's honest laughter resounding off the leaning walls of the Blue Door's back room, and I had seen a flash of her bright orange hair down the hallway.

Crain is no stranger to the Blue Door, having played shows there several times a year for the better half of the decade.

She looked at ease. Of course in the 10-plus times I have seen her, she has always seemed at ease.

She walked to the stage with Seth Lee Jones accompanying her, a guitarist from the Tulsa music scene. She played old songs and new songs, all filled in



with the pillowy sound of Seth's guitar. His reverb and chorus were set high, emitting a sound like his guitar was shining.

Crain spoke little and sang more, her voice like thunder rolling in.

With her jazz-like phrasing and smoky notes, I was reminded why I keep coming back to her shows.

Unfortunately, with the venue being so small and up-close, Seth's guitar nearly drowned out Crain's powerful voice.

This was different than when she has told longer stories and presented herself more wholly, with just

her own guitar and microphone to accompany her.

The evening ended with Crain belting out a song from her very first album, one that I surprisingly had never heard before. Everybody seemed to be smiling afterwards.

I went home happier than I was when I first sat down.

I'll definitely be catching Jaina again, and if habit overcomes me, I'll be seeing Crain again, too.

Rating: A+

—SOPHIA BABB
STAFF WRITER

Do you have an idea for a review? Send it to the Pioneer!
Email to the Pioneer editor at editor@occc.edu

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

REVIEW | Connecting with nature isn't far off for city dwellers

Try hiking in the Wichita Mountains

It's summertime, and what better way to enjoy it than by exploring the beautiful nature of Oklahoma?

Whether you're a novice or expert hiker, there's a trail for everyone.

Early one morning two of my girlfriends and I drove to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Indianola, Oklahoma, just over an hour drive from Oklahoma City.

My first hiking trip of 2016 is in the books.

Grab a backpack, water, snacks and sunscreen and set off on the mountain's Dog Run Hollow Trail System. This trail in particular has the perfect balance of walking, climbing up and down rocks and walking through running streams. Just enough to get your heart pumping.

And don't be afraid to create your own trail along the way. The mountains has 15 miles of designated trails to choose from.

This Dog Run Hollow Trail System will ensure the perfect view of a gorgeous running waterfall, the ultimate selfie background and the chance to get close up to the mountain's interior with streaming water in between.

The four mile hike took four hours to complete including snack and water breaks.

Not only did we get our exercise, but while driving through the road, we spotted longhorns, bison, deer and wild turkeys along the way.

What better way is there to observe wildlife in their natural environment?

Exploring the state's outdoors will make one appreciate all that Oklahoma has to offer while not breaking the bank.

This is a perfect day trip for college students with most state parks having free admission.

Near the Wichita Mountains, Mount Scott and The Holy City are fun stops to make before heading back home.

To burn some extra calories, walk up Mount Scott, the view at the top is breathtaking.

The Holy City, also free of charge, has a great story to tell. Touring an old chapel with painted ceilings and learning of the place's history are worth the stop.

We were lucky the weather was pleasant for our first hike. The cloudy day with sprinkles of water every now and then kept us refreshed and cool. But as hotter days approach, hikers should make sure to pack plenty of water.

For hiking tips and park information visit travelok.com.

Rating: A+

—ERIKA FIERRO
ONLINE EDITOR



TELEVISION REVIEW | Season three puts all your favorite characters into exciting new roles

Netflix scores again with new 'Blinders' season



Netflix always produces heat when it comes to its original series. And the producers have struck again with "Peaky Blinders".

Thomas Shelby, played by Cillian Murphy, is the middle child, a decorated war veteran running the family's business of gambling, drug dealing and managing a pub or two.

He's been involved in every under-the-table operation from taking over a horse racing track to digging an underground tunnel to heist from the Russians.

Season three begins with Shelby getting married to his lover Grace Burgess, who's played by Annabelle Wallis and the results of their ill fated marriage put Shelby on a newly destructive path.

