

Sunday, Nov. 15 is America Recycles Day, the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to recycling awareness. OCCC has stepped up its own efforts, but there is still more to be done, says Green Task Force.

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EDITORIAL

DO YOUR
PART

A little effort from everyone can go a long way to help make the college more environmentally friendly.

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INTRAMURALS

CHEER TEAM
FORMED

A competitive cheerleading team has been created by a student, says Recreation and Fitness officials. Find out how to join.

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CARNIVAL FUN

HALLOWEEN

OCCC's annual Halloween Carnival was a big success, says Student Life officials. Read what happened and see the images from the evening.

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ORGANIZATIONS

MAKEOVERS

The Black Student Association partnered with Dillard's to offer \$5 makeovers on campus Nov. 4.

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PIONEER

NOVEMBER 9, 2009

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Distinguished alumni honored at banquet

BRANDON WALLS
News Writing Student

The college's Alumni Hall of Fame Banquet honored seven former OCCC students Oct. 29.

The ceremony was held in the Visual and Performing Arts Center in celebration of accomplishments in their lives and careers.

This year's inductees included a dentist, a veterinarian and a teacher.

Two others were honored for special service to the college as well, even though they are not graduates. Kim Henry, First Lady of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State Regent John Massey took home Honorary Alumni Hall of Fame awards.

Christopher Burris, who graduated in 2000, is an instructor at Metro Technology Center in Oklahoma City.

He also has been involved in planning various projects both locally and regionally.

"OCCC is more than just a place to earn a degree," Burris said in the awards program. "It is a community of friends and mentors who help build the leaders of tomorrow."

Mary Blankenship Pointer, another 2009 inductee, is vice president of business development at UMB Bank.

Pointer graduated from OCCC in 1989 and has been a model of leadership and volunteerism among women in her community.

She noted that OCCC has made significant contributions to the community.

"I am honored to be part of its great history," Pointer said in the awards program.

Other 2009 Hall of Fame inductees include Tere-

See **BANQUET** page 9



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry and First Lady of Oklahoma Kim Henry stand with Kim's 2009 OCCC Honorary Alumni Hall of Fame award. Kim, Sarkeys Foundation executive director, was given the award at the Alumni banquet Oct. 29. Sarkeys Foundation donated \$1 million to OCCC for the construction of the Performing Arts Theater.

FAILURE TO PROPERLY WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES CAN RESULT IN FAILING GRADE

Deadline to withdraw from classes Nov. 13

ELI ARGOT
News Writing Student

Friday, Nov. 13, is the last day to drop classes for the 16-week fall semester.

Some students may find themselves struggling to finish all their courses due to emergencies or busy schedules.

Others may have

fallen too far behind on their work to be able to catch up before the end of the semester.

Whatever the reason, there are several important factors to consider before withdrawing.

One of the biggest factors may be the student's financial aid.

Financial Aid loan adviser Linette McMurtrey

said dropping a course may or may not affect a student's federal financial aid, depending on the circumstances.

"Our policy is that students need to successfully complete 66 percent of the courses they attempt each semester," McMurtrey said.

"Each student may be different depending

on the type of financial aid they received, number of courses they are wanting to drop, when the course started, and how long they were able to attempt the course."

It also is important for students to speak with their professors about opportunities to make up the work and still be able to complete the

course, she said.

Joel Vieczas, graphics communication major, said he was unprepared for the complications that arose when he withdrew from classes last spring.

"I had to drop some classes last semester and didn't realize that it

See **DROP** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | A little bit of effort can make a difference

Recycling: Easier than you think

Recycling efforts at OCCC have grown over the past year. However, some people question whether everyone is doing their part.

At lunchtime, students, faculty and others dump their containers, plastic utensils, and napkins into garbage bins.

This is disturbing because there is a recycle container next to one of the garbage receptacles.

The only effort required is for people to remove their recyclables from their tray and place them in the proper container.

In addition, offices, learning labs and other campus divisions use tremendous amounts of paper for printing and copying.

A lot of this is neglectful printing and copying.

By using e-mails to send documents, Internet links, and other items normally printed, paper usage could be reduced significantly.

Students and employees also should only print



MARK
SMITH

what they need to print.

When people are finished with their necessary paper documents, they can place it in a recycling bin.

Even confidential papers can be recycled if shredded first.

Recycling is not something to be done only on campus.

Everyone can take part in recycling at home.

Oklahoma City offers blue bins for recycling and free pick up.

Finally, people should keep in mind the mantra reduce, reuse and recycle.

By reducing the amount of goods consumed, there will be less garbage.

People who reuