

PIONEER



Digging through the bins, a customer seeks some new musical treasure at Guestroom Records in Oklahoma City. *Victor A. Pozadas/Pioneer*

For the Record:

By Victor A. Pozadas

The crackle of the speakers caught my ear when I entered the store. The hustle and bustle of casual look-throughs in rows of new and ancient tunes was contagious.

The store isn't filled with musicians.

This store is filled with vinyl – as in records.

And on this day, after spending seven hours at Guestroom Records in Oklahoma City and speaking with hundreds of lovers, spenders, and collectors, I can say I'm ready to start a record collection.

I saw a culture and passion in the people who buy them. They talked about going through their grandparents' stash and wandering into obscure antique stores to find a good batch to dive into.

It feels like a really fun scavenger hunt.

Lana Davidson and Patrick Curry said they walked into the shop with anticipation and curiosity. They seemed happy to have the time to discover and listen to music.

"We come in here never looking for anything in particular. With random browsing, we always find something," Curry said. "It forces you to be an active

listener. You can't go too far from your record player. You're always having to maintain your records, maintain your turntable, and you can't not be in the room pretty much."

Davidson said she thought they were both casual listeners and the lack of pressure helped expand their musical tastes.

When I think of taking that first step, the word 'intimidating' comes to mind.

There were thousands of records on the walls and shelves on the floor. Some people browsed, some people had a goal, but I just wanted to find a start.

Davidson gifted a record player to Patrick as a spur-of-the-moment thing and found that it gave them the excuse to go out and explore music.

"I thought it would be fun. We've connected with music a lot so I thought it would be a fun gift. After that he started purchasing more and more vinyl," she said.

They said they both love music and go to shows all the time.

"It's a fun little hobby, and I think that it's pretty cool that in this day and age when no one buys albums, if you like someone's stuff, you can just buy their album here," Curry said.

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EDITORIAL/OPINION

Time to hold our hypocritical leaders accountable



During Oklahoma’s spring break, Senator Ralph Shortey was caught with a 17-year-old boy in a Super 8 Motel room.

The boy’s father had called police after midnight on March 9 to check on his son’s well-being. The boy reportedly had a history with sexual solicitation and drug abuse.

After three police officers arrived at the door of Room 120, Shortey said no one else was in the room with him.

Shortey opened the door and police discovered the teen.

The smell of “raw marijuana” was also present in the room, along with an opened box of condoms and a bottle of lotion.

The boy told police he had met Shortey through Craigslist a year ago. The boy told police that he “used to sell weed” to Shortey.

The two used the messenger app Kik to plan their meeting, with the boy writing, “I need money for spring break.”

Shortey replied, “I don’t really have any legitimate things I need help with right now. Would you be interested in ‘sexual’ stuff?” The teen responded, “Yes.”

Shortey has since been charged with three felonies, including engaging in child prostitution, engaging in prostitution within 1,000 feet of a church, and transporting a minor for prostitution.

In recent months, Shortey introduced a bill that would reverse any changes State Question 780 would have introduced. SQ 780 changed most drug possession crimes into misdemeanors.

Shortey believed voters were “misinformed” about the results of SQ 780.

At a town hall meeting on Feb. 13, Shortey said he wanted to place distance modifiers back into the law that would “increase penalties if drugs are found on a person within 1,000 feet of a public area like a park or school.”

Though no marijuana charges were brought against Shortey, the same laws that would’ve lessened Shortey’s drug charges were the ones he was fighting against.

Shortey was known as a “family values conservative.” Something about Shortey’s rendezvous with a minor didn’t scream “family values,” and the GOP quickly caught onto that.

Promptly after Shortey was charged, Gov. Mary Fallin and Senate leaders called for Shortey’s resignation. Shortey stepped down the same day.

Shortey is facing up to 25 years if he is proven guilty of all three charges.

A proper response to misconduct in the legislature should be an end to all state-paid benefits to the representative. While Shortey was earning a salary as a senator, he was spending said money on a 17-year-old for “sexual stuff.” This goes beyond hypocrisy - it’s disgraceful.

Despite the ugly circumstances, Shortey will get to keep his retirement benefits whether he is convicted in the child prostitution case or not.

His annual pension will be about \$9,200, and he can start drawing his retirement benefits in 25 years when he turns 60.

Former Tulsa Rep. Dan Kirby resigned earlier this year after a sexual harassment investigation. Complaints of sexual harassment were made against Kirby by two of his former assistants, prompting the creation of a special house committee to investigate the claims.

The special committee called for his expulsion for asking his assistant to send topless photos and sending her inappropriate messages.

His consequences? Kirby still receives a state pension that built up from his eight-year tenure as a legislator.

Hold our legislators accountable.

Shortey’s scandal should stand to remind us that our legislators have to be held accountable as human beings. Though we should always expect our representatives and senators to ethically represent their voters, we can no longer naively believe that, by nature, this expectation will be fulfilled.

If a legislator shows signs of abhorrent behavior, we as voters have to work to elect a new representative or senator who shows a better range of moral judgment.

We have to be proactive in our elections, voting for the best-fit candidate instead of our favored political party. Democrat Michael Brooks-Jimenez, who lost to Shortey in 2014, is running for Shortey’s now vacant seat.

“Today, a chapter of failed leadership has closed. We find ourselves ready to restore the voters’ trust and bring integrity back to the office,” Brooks-Jimenez said in response to Shortey’s charges.

A 2014 study by researchers at Indiana University and the University of Hong Kong ranked Oklahoma the 11th most corrupt state in America. That’s far too high of a ranking for Oklahomans to be careless with who we elect and reelect.

When special elections for Shortey’s seat come up, let’s remember what we are leaving behind and what we are moving toward. Oklahomans deserve a senator who practices what he preaches, and doesn’t spend his downtime paying a 17-year-old for sex and weed.

—SOPHIA BABB
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PIONEER

Vol. 45 No. 15

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The PIONEER is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts. It is published bi-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 reserves 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

MOVIE REVIEW | STAR POWER FAILS TO CARRY THIS FILM

'Song to Song' feels like cheap parody

Most people know what to expect out of a post- "Tree of Life" Terrence Malick film — loose plot structure, hypnotizing camera movements and a whispering narration. "Song to Song" delivers on that promise. It's structured just like his last three films. So what's different? It feels disingenuous.

All the characters (a dream list of acclaimed actors including Ryan Gosling, Michael Fassbender, Rooney Mara, Natalie Portman, among many others) are in love and love so many people. It never ends up like they think it should though, so they go to another person moments after saying they unconditionally love another.

Setting the film in Austin, Texas, around a gaggle of music industry yuppies who feverishly wish they were Earthbound shopping hippies, feels patronizing. Like a middle-aged woman sporting a Yves Saint Laurent hat in an art gallery, staring at a painting of starving children in Yemen, calling it "beautiful."