Shelby and his brothers, Arthur and John, are always finding themselves in some trouble.

Thanks to Shelby, (most of the time) all three make it out of every situation unscathed.

Arthur, the oldest boy and one who used to be the most unpredictable of the Shelby family, has found God after some time in jail. With his new wife, he has become a pretty mellow person, compared to the

past seasons, but the sense that Arthur is a ticking time bomb remains.

John Shelby, this season, has a larger role in the family as the Blinders expand their business into intriguing new territory every day.

John at one point even takes enforcing the Shelby family rule by himself against another family for sticking its collective nose in where it didn't belong.

Recently, Shelby found his long lost cousin, Michael Gray, who is his Aunt Polly's son and who was taken from her at an early age.

Gray, played by Finn Cole, is a brother to Joe Cole, who plays John in the show.

This season, Gray also takes on a much bigger role as the accountant for Shelby Limited.

Season 3 of "Peaky Blinders" is crazy good. The entire series is lit, for lack of a better term, and a must watch.

Rating: A+

—TYLER ADAMS
VIDEOGRAPHER

Pants and plates required in parking lots

Grant Swalwell

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Exposed genitals, thefts and racial graffiti topped reported crimes for the months of April and May, according to information obtained from OCCC Campus Police.

May 23: A vehicle was impounded for having no license plate and for the driver having no insurance.

Drivers are reminded license plates and insurance are compulsory.

May 12: A male student, whose name was redacted from police documents, was reported by another student to have been seen exiting his truck, exposing his genitals, urinating in the parking lot and then driving off.

The student reported the suspect's license plate and an investigation is pending.

May 10: A student made a threatening gesture toward a college employee in the campus library. No further details were included.

May 4: A laptop and cellphone were stolen from the men's locker room.

Because there are no security cameras in the locker room, police said no other information was

uncovered.

April 28: Police viewing surveillance footage after a complaint were able to spot a white male writing the words "Racist Propaganda in Modern America" onto a flyer hung by the Black Student Association.

The poster advertised a Black Community Conference sponsored by the club.

The subject has not been identified according to the most recent reports.

April 28: One female student reported that another student made her feel uncomfortable.

The police report did not specify what made her feel uncomfortable.

April 27: A woman was charged with trespassing after verbally accosting a bus driver and refusing to exit a metro city Embark bus when she could not pay her fare. The woman, who had her child with her, provided false information to officers.

April 27: A student who had been granted a victim protection order against her ex-boyfriend contacted campus police after seeing his vehicle on campus.



The student was referred to the title IX coordinator and informed of the escorts provided by campus police.

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 OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld."

tion 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.



THE CITY OF EDMOND IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SUMMER JOBS:

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LAKE MAINT. HELPERS
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**FOR INFO & OTHER OPENINGS: WWW.EDMONDOK.COM/JOBS
APPLY AT 7 NORTH BROADWAY.**



Political science capstone presenters relax with Dr. Markus Smith, political science professor, after presenting their research and data to faculty, staff, friends and family. For some, this was the final project before graduating. *Erika Fierro/Pioneer*

Students present research on social issues

ERIKA FIERRO

Online Editor
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Ten OCCC student researchers presented their findings about addiction, the justice system and a wide range of other issues with supportive data to a college union filled with attendees during the Eighth Annual Scope and Methods of Political Science Capstone Presentations at the end of the spring semester.

Dr. Markus Smith, political science professor, moderated as students and family members asked the presenters questions about their semester-long research project findings and the data of each political issue. Each student's presentation was five to seven minutes long.

Faculty, specifically professors from the Social Sciences division also challenged the students with questions.

Topics ranged from addiction epidemic, the constitutionality of lengthy nonviolent offenders, under representation of women in U.S. government and others.

The presentation marked the eighth year OCCC

students in the capstone class have shared their findings with the college community.

The capstone course is a requirement for political science majors to graduate from OCCC.