Gosling's character BV (stop laughing) falls for Faye (Rooney Mara), but she's also in love with Cook (Michael Fassbender). Love triangles upon love triangles. Welcome to this world where people switch partners at every glance and people lose desire just as fast.



This is the first of Malick's films that should be rightfully labeled "pretentious." The first ninety minutes is spent in a world that feels like Malick strapped a wide-angled lens to a GoPro, followed the cast around Austin, and decided to add narration about endless love and destiny after the fact.

Once you realize that the first twenty minutes are copied and pasted with different characters inserted thereafter, you give up hope that Malick had any sense of direction. It played to a small audience of about ten participants and over half left before the halfway mark. The few who survived should have been given participation trophies and a therapist on the house.

Everyone who is decorated by Malick's palette is absolutely deplorable. Rooney Mara's character bounces among an endless number of lovers with whom she claims to feel a deep connection, only to have stiff-faced breakups while whispering a voiceover akin to "what happened to your soul, my sweet darling?"

Pizzagate becomes a biblical scripture of facts compared to Terrence Malick's examination of relationships. There's no way he has ever had been intimate with another person if the relationships in "Song to Song" are to be taken seriously. In his world, couples pet each other in front of daylight blinding windows and

murmur to their partner about what part of their soul they claim.

It goes beyond being an atrocious and insulting film. It makes love seem tedious and repetitive. It makes affection and desire feel binary and dull. It makes deception and betrayal feel mandatory and mundane. And it makes a two-hour runtime feel like purgatory.

—KEVIN TUDOR
STAFF WRITER

MUSIC REVIEW | ALBUM CAPTURES TASTE OF MUSICAL FUTURE

The M Machine's album experiments with new sounds

Contemplating what the future will sound like is interesting to me.

We think of the future as flying cars and beeps and boops all around us, but what if it wasn't? It could be anything we want it to be, and this duo has an inkling to what it could be.

The M Machine is composed of Ben Swardlick and Eric Luttrell out of the bay area. They have been on my radar since they signed on to OWSLA records

in 2011. Their beginnings were unique, frantic and much heavier than their current incarnation in the album "Glare." It has been a healthy progression when you look back at their discography, as they had their roots firmly placed within the electronic music scene.

This album is a confident step into the alternative for them. They've played with hard dance, electro house and even a bit of drum & bass, while still having off-kilter highlights in songs like "Faces" or "Tiny Anthem" from their EPs "Metropolis I" and "Metropo-



lis II" respectively. They showed potential for breaking out of the conventions and repetitiveness that electronic music seemed to be plagued with.

They presented an almost cinematic approach in their music that many fans, including myself, became infatuated with. A well-balanced mix of synthetic and tangible sounds created airy background choruses while the clash of cymbals and ups and downs of electronic keystrokes

elevated the tracks from monotony to wonder.

This was the hope I had for their new album "Glare." I wanted that fusion of man and machine to exist in any sounds or songs they created. This album brings it as close as it can get.

"Blind" featuring Luisa Gerstein is an opening with grace. Ambient noise and ghostly voices are muffled by an ascending bridge of accordion and drone-like chords. They are given structure and pace by a lone cymbal and snares that come in and introduce the

song. It's the kind of start that takes patience and creates curiosity in a phenomenal way.

Ambience is a core strength in The M Machine. The striking synths in the next track "Voyeur" complement the echoey vocals in a way that brings out the best in both. The drawn-out singing takes getting used to, but the way the song is composed gives it enough room to breathe and works for the narrative of the track.

The album isn't perfect, as there are tracks that sadly fall into monotony and sour tones. "We Had It All" creates a dependency in the five-note body it introduces at the start, which gets old fast, and "Honeybucket" has lazy vocals that really don't favor the glitchy pace of the rest of the song.

There are more highlights than not in "Glare," from the acoustic and electronic marriage in "Heart Sandwich" to "Some Animal" where the drum kit takes the front seat in a harsh yet soothing song. "Glare" can have a bit of a crazed consistency, but experimentation always comes with kinks, and sometimes that's not such a bad thing.

—VICTOR A. POZADAS
ART & MUSIC WRITER



(Left to right) (Back) Kathryn Bland, Amanda Rietz, Julie Hathaway, Christine Timmons (Front) Bonita Spinner, Kendra Miller, Rebekah Madu, Maryam Rahimi. *Photo Provided by CDC*

CDC earns accreditation

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Oklahoma City Community College's Child Development Center and Lab School earned official accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

NAEYC's accreditation has set national standards for early childhood education programs for over thirty years.

Bonita Spinner is the director of the center. "We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," Spinner said.

Less than 10 percent of national childcare centers acquire this accolade.

In order to obtain NAEYC accreditation, OCCC's CDC and Lab School vigorously worked through self-studying, quality-improvement processes and on-site visits from NAEYC Assessors to guarantee that the program met all ten of the program standards.

"NAEYC-accredited programs bring our definitions of excellence for early childhood education to life each day," said Kristen Johnson, senior director of Early Learning Program Accreditation at NAEYC.

"Earning NAEYC Accreditation makes the OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School an exemplar of good practice for families and the entire community."

We are hoping to expand our family through open, semi-open, or closed adoption. Considering adoption is an amazing act of love for your child and we want to honor your wishes of finding the right adoptive family.

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The Chicago White Sox take on the World Series Champion Chicago Cubs in spring training in Arizona. *Jorge Krzyzaniak/Pioneer*

AL Central teams face off as season opens

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In the past three seasons, the eventual American League Champions have come from the Central division. In 2016, the Cleveland Indians won their first American League pennant for the first time since 1997 and took the eventual champion Chicago Cubs to Game 7 of the World Series in 2017. The majority of last year's Indians team will return with their eyes set on winning the franchise's first championship in 69 years. The Kansas City Royals and Detroit Tigers will compete for second place and a possible wildcard. The White Sox are officially rebuilding, but some things never change. The Sox tend to get hot during the first three months of the year before dying off, never to be heard from for the rest of the year. And with little changes during the offseason, it looks like Minnesota is in for another year in purgatory.

Cleveland Indians - Cleveland enters 2017 as the defending American League Champion with sights on another trip to the fall classic. After losing two starters to injury last year in the postseason, the Indians enter 2017 with one of the top rotations in the league. They signed free agent slugger Edwin Encarnacion to fill the void in the middle of the lineup after Mike Napoli left for his third stint with the Texas Rangers. He last played for the team in 2015, after setting career highs with 34 home runs and 101 RBIs with

the Indians a year ago. Encarnacion comes to Cleveland after spending the previous eight seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays. In 2016, he finished with 158 hits, 99 runs scored, 42 homers, and 127 RBIs, which trump Napoli's numbers by a large margin. His addition to an already solid core in Jason Kipnis, Carlos Santana, Lonnie Chisenhall, and Yon Gomes should bode very well as the Indians prepare for a deep postseason run in 2017. **Projection: 92-70**

Kansas City Royals - Thanks to a tight budget and very little room in the salary cap, the Royals were unable to make much noise during the offseason and instead were forced to part ways with some fan favorites. Closer Wade Davis was traded to the Cubs for minor league outfielder Jorge Soler, who was a benchwarmer for most of his time with Chicago; outfielder Jarrod Dyson was traded to Seattle for pitcher Nate Karns; starting right hander Edinson Volquez signed with Miami, and slugger Kendrys Morales signed with Toronto. The hole in the pitching rotation was dug deeper when news surfaced about starting ace Yordano Ventura, who tragically passed away in a car accident in the Dominican Republic. The talented 22-year-old became known for throwing 100 mph fastballs with the greatest of ease and was one of KC's most valued prospects. In an effort to fill the void left by Ventura, the Royals added former Cubs pitcher Jason Hammel to the rotation. As long as the pitching remains solid and the bullpen doesn't crack, the Royals should

have a fulfilling season. Core players, Alex Gordon, Lorenzo Cain, and Mike Moustakas will return to the lineup after being placed on injured reserve in 2016 and young prospects Terrance Gore, Christian Colon and Raul Mondesi will add some extra juice to the Royals offense. **Projection: 87-75**

Detroit Tigers - Detroit will aim to make the postseason for the first time in three seasons following an 86-75 campaign in 2016. The Tigers had the option to bring up their young prospects for the upcoming season, but aside from trading outfielder Cameron Maybin, Detroit has decided to stick with their aging vets for at least another year. At the start of the offseason, their decision looked like it might cost them a playoff spot. However, as the season approaches, Detroit's veteran club suddenly appears to be a legit playoff contender after their rivals tore down their rosters during the winter. Detroit's 2017 campaign will come down to whether age catches up to their veteran stars like Miguel Cabrera and Justin Verlander. If the Tigers can stay healthy and their aging stars play like their former selves, then it should be enough for Detroit to make the postseason. However, if this season's campaign turns into a total dud, then expect the Tigers to begin a youth movement of their own.

Projection: 84-78

Chicago White Sox - Falling to 78-84 in 2016, Chicago has not seen an 80 plus win season in five years and have officially stated that the club will forego rebuilding mode in 2017. They

started by getting younger, improving their farm system from one of the worst to one of the best by dealing long time starting pitcher Chris Sale to the Boston Red Sox for pitcher Michael Kopech and 2B Yoan Moncada as well as sending outfielder Adam Eaton to Washington for pitching prospects Reynaldo Lopez and Lucas Giolito. Compared to other teams, however, the Sox aren't as bad as the word 'rebuild' suggests. Chicago still has a good core lineup with Tim Anderson, Todd Frazier, Melky Cabrera, and Jose Abreu. They may not be a 'playoff caliber' team but they could be the division spoiler for teams like KC and Detroit, whose only hope for a playoff berth is the wildcard. **Projection: 77-85**

Minnesota Twins - After an agonizing 2016 campaign that saw the Twins lose 103 games, Minnesota has hired new Chief Baseball Officer Derek Falvey, formerly with the Indians, and General Manager Thad Levine in attempt to turn the ship around. With the pledge to build a team that's capable of sustaining success, the Twins made a splash during free agency by signing catcher Jason Castro to a 3-year contract worth \$24.4 million, the richest free agent contract for an outside position player in franchise history. Minnesota made some slight adjustments after that, but nothing major to get them out of the division basement.

Projection: 62-100

See more MLB analysis from Travis Forsyth at pioneer.occc.edu and in the next print issue of the Pioneer.

Vinyl: Collecting, listening an experience

continued from page 1

The Internet has been a looming threat to physical media.

Davidson said it is easier to buy albums on the internet but there's been an uptick in record sales in shops like this.

In a recent report by The Guardian, record sales have surged. Vinyl sales reached a 25-year high in 2016 – a rise of 53 percent.

Lana and Patrick left the shop with a record by Benjamin Booker, on Jack White's label.

"He did a live session in Nashville and picked it up for ten bucks, so I thought, why not?" he said.

John Grey came to the store with a couple stacks of records. He spoke with familiarity to the guys at the counter. After dropping his albums, he started browsing.

"I usually come in about once a week, sometimes once every other week, but as often as I can. I work down the street and I like to just kind of dig through the stuff that people bring," he said.

Gray said he owned somewhere between eight and twelve hundred records.

How does a collection that big start?

"My mom and dad had some old records, mostly a bunch of music that they listened to. None of it was any good. There was a few Michael Jackson records here and there. I kind of like the whole tactile, analog, physical approach to media," Grey said.

In his days attending the University

of Oklahoma, Grey stumbled across Guestroom Records and started digging through their CD collection. He said he picked up one or two vinyl here and there – some Bob Dylan, some Stones, maybe a sprinkle of old jazz and blues.

"One by one, suddenly I had 20 albums and no record player and I was like, maybe it's time to start listening to these and not having them because they looked cool," he said.

He said the cover art and sound quality is a big draw for vinyl.

"It's a lot easier to get the sound people want onto a physical media, but I do think there is a whole, tactile, physical, like owning something physically is a big factor in that too," Grey said.

Playing that favorite album of yours over and over can be fun, but with the nature of how the discs are made and played, that album will slowly degrade over time. It's a double-edged sword.

"Vinyl degrades after time if you listen to it too much but I think you love something even more when you know you're going to lose it," Grey said.

He left with records by artists Run The Jewels, A Tribe Called Quest and old-school movie soundtracks by John Carpenter.

Jasmine Maloy has been working at Guestroom since last October. She started out at the Norman store, but was sent to the city location for a day as a little extra help.

"My collection is not too great right now; I'm working on it. This job helps. I have a lot of my dad's old stuff from

when he was in the Navy, so that's the majority of what I have. Then I'll add to it here and there. I used to have a bigger collection, but it's about these two sections big," she said.

Maloy pointed to a couple of forearm length rows of records. She said one of the drawbacks of owning records is the space they take up as a collection grows.

"I used to have more; then I was moving so I had to sell a lot. Money helps," Maloy said.

Having her own collection created a controlled restriction for the choices Maloy had regarding what to play. With streaming services like Soundcloud, Spotify, Apple Music, or Google Play, finding something to listen to can get pretty daunting.

"I've been thinking about it a lot lately, because I also use Spotify and the Internet," Maloy said. "There's so much to choose from and I think having my own vinyl is like, less options and it's all curated."

"It's all my favorite stuff and it's anything I can put on. I think I like not having to choose from thousands of things to listen to. The Internet is amazing for discovering new music, but I like when things are easier."

Maloy said she is keen on garage and punk rock.

"The artists I recommend people get into are Ty Segall, Thee Oh Sees, and The Murder City Devils," she said.

Joshua Peck was on the clock. Having worked there roughly six months, he's considered new blood at the shop. His collection has tripled in the time he's worked there.