"When I created this course back in 2008, my idea was for the department to have a capstone class, and more importantly to have these guys show off their research and their presentations," said Smith.

Students said they were affected personally by the research project. "It has made me want to run for (political) office," Destiny Kuykendall, outgoing OCCC political science graduate, said.

Kuykendall discussed the lack of equal representation of women in government, specifically in the U.S. She explained possible reasons why women do not seek political office positions, one being motivation.

Also presenting was Madison Robbins, outgoing graduate with an associate's in arts degree in political science pre-law. Her research project about child abuse was both educational and emotional, she said.

"Child abuse is an issue that has always been close to my heart, and so I just wanted more people to be more aware about it, and I think it's something that

needs to be discussed," Robbins said.

"From this experience I have realized the importance of research, the importance of getting involved, and the importance of education itself," she said.

Audience members questioned Robbins on whether offenders should be tried on a federal level as opposed to continuing to allow local and state courts to prosecute and sentence.

Robbins said the issue should be discussed on all levels and more needs to be done to protect children from any type of abuse.

2016 graduate Leonora LaVictoire, political science, discussed possible reasons why black males in community college have lower graduation rates compared to white males.

She said she surveyed black males asking them what resources should be offered to help them.

Other topics presented included the rape culture in American society presented by Erica Burwell, capitalism and poverty presented by Monica Gordon, violations of the Sixth Amendment presented by Taylor Ancik, and the Supreme Court presented by Sam Knight.

SPORTS



Members of OCCC's rowing team pose beside the Oklahoma river after time trials. *Markus Zindello/Pioneer*

Row Triple-C prepares to compete at festival

TRAVIS FORSYTH

Sports Writer

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It's that time again, to bring out the red, white and blue as the Stars and Stripes Festival returns to Riversport Adventures at the Boathouse District in Oklahoma City.

The festival will be an all day event and many competitions will be held including, white water rafting, kayaking, dragon boating, and the regatta.

The OCCC traditional rowing teams will compete in the regatta on June 25.

In preparation, the rowers had their time trial on Friday, June 10.

Team member, Phillip Bueno spoke about what the trials were for, explaining that all the teams got together to have practice races in order to decide who gets the best lane.

"Basically, they're for placement" he said.

"The team that finishes first gets the best lane and the team that finishes last gets the worst lane," explained Bueno.

Bueno went on to explain that the best possible



lane is the third lane, usually because it has the best current flow.

However, finishing with a 2.16, seven seconds slower than last year's team, this year's team will have their work cut out for them after finishing towards the bottom of the standings.

Coach Jehlan Beaver, described his team's performance at the trial.

They had a fast start, but once they hit midway around the 250 mark, it was like the bottom fell out and they slowed down, Beaver said.

The rowers however are not discouraged, according to team member Erin Peden.

"We had a rocky start at the beginning of the season due to new members learning the techniques as well as missing practice because of the weather, but I felt we pulled it together and had a smooth performance at the time trial," Peden said.

The OCCC rowers will be competing in the 500 meter novice class races at the regatta, in which they will put their focus on winning one of the four possible heats for a chance to qualify for the fifth heat where a championship looms in the balance. The first place winners of the previous four heats will only qualify for the fifth however.

The winners will receive a first, second, and third place trophy and medal and have the opportunity to throw either their coach or coxwain (steerer/navigator) overboard.

Despite a rocky start, the rowing team has their sights on a championship and OCCC students are welcome to come support them.

The Festival will have food, music and family activities, admission is free and parking is \$10.

Students: guarded from discrimination

Continued from Page 1

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt advocating heavily against it.

Pruitt said there was a fear of students deciding they were female solely to gain access to the women's restroom.

In a letter of reply to the directive, Pruitt wrote, "Students and their families cannot even seek reassurance that a transgender student's self-definition is not premised on whim," and that Oklahoma, "will vigorously defend the State's interests."

OCCC does not track the number of transgender students enrolled in the college.