"I think I just thought vinyl was cool, something to collect, something to hold since CDs died out right after I graduated high school. It kind of seemed like besides going to concerts, I wasn't giving back to bands that I liked,"

Peck said.

He saved up his money and bought a record. He said it's more fun to have your musical fandom in your hands and listen to it 'actively' – meaning getting up and walking to the player when the record stops playing, then flipping it over to hear the rest of it.

"You take the time to sit down and listen to your records. It's almost ritualistic," he said.

There's a difference between finding some background music to break the silence in a social situation and sitting down to mentally digest a good album,

interpret the lyrics or think about why you like the beat on that track so much.

Collecting music and being an active listener can take time and money. These are things many people take seriously, but with a bit of planning and know-how, collecting vinyl can be more approachable than you think.

"I'd probably recommend getting one or two records of bands that they currently like and then dive into dollar sections to try listening to different things without spending too much," Peck said. "Always check for scratches and warp. Always keep your needle replaced and I think your records should hold up. Records that were made in the 30's and 40's can still play fine if taken care of."

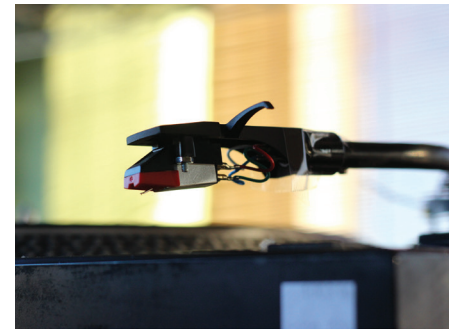
Peck recommends getting into Washed Out and other indie bands.

Hearing so many perspectives was reassuring. Being at Guestroom was relaxing and nostalgic. It allowed me to find those albums my mom used to make me listen to or admire some of the gorgeous album art propped up on the shelves.

Now I understand the appeal and fondness everyone around me felt. Being raised by the Internet doesn't mean we can't appreciate the analog and the tangible.

Sharing music can be as easy as sharing an earbud, but it's different when you can talk about something you love so much to sit down, set up, and take it all in for a few hours. It's an experience, and I want to be a part of that.

I learned much that afternoon, and I too left that day with an album tucked under my arm.



Joshua Peck and Jasmine Maloy. Photos by Victor A. Pozadas/Pioneer

Prison sentence continues for abuse victim

CASSIDY FALLIK
News Writing Student

The 2004 chapter of Tondalao Hall's story should have been closed by now.

Hall should be home with her children, going over their homework and discussing the adventures they hope to have over the summer.

Instead, she sits in a prison cell serving 30 years, while the man who abused her, Robert Braxton, lives free after being convicted of child abuse.

The State of Oklahoma filed child abuse charges against Hall and Braxton in the District Court for Oklahoma County in November of 2004. Because the case involves "child abuse," most people jump to the conclusion that both Hall and Braxton are guilty.

The real story is different.

Hall could not remember when she noticed her 20-month-old son starting to have a hard time walking. But when his leg began to swell, she did what any mother would do and brought him to the hospital. After examining the young boy, doctors determined that not only did he have a fractured femur, but he was also suffering from 12 fractured ribs.

Hall's son's injuries caused suspicion and the authorities were contacted to check in on the other two children. Similar injuries were found and both Hall and Braxton were arrested for child abuse.

Hall, having no prior arrests, took a "blind plea deal" and plead guilty to enabling child abuse even though she never actually witnessed any abuse. A "blind plea deal" is a guilty plea without a determined sentence, unlike a regular plea deal where a punishment has been established.

She also agreed to testify against Braxton. Braxton received a plea deal, admitting to the abuse of one child and receiving eight years of probation. He was released back to the streets the same day he was convicted of child abuse.

Oklahoma is one of many states to have a "Failure to Protect" law on the books.

This statute, also known as Title 10, makes enabling child abuse a felony that carries the same penalties as the actual child abuser. Hall's sentence is an extreme reflection of this law. But what happens when the person whose job it is to protect also fears for their life?



Tondalao Hall. Photo provided by the ACLU of Oklahoma

In her application for commutation Hall wrote that "Braxton regularly choked me, blackened my eyes, threw objects at me and verbally assaulted me, while my children were in the home." She also said, during the trial, Braxton "repeatedly threatened me" during the initial court hearings as they rode in the same transport together.

Brady Henderson, the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma's Legal Director said this was an example of a case where the prosecutor let the bad guy go and sent a victim to prison. "That's wrong; that's not justice. The court failed to even consider the fact that Tondalao Hall was the victim of severe domestic abuse even after it was brought to its attention," he said.

Leslie Steiner is a domestic violence survivor whose best-selling memoir, "Crazy Love," tells the story of how she, a Harvard-educated magazine editor turned businesswoman, fell into an abusive relationship.

"We tend to stereotype victims as grizzly headlines, self-destructive women, damaged goods. The question, 'Why does she stay?' is code for some people for 'It's her fault for staying,' said Steiner during her TEDxRainier Talk in 2012.

"We victims know something you usually don't. It's incredibly dangerous to leave an abuser because the final step in a domestic violence pattern is kill her. Over 70 percent of domestic violence murders occur after the victim has ended the relationship."

Each state is responsible for their own child welfare services, but they must comply with federal guidelines in order

to receive funding for certain services.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was passed in 1974 and has evolved over the years. It provides information on federal funding to States in support of prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution and treatment activities.

Every year the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board releases a report giving an analysis of the previous year's domestic violence homicides. The 2016 report for 2015 found that 111 people lost their lives as a result of domestic violence. According to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, domestic abuse murders accounted for 19.5 percent of all murders in 2015, with 29.8 percent of those murders classified as intimate partner homicides.

Other domestic abuse offenses reported by law enforcement included 873 sex crimes, 2,268 domestic assaults and 20,993 domestic assault and battery crimes. That brings the total of domestic abuse offenses in Oklahoma to 24,183.

Oklahoma continues to rank in the top ten nationally for women killed by men in single victim, single offender incidents.

In 2015, the majority of domestic violence homicides in Oklahoma were committed by family members and intimate partners. Overall, African-American females are murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents at a rate more than twice as high as white females.

"What if in some sick and strange world, she made the right decision to stay so her and her children can

be pen pals, instead of neighboring tombstones," said Candace Liger in a spoken word poem written for Hall on the Free Tondalao Hall website.

Locally, there are several options for those experiencing abuse. The YWCA in Oklahoma City provides the only shelter for battered women and children in Oklahoma County. The shelter offers help in obtaining legal services, transportation, housing information, medical care, child care and advocacy services for up to two months.

The Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault organizes programs to prevent and eliminate sexual and domestic violence in the State of Oklahoma and in Indian Country. Their Certified Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Professional certification helps to improve and enhance the quality of services for victims and survivors.

The Oklahoma Women's Coalition is a statewide network of individuals and organizations working together to improve the lives of women and girls through education and advocacy. Their website has a number of additional resources related to violence prevention and response.

Hall keeps pushing to be reunited with her children. She asked the Oklahoma County District judge who sentenced her for post-conviction relief. She appealed her case to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. And in 2015, Hall was granted a clemency hearing, a rare form of commutation considered an act of grace or mercy on behalf of the state.

Clemency would have released her while not clearing her of her crime. In her form for clemency she wrote, "I was trapped in an abusive relationship and I feared that alerting authorities would provoke [Braxton] to increase his violence. My actions, although detrimental to my family, were made out of fear rather than rationality." The Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board voted 5-0 against her application for a commuted sentence.

Hall isn't up for parole until 2030, 13 years from now.

While in prison, she has completed her GED and a parenting class. She writes letters to her children and they write back. Her case continues to be monitored by the ACLU of Oklahoma.

Women's march activists reject criticisms

BRANDON KING
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It was a mildly chilling day on January 21, 2017 at the Oklahoma City Capitol when 26 year-old Lindsay Moore marched in what would be known as the "Oklahoma Women's March."

Moore was dressed in a "Nasty Woman" shirt and carrying a sign that said, "Our rights aren't up for grabs and neither are we!" She was all smiles as she stood with her Grandmother Linda, her mom Tamara, and 7,000 other Oklahomans.

As News9 reported, the march, which started at the Capitol building, was supposed to bring attention to a bounty of issues including women's rights, the opposition of newly elected president Donald Trump, immigration reform and others.

"I have a daughter now," Moore said. "I feel like things that have happened in the last year, specifically things that have been said about women, like these cases where sexual assault is just brushed underneath the covers is important, so people know that we're not standing down to that anymore. It's important for when Isabella grows up to see me standing up for her when she can't stand up for herself."

Although the Women's March was highly attended throughout the world and was a non-violent protest, it encountered opposition.

President Trump questioned the protester's reasons behind the march.

"Watched protests yesterday but was under the impression that we just had an election! Why didn't these people vote? Celebs hurt cause badly," the president tweeted.



Lindsay Moore (right) and her mother (left). *Photo provided*

The freedom to protest peacefully is protected by the Constitution of the United States and this is a freedom that has been used frequently throughout the nation's history. From the March on Selma by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Occupy Wall Street, it has showcased the resilience of the American spirit by means of opposition.

But what happens when the voices of a movement are moot to the powers that be? Is it possible for more drastic actions to take place?

According to Webster's Dictionary, protests can be defined as, "a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something." In this same source, riots are labeled as, "a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd."

Neva Hinson, a nurse from Community Hospital that has participated in different protests on the Oklahoma City Capitol said the difference between protesting and rioting is clear. She said she believes that it is, "my legal right, as well as each American's."

"I have never rioted and consider it a negative approach to bring attention to any cause," Hinson said. "It negates any

message being delivered and is violent and divisive. Two completely different actions. Protesting should never be confused with rioting."

Dr. Sharon Vaughan, a political science professor at OCCC as well as a political scientist for the past 20 years, had some definitive thoughts when it came to the two ideologies. She would go on to say that, "rioting would never get us anywhere. At least not anywhere that we needed to go."

"I can understand when people are acting like Gandhi or Dr. King when they saw that a law was unjust or immoral and they acted through civil disobedience," Vaughan said. "What I can't get behind are people destroying other people's businesses and property that weren't involved in the matter at all. People need to trust the Democratic system. But it's funny how people say they hate the government but they sure do go to the government when they need the help."

This is why Lindsay Moore stood on the Capitol that day with her mother and her Grandmother, she said. As she held strong in her convictions, she

said she knew that, "the louder we get, the more it's talked about. If anything, people will inform themselves hopefully in a better way."

"Protesting is not for everybody," Moore said. "Being open and being honest about your beliefs and, specifically, your political party isn't always easy but you're American. The people who're in my family who are fighting for our freedom are fighting for our right to do this because we are Americans."

As a free and independent society, it is imperative that the people of that nation be able to speak their minds freely. Militaristic campaigns ranging from Puerto Rico in 1898 to the 2003 campaign in Iraq, the United States has fought, sacrificed, and died for the sake of democratic systems to live throughout the world.

To protest is not to plot against the country that bore you in the first place. To protest means to question certain ideas, specific actions that could hinder the American dream for the rest of the nation. Through protesting, one voice may turn into a roar and evoke change that could make this nation great.

Rioting is often draped in the connotations of chaos and collateral damage for the general public. Perhaps the proper action would be to understand where the foundation lies instead of pulverizing it for what it has erupted into from the very start.

"I would hope that at any point if they felt strongly and felt passionately about something that wasn't okay here that they would use their freedom of speech. That's what it comes down to. We're American and that's what America means. That's the most American thing I've ever done is be a part of a protest because that's my freedom to do so."

Finalists named in OCCC's annual talent show

VICTOR POZADAS
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Finalists for the fourth annual 'OCCC's Got Talent!' show have been announced.

Local comedian and OKC Comedy founder Spencer Hicks will serve as emcee.

Hicks performs regularly throughout the region and recently released his first

comedy album "Love It or Give It Back."

The 16 performers will have their time to shine on the Visual Performing Arts Center stage in front of a panel of distinguished judges who have the final say when it comes to the winner.

The event is set for 7 p.m. on April 20.

All proceeds from ticket sales and pledges will go directly in support of OCCC student scholarships.

Any sum can be donated to the participating artist of choice.

Student performers who made the cut include:

Macy Conaway, Cheyenne Hayes-spoken word artist, Shane O'Shea, Kyami Rach Rai, Andi Marie, Ardent Spirits, Judy Baine, Kristen Rutherford, Bethany Sackett, Elena Figueroa, Jett Stanton, Mikayla Balderas, Sydney Stout, Zachary Beebe & Penelope Miranda, John Taylor, Supersonic Love Club.

Judges for this year's event include

OKC Owner/Operator of Do It Rite Fitness Scott Do, MAGNA Talent Agency owner Michelle Swink, KOKH Anchor Mitch English and award-winning singer/songwriter Amanda Cunningham.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at a lowered price of \$8 at the Foundation Office, the OCCC VPAC Theater Box Office and at the weekly FAN Club sales tables or online.

OCCC journalists, broadcasters win awards

SOPHIA BABB
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Journalism and broadcasting students at Oklahoma City Community College won big with first place wins at both the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association awards and the 2016 Oklahoma Broadcasting Educators Association student broadcasting competition.

The Pioneer Newspaper was named “Best Overall Newspaper,” for its division. The paper also received top awards for “Best Interior Page Design,” and “Best Front Page Design” by the OCMA. The awards banquet was held in Stillwater on the campus of Oklahoma State University.