Aubrey Meneses, a transgender woman and concurrent student at OCCC said she is also cautious about bathroom use because she fears for her own safety.

Meneses uses the women's restroom, as it is where she feels safest.

"It's a matter of using the restroom that I feel comfortable in. I don't want to put myself in a position of jeopardy, because using the restroom can be scary for transgender people."

She said she disagrees with the state's lawsuit and other state's efforts to block transgender citizens' rights.

"These laws and bills that are being passed are mostly targeting trans women," she said.

"Some people have this misconception that trans women in particular are just men pretending to be women, but that's not the case."

"We're women. It's who we are, and you need to respect that. It's not intended for any malicious purposes."

Even though cautious, Meneses said her experience at OCCC has been overall positive.

"I always feel respected by my teachers," she said. "For the most part, with the other students I've been respected as well."

Her experiences are not common when compared with national data, however.

A national survey by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network found that 75 percent of transgender youth feel unsafe at school, and that 59 percent of transgender students have been denied access to restrooms consistent with their gender identity.

This can be highly discomfoting for transgender students, and frightening, according to glsen.org.

Ryan Middleton, a transgender man and nursing student at OCCC, said he felt distressed when using a bathroom that doesn't fit his gender identity.

"Having to use the bathroom that doesn't correlate with my gender identity is a real ugly feeling," he said. "It's not fun. It makes me feel bad, and makes me and everyone else feel uncomfortable."

If any student feels uncomfortable using the



women's or men's restrooms, they can safely use the gender neutral family restrooms located on the first floors of the Main Building, Science, Engineering and Math building, and Health Profession Center.

Budget: student cost increases proposed

Continued from Page 1

OU and OSU, the legislature lumped in all of higher education, and is expecting OCCC to reduce bloat that does not exist.

In attempts to adjust to the decreasing budget, the college has had to do more than cut spending but must increase its incoming revenue also.

Vice Chair of the Board of Regents, Devery Youngblood said he was impressed with the measures the college has taken to meet its budget challenges.

"We're cutting into muscle and bone here. We can't cut out of it, how can we grow out of it," Youngblood said.

Students may see a raise in the cost of tuition, new fees and increased mandatory fees beginning this fall, but the increased cost may still be less than students have shown they'd be prepared to pay.

A \$4.20 per credit hour increase in tuition costs for resident (in-state) students has been proposed. A new mandatory security fee of \$5 per credit hour has also been proposed along with an increase of \$2 per credit hour to the mandatory facility fee for students. If the Board of Regents approved the proposed



measures, in-state students will pay \$11.20 more per credit hour in the fall.

This is less than the \$13.13 per credit hour increase The Leadership Council, a group of student representatives, voted in April to support when deciding to back a possible 15 percent rise in tuition.

State allocation and tuition and fees make up the most significant portion of the college's operating budget, Boyd said.

He said that the facility fee has not been changed

since 2008, but costs to maintain the college have continued to increase each year.

"We have deferred maintenance," Boyd said, "We have parking lots that are in need of repair ... and so after years of not increasing this facility use fee, we believe that it's time."

Boyd told Regents that for the first time in his career, tuition and fees contribute to more of college's operating budget than state appropriations.

College President Jerry Steward said at the meeting that even the added revenue from tuition and fees, if passed, will not entirely fix all ailments brought on by budget cuts.

"That will not even come close to offsetting our reductions but it will help us maintain the level of services," Steward said..

Before the board voted to enter an executive session to further discuss the financial plan, Steward commended Boyd for his hard work and dedication.

The proposed tuition and fee increases have been proposed to appear as an agenda item to be voted upon at the Board of Regents meeting at 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 20 on campus in the Al Snipes Boardroom.

Take part in the conversation – leave a comment on our facebook page.
www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer

CAMPUS COMMUNITY



OCCC students stand with Pride

Defiant to hatred and terror after shootings in Orlando, LGBTQ community stands united and strong

GRANT BAUER
News Writing Student

OCCC lesbian, gay and transgender students say they won't be deterred from living their lives, even though the nation is reeling from a terror attack at an Orlando, Fla., gay bar over the weekend.