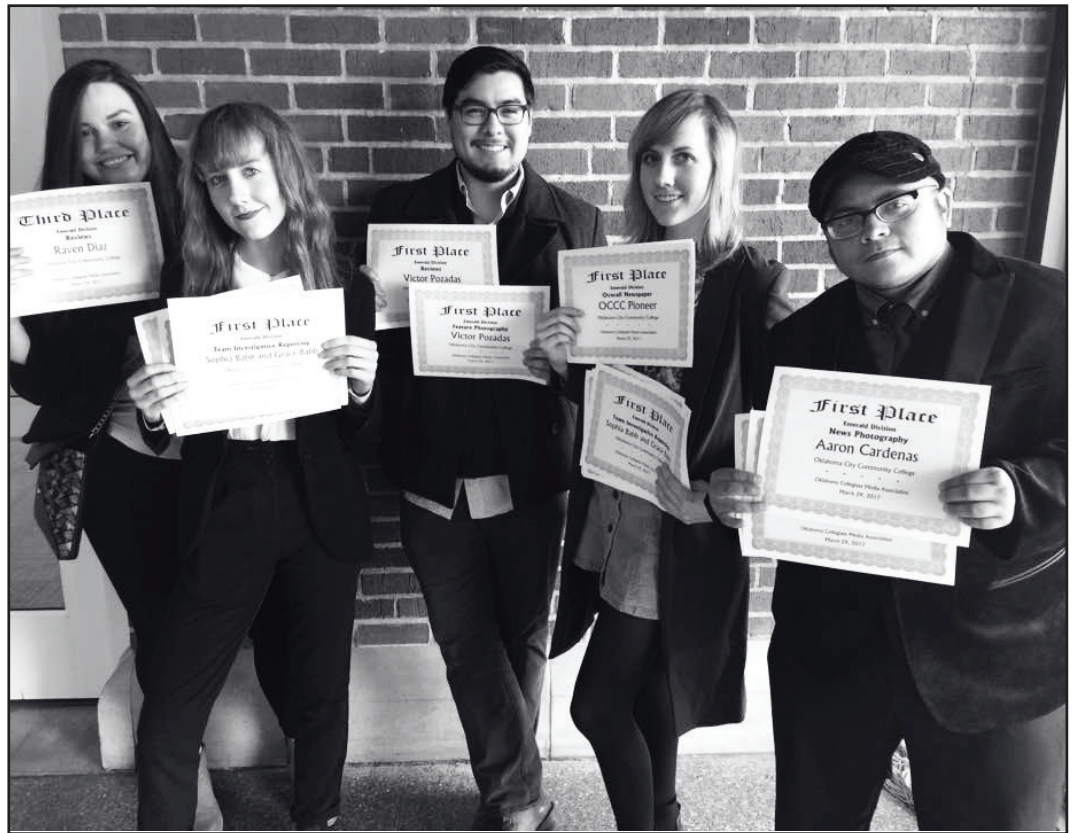
Several OCCC journalism students earned awards, including:

Aaron Cardenas, first and second place in news photography, and second place in feature photography.

Victor A. Pozadas won first place in multimedia storytelling, first place in feature photography, and first place in reviews.

Sophia Babb was named Student Journalist of the Year. Babb also received first place in team investigative reporting, general news writing, feature writing, investigative reporting and first and second place in editorial writing.

Grace Babb won first place in team investigative reporting, second place in column writing, an honorable mention in reviews and second place in general news writing. Raven Diaz won third place in reviews.



Pioneer staff, Raven Diaz, Grace Babb, Victor A. Pozadas, Sophia Babb and Aaron Cardenas. *M. Scott Carter/Pioneer*

At the 2016 OBEA competition, Caleb Carpenter won first place for a TV video essay. Michael Pipher won third place for a radio narrative short. And Darla Kilhoffer won third place for a radio commercial.

Grace Babb was also the recipient of the Harold and Frances Langford Stuart competitive scholarship.

Campus police encounter green leafy substance, toy weapon

GRACE BABB
Senior Writer
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A toy weapon, reportedly found under a tree and buried in dirt on the southside of campus was taken into custody and an informational report was completed, police at Oklahoma City Community College said.

On February 1, a suspicious vehicle was observed in the north alley of the OCCC Capitol Hill Center. The officer observed a male and a female occupying the vehicle and ordered the driver to roll down the window. The officer immediately recognized the odor of burnt marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. A metal grinder that contained two grams of a green leafy substance was found between the front seats. The substance field-tested positive for marijuana. The grinder and its contents were seized and submitted to Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation for destruction. The detainees were clear of any warrants and were released.

On February 2, a CDC teacher reported that a child had “scratched and bitten” her.

On February 6, two bathroom sinks in women’s restrooms at the FACE center were removed from the walls without authorization, causing damage.

On February 25, two juveniles were seen on the Wellness Center roof. The juveniles were escorted to the police office, and since they did not have cell phones or know their parents’ phone numbers, they were taken home by officers.

On February 27, 6-8 shrubs were stolen from the Capitol Hill Center.

On March 2, a student said his vehicle was stolen from Parking Lot B. After reviewing CCTV footage, it was determined that the student did not park in Lot B. His vehicle was located undisturbed in Parking Lot A.

On March 3, a WFF custodial services employee was terminated for threatening a co-worker with physical harm and for poor work performance.

On March 7, a male with a Bible was reported for yelling at students. Upon contact, the male was reminded that he was allowed to continue speaking as long as he was not blocking, stopping, or following people going about their business. He stated that he understood.

Later on March 8, multiple female students reported the same male yelled derogatory language at them. Statements were taken, and the male was served a trespass notice and escorted from campus property.

On March 27, a Pathways teacher states that unknown suspects have repeatedly entered her locked classroom and stolen approximately \$20-30 in coins from her coin bank.

We value your opinion. Send your letters to the editor to editor@occc.edu
and visit our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/OCCCPioneer](https://www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer)

Sex offenders on campus: Part 1

Do sex offenders at OCCC pose a threat or is this a second chance?

GRACE BABB
Senior Writer
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Editor's Note: This article is part one of a two part series. See the next issue for more.

It was the first day of class, and I felt pretty comfortable in the row I was seated in. I had been looking forward to making new friends, and had set a goal to become acquainted with those I was in classes with. One person in particular was exceptionally nice to me. I didn't think much of it, besides feeling a slight relief that someone else was making an effort besides me. As the class went on, the niceness continued. The compliments increased. It felt off. When I began to meet their too-nice words with uncomfortable shifts in my seat, they stopped. But it wasn't long after that I noticed another female student had been singled out for the affection. Near the end of the semester, I found out that "nice" person was a registered sex offender.

My mind reeled. How many other students had been subject to the seemingly innocent charm? How many others knew? How many others felt the way I did? Weeks earlier, I had seen girls younger than me assisting them for a project. I can almost always find a way to give someone the benefit of the doubt, but in this case, the possible repercussions of trust made it impossible. I had never thought about sex offenders' presence on the Oklahoma City Community College campus until then. I was less afraid for myself, and more afraid for those who were more vulnerable. I had to know: are sex offenders on campus a threat to the average student?

Upon researching the subject, I was surprised to find that statistically, they are not. Jill Levenson, sex crimes researcher at Lynn University, found that the average person believes 75 percent of registered sex offenders will reoffend. The actual numbers are nowhere close to 75 percent. Canadian sex crime researchers Kelly E. Morton-Bourgon and R. Karl Hanson conducted a quantitative review of sex offender recidivism rates (the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend), and found a rate of only 14 percent over five years. The rates increased over time, though, reaching 24 percent at 15

years. While any percentage of reoffense is frightening to think about, a nearly 50 percent difference is a hefty comparison.

I began this research thinking I'd find horrible statistics backing up my fear of the person in my class. But I began to start thinking differently about how sex offenders are handled by the government and the restrictions that define them.

While I strongly believe that victims should be protected at all costs, I was beginning to see the holes in the system that holds sex offenders accountable. One study in particular changed my views on residency restriction laws. Richard Tewksbury of the University of Louisville conducted an online survey to collect data from 584 different family members of sex offenders. The study found that employment problems and subsequent financial hardships were the most pressing issues according to family members. Residential restriction laws added housing crisis on top of the other challenges.

The unintended consequences of this all can result in homelessness and instability, usually pushing offenders to rural areas with less probationary supervision or access to specialized treatment. This can get in the way of treatment effectiveness, inadvertently causing more recidivism and re-victimization.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 93 percent of all sex crimes are perpetrated by offenders that the victims knew prior to the offense, and 60 percent of the offenses happen in the victim's home or the home of a person they know. In 2004, the Colorado Department of Public Safety used mapping software to track 13 sex offenders who recidivated. The recidivists were located randomly and were no more likely than non-recidivists to live within 1,000 feet of a school. The numbers show that residency restrictions don't prevent sex offenders from recidivism, and they don't make anyone much less likely to be a potential victim.

So when it comes to the OCCC campus, do sex offenders pose any real threat to students?

Training Officer and Community Liaison Steven Swinford said there is no evidence that there's been an issue that posed a threat to students having registered sex offenders at OCCC.

"Any reports of any incidents have been investigated, but we haven't found anything to be of a significant threat up to this point. But for me to predict the

future would be difficult," Swinford said.

In an email, OCCC Title IX Coordinator Dr. Regina Switzer said, "Every new employee must pass a background check, and then we check every current employee every year against the Oklahoma sex offender registry. As an open access institution, we cannot prohibit students who are registered sex offenders from attending here; however they are required to register with the OCCC CPD."

According to the Oklahoma Sex Offenders Registration Act, each local law enforcement authority must make its sex offender registry available upon request, without restriction. There is a list of registered sex offenders on campus that students can access at the Campus Police Department upon request, but the list isn't long, said Swinford.

"We only have three to four register per year on average, so not a whole lot," he said. "When it comes to someone that's going to register, if someone's going to want to come here, since it's higher learning, they have to come to the security or the police department after registering. They fill out some forms that go into a binder, and that goes into a master file. Anytime their status changes, they're supposed to come here."

When asked about the issue of keeping registered sex offenders from being in classes with concurrent high school students, Swinford said that the CPD has no involvement.

"Chief Piazza made contact with the District Attorney's office to get an opinion, because there was concern about the high school here. The DA's opinion was that registered sex offenders are allowed to come here as long as they register and enroll in classes. That's not against the law, they're not restricted from doing that," Swinford said.

However, if a sex offender was loitering or hanging around in an area with high school students when they didn't have a reason to be there, they could be charged, Swinford said. There have been no incidents so far.

I began this with a different mindset than I'm finishing with. When I think of sex offenders, I wonder about the system in place that may inhibit their progress, in addition to the threat they may pose. I breathe easier now knowing the likelihood of recidivism, but have an entirely different set of problems to be aware of. How do we effectively protect potential victims while reintegrating sex offenders back into society?

HIGHLIGHTS

BIBLE STUDY

Christians on Campus at OCCC will host Bible studies Mondays from noon to 12:45 p.m. and Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in room 1C5 of the Arts and Humanities building.

STUDENT ROCK BAND

April 11: OCCC Music presents the student Rock Band at 7:30 p.m. in the Bruce Owen Theater.

WITHDRAWAL

April 14: This is the last day to withdraw from 16 week Spring semester classes.

Students who withdraw at this are no longer eligible to receive a refund.

THOMAS FRIEDMAN

April 27: The bestselling author and three-time Pulitzer Prize winning Journalist will from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Visual & Performing Arts Center Theater. This event is free and open to the public.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

May 1: OCCC's Music presents the student Jazz Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free.

COMMENCEMENT

May 5: Graduation ceremonies will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Cox Business Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

CLASSIFIEDS

LAST ISSUE’S SOLUTION

S	O	B	E	R		R	I	T	E		C	U	B	S
O	V	U	L	E		E	S	A	U		O	B	O	E
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We are hoping to expand our family through open, semi-open, or closed adoption. Considering adoption is an amazing act of love for your child and we want to honor your wishes of finding the right adoptive family.

rachelandnateadopt@gmail.com | [facebook.com/RachelAndNate](https://www.facebook.com/RachelAndNate)
attorney: 918-599-0100

OKLAHOMA VICTORY DOLLS
ROLLER DERBY
2017 Home SCHEDULE

JAN 15 HOME TEAM DOUBLE HEADER
NORMAN (STAR SKATE)

FEB 12 ALL STARS VS. OKMRD
NORMAN (STAR SKATE) & TORNADO ALLEY VS. TULSA COUNTY
NORMAN (STAR SKATE)

MAR 26 HOME TEAM DOUBLE HEADER
NORMAN (STAR SKATE)

APR 22 ALL STARS & TORNADO ALLEY (OPPONENTS TBD)
EDMOND (ARCTIC EDGE)

MAY 19-21 SOONER SKATE TOURNAMENT
EDMOND (ARCTIC EDGE)

JUL 15 HOME TEAM DOUBLE HEADER
EDMOND (ARCTIC EDGE)

AUG 5 HOME TEAM CHAMPS
EDMOND (ARCTIC EDGE)