LGBTQ students say they are not backing down from going to the Oklahoma City Gay Pride parade June 26 or from going to clubs or other events.

The campus president of the college's LGBTQ club, Sexuality And Gay Acceptance, Aubrey Menesses has plans to open up spaces around campus for people who need someone to talk to.

Menesses said the shooting is terrible, but thinks it's just one in a series of attacks, and the others are just unheard of.

"(Attacks on gays) happens all the time and goes unnoticed," Menesses said.

This attack, however, made national news early Sunday morning after a gunman, Omar Mateen, opened fire in a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., killing 49 and injuring 53 others, resulting in what is

being called the worst mass shooting in modern history.

After the initial shootings, there was a standoff that lasted several hours and eventually led to a shootout between Mateen and Orlando S.W.A.T. according to CNN.

OCCC is planning to take part in the Oklahoma City Gay Pride parade next weekend.

While many on campus have said they are still reeling from the events in Orlando, some have said they will defy the intentions of the terrorist act by continuing to live their lives and by going to the parade.

Biology Major Nicholas Musal, 56, said he's had nightmares lately that something bad would happen to him because he is gay, but he will still go to the parade that winds down 39th Street in Oklahoma City.

"I know there was some guy who tried to take explosives to the Pride parade in California and was arrested. That's foolishness!"

"I don't think there's a lot of reason to worry here, but if it happens, it happens," he said.

Musal said he was beat up once outside a Tulsa gay bar, but he said

members of the gay community have always been targets of attacks and he's stronger for it.

"Since before Stonewall (a gay club where a police raid in 1969 led to a demonstration of pride in protest of the harassment the LGBTQ community faced) we've been attacked. Even by the Oklahoma police we were attacked in Tulsa (in 1977), but we're not going to stop living our lives," he said.

"The murders by this crazy guy in Orlando is terrible for all of us across the country, but through tragedy we become family."

Other students said they will still attend the local gay clubs, including the Copa club on Northwest 39th Street, in Oklahoma City.

"I'm still going clubbing, and I will go out about the same," said David De la Rosa a recent OCCC diversified studies graduate.

Phillip Bueno an automotive technology student and four-season member of the college's corporate rowing team said he has very strong feelings about still going to clubs.

"(The shooting) shouldn't be a reason to run and hide," He said, "Be proud."

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Give Blood, June 21

One pint of blood can save up to three lives. Stop and donate blood during the Red Cross Blood Drive 9 a.m.- 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, in the General Dining Area. Donors should bring a valid photo ID. Water, juice and snacks will be available for donors after giving blood. For more information about the blood drive contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523 or email at studentlife@occc.edu.

Welcome to OCCC, June 23

New student orientations are available for incoming students wishing to get acquainted with the OCCC campus to be prepared for the fall semester which begins August 15. The next orientation will begin at 2 p.m., Thursday, June 23 in the Student Life office. This is a free event and registration is preferred. Orientations are also available the rest of the month of June and July. To register, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523.

Red Carpet Premiere, June 24

Purchase your tickets to a red carpet premiere that includes meeting filmmakers, a behind the scenes video and a Q&A panel of an official selection of the deadCenter Film Festival 2016, Even in Death. The screening will begin at 7 p.m., Friday, June 24, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. The whimsical animated short film presented by AutismOklahoma is about a young boy named Jonah who deals with love, loss and life. General admission tickets are \$10 each. To purchase tickets visit <https://www.autismoklahoma.org/Purchase-tickets-even-death>.

Withdraw without a refund, June 24

Friday, June 24 is the last day to withdraw from early 4-week classes without a refund. Students must withdraw by 5 p.m. To withdraw, log on MineOnline at mineonline.occc.edu and click "Drop Classes." Students with financial aid should check with the Financial Aid office prior to withdrawing.