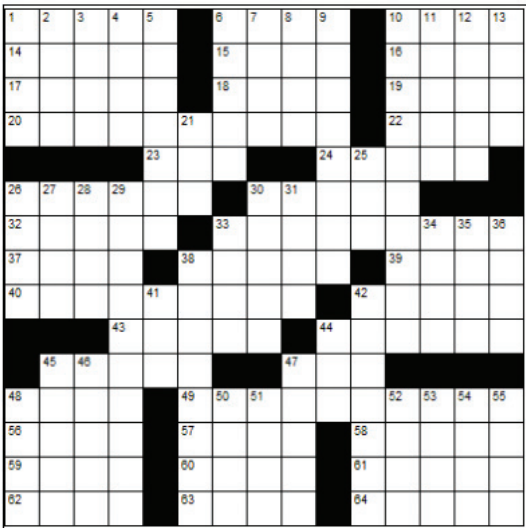


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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Holdup
- 6. A covered garden walk
- 10. Ailments
- 14. Aroused
- 15. Sheltered spot
- 16. Food from animals
- 17. More recent
- 18. Press
- 19. Rate
- 20. Lift bridge
- 22. Again
- 23. 3 in Roman numerals
- 24. Sail supports
- 26. An angry dispute
- 30. Sleights
- 32. Warning signal
- 33. Disposable
- 37. 6th Greek letter
- 38. Brown ermine
- 39. Feathery scarves
- 40. Immunity
- 42. Clean between teeth
- 43. A type of necklace
- 44. Boil
- 45. Sound of an angry dog
- 47. Mayday
- 48. Secure against leakage
- 49. An observation tower
- 56. Hubs
- 57. Diva's solo
- 58. Give a speech
- 59. Biblical garden
- 60. Marsh plant
- 61. In base 8
- 62. Used to be
- 63. Sailors
- 64. Dapper



DOWN

- 1. Paw
- 2. Pitcher
- 3. Hawkeye State
- 4. Distort
- 5. Element with the symbol Tb
- 6. Eighteen in Roman numerals
- 7. 36 inches
- 8. Plod along
- 9. A run-down apartment house
- 10. Unsurmountable
- 11. Inclined
- 12. Shoestrings
- 13. Goulash
- 21. Tear
- 25. Affix
- 26. Stupor
- 27. Gorse
- 28. Satisfy
- 29. You jump up and down on this
- 30. Thread holder
- 31. Low-fat
- 33. Blend
- 34. Car trunk (British)
- 35. Whip
- 36. Anagram of "Sees"
- 38. Stouthearted
- 41. Church bench
- 42. Decorate
- 44. Comes after Mi and Fah
- 45. Crystal-lined rock
- 46. Formula 1 driver
- 47. Oodles
- 48. Killed
- 50. District
- 51. Layer
- 52. Killer whale
- 53. Light bulb unit
- 54. French for "State"
- 55. Depend

HELP WANTED

City of The Village
is accepting applications
for part time employment
in the Code Dept.

**General maintenance, mowing,
painting, ability to lift/carry 50+ lbs
is required.**

**Valid Okla. Drivers license,
drug screening and
back-ground check required.**

\$9.50 per hr/ 20+ hours per week.

Apply online
at thevillageok.org/aboutus or
The Village City Hall
2304 Manchester Dr.The
Village OK. 73120

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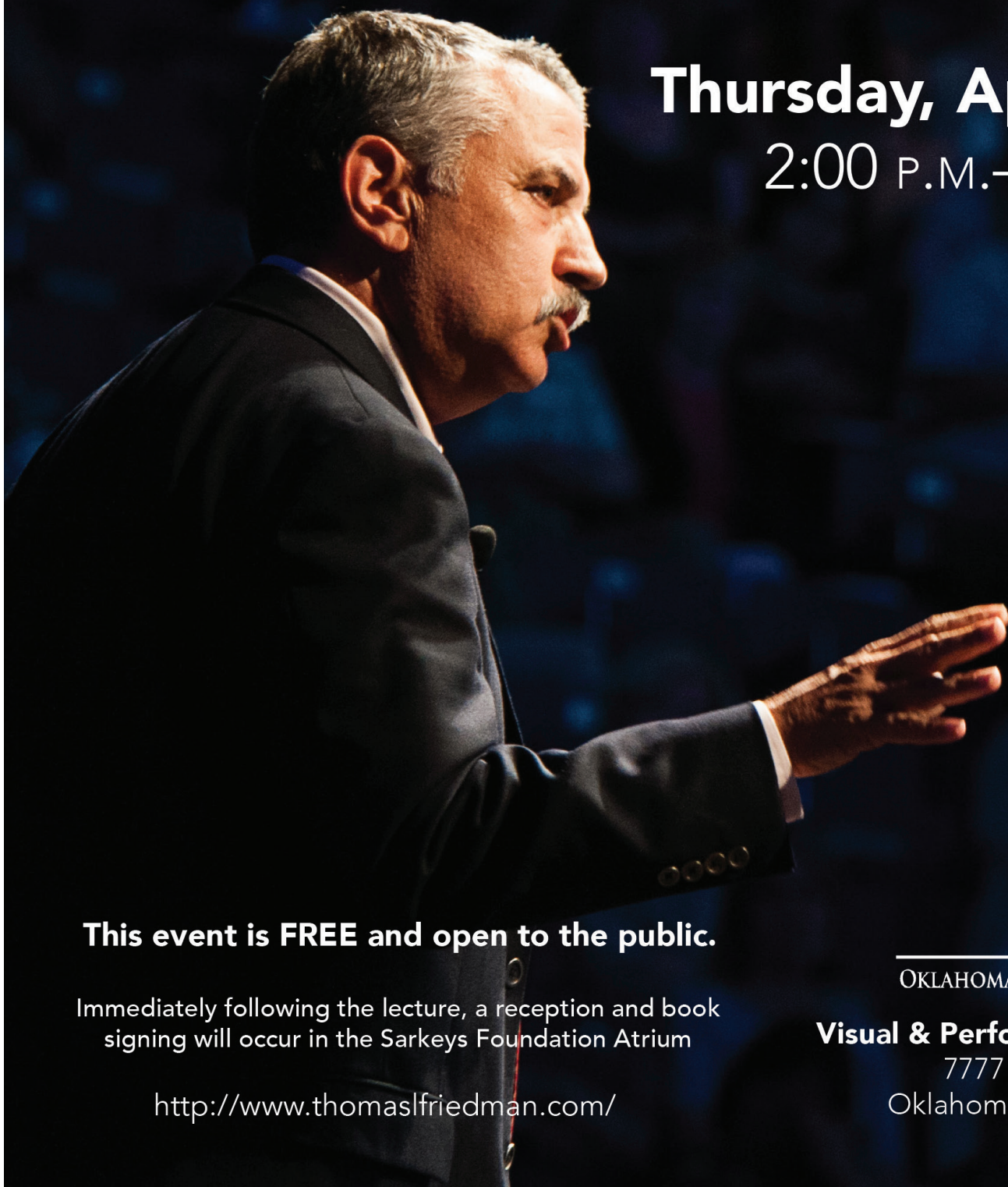
Oklahoma City Community College | Paul Sechrist Signature Lecture Series

THOMAS FRIEDMAN

Bestselling Author and Three-Time Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist

Thursday, April 27, 2017

2:00 P.M.— 3:30 P.M.



This event is FREE and open to the public.

Immediately following the lecture, a reception and book signing will occur in the Sarkeys Foundation Atrium

<http://www.thomasfriedman.com/>



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Visual & Performing Arts Center Theater

7777 South May Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159