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

CLASSIFIED BUSINESS AD: \$8 per 7 lines. Find out how to advertise affordably. 405-682-1611, ext. 7674.

Garage Sales

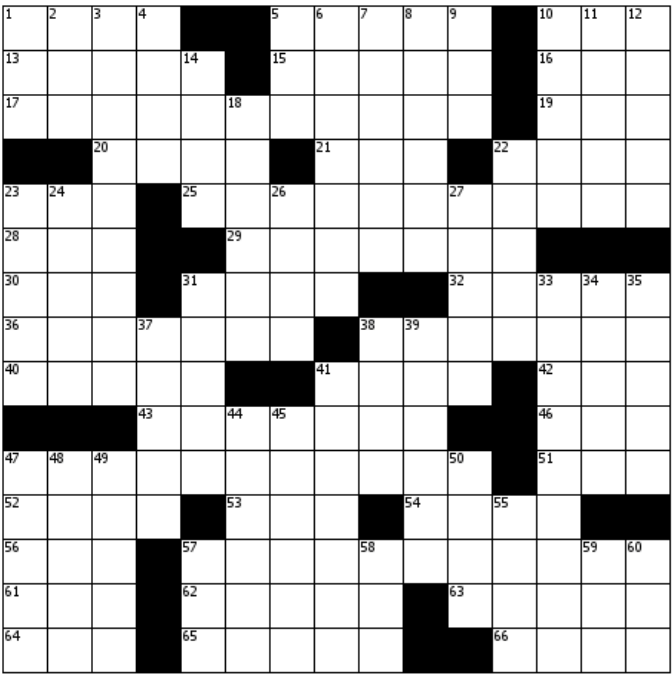
Community Garage Sale: Chisholm Run Subdivision in Yukon. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 18 - 19. Cemetery Road and SW 25th Street. **Lots of Stuff! Come Find Some Treasures!**

Furniture

Coollest Kid's Bed: "The Fort." Loft-style, rustic looking wooden bed frame and drawers. Sturdy construction. \$700 obo. **Text 405-208-9156 for pictures.**

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1. Ungentlemanly chaps
 - 5. "___ Solemnis" (Beethoven)
 - 10. Sternward
 - 13. Parts of large developments
 - 15. Invitation from within
 - 16. "___ Clown" (Porter)
 - 17. Film for kids
 - 19. NHL great
 - 20. Denounce in no uncertain terms
 - 21. One of over a dozen popes
 - 22. Magazine insert?
 - 23. Biblical hostile power
 - 25. Literary character for kids
 - 28. "Intimations of Immortality," e.g.
 - 29. Pre-fight action
 - 30. Cartoonist Key
 - 31. Prohibits
 - 32. Lincoln and Zumwalt
 - 36. On the road
 - 38. Alongside each other
 - 40. Database fodder
 - 41. Ed, singer of "My Cup Runneth Over"
 - 42. ___ de la Plata
 - 43. Brothers of country music
 - 46. "You betcha!"
 - 47. Fictional character for kids
 - 51. Miniver or Robinson
 - 52. One for your side
 - 53. CD tag
 - 54. Enemy of the Moor
 - 56. Likewise
 - 57. Cartoon character for kids
 - 61. Popular numero
 - 62. Of an eye part
 - 63. Council of Trent, e.g.
 - 64. Get-up-and-go
 - 65. "Fix" a pet
 - 66. Enthusiastic start for boy or girl



- Down**
- 1. Creature in a clowder
 - 2. Mannheim cry
 - 3. Brought to the surface
 - 4. 1994 Emmy winner Ward
 - 5. The "M" of "MIB"
 - 6. A pencil, compared to a pen
 - 7. Major Winchester portrayer David Ogden
 - 8. Manzanillo madam
 - 9. Neighbor of Bol.
 - 10. Bikini blaster
 - 11. Physicist involved with 10-Down
 - 12. Pictorial card
 - 14. Birdbrain
 - 18. Kind of show
 - 22. White poplar
 - 23. "Teflon Don"
 - 24. Theater in ancient Greece
 - 26. Space Age drink
 - 27. Teen followers
 - 31. "Danke!" antecedent, often
 - 33. L.A. university (with "Loyola")
 - 34. Wickerwork twig
 - 35. F3.5 and F4.0
 - 37. Out of practice
 - 38. Worshipper's word
 - 39. Elton's songwriting partner
 - 41. Certain homecoming attendees
 - 44. Attain recognition
 - 45. Chophouse choices
 - 47. Devour with gusto
 - 48. Garbo line ender
 - 49. Sailing craft
 - 50. They have orange flesh
 - 55. "The Disasters of War" artist
 - 57. Kind of wrestling
 - 58. Improper way to write 59 in Roman numerals
 - 59. AA candidate
 - 60. Author Le Shan

Nothing Will Ever Be the Same.

Smoking gave me throat cancer at 39. Now I breathe through a hole in my throat and need this machine to speak.

— Rosalbo Martinez

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Don't Text And Drive

Drivers who use cellphones are 4 times more likely to get into crashes that could be fatal

Using a cellphone while driving delays a drivers reactions as much as having a B.A.C. level of 0.08

"Don't Drive while inTEXTicated. Driving while inTEXTicated kills."



CAMPUS WILDLIFE: Newborn wildlife has been appearing on campus in recent weeks. These two ducklings greeted walkers Tuesday, June 15 on the trail near the school's retention pond. All should be aware of animals crossing roadways and parking lots. *Jorge Krzyzaniak/Pioneer*

New certificate programs may be coming soon

TREY BELL
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Students wanting to gain expertise in drone technology, workplace communication, digital design and digital photography may have the opportunity this fall.

OCCC is anticipating implementing four new Certificate of Mastery programs in 2016, if approved by the college's Board of Regents.

OCCC would be the only college or university in the state to provide the certificates, Anne DeClouette, acting director of Academic Affairs said.

DeClouette presented the concepts for four certificates to the OCCC Board of Regents, May 16, in the Al Snipes Board Room, at its regular meeting.

All four certificates were approved with a 3-0 vote with Regent Chris Lawson abstaining.

One certificate of mastery, in Unmanned Aerial systems, focuses on training students to work with technology commonly referred to as drones.

The program will provide training for land, air,



and submerged unmanned systems, DeClouette said.

"This goes beyond the traditional hobbyist programs you may have seen at other institutions," DeClouette said. "It really does start to get into the back-end operations of and programming of the drones and unmanned aerial systems."

"There are estimates that there are hundreds of positions in film and video, property inspection, safety and security, agriculture, and many other industries," she said. "It's wonderful that we will be on the front end of helping that industry to emerge."

Also being offered is the Certificate of Mastery in Workplace Writing and Communications, which is designed to provide writing, speaking and advanced communications to increase marketability in the workplace.

"(The Certificate) demonstrates to employers that recipients can communicate effectively, and it improves reading and critical thinking skills," she said. "It also demonstrates a level of fluency and comprehension in English, particularly for interna-

tional students."

The certificate offers students documented proof for an employer in any country to show they have the necessary communication skills for employment or a promotion, she said.

Those interested in graphic design skills will also have a potential certificate to attain in the form of a Certificate of Mastery in Graphic Design, which is designed for students who wish to acquire experience in graphic design software, photography, and layout and design.

"Our students will be able to gather information from clients about the project design, think critically and creatively, and propose visual solutions to clients," DeClouette said.

The final certificate DeClouette presented to the board is in photography/digital imaging, which is designed to provide training for graduates working in today's image-driven economy, she said.

For more information about what was discussed at the May 16 meeting, visit the Meeting Agendas page at occc.edu/aboutus/boardofregents.html.

As of press time, it remains unclear as to when these programs may be implemented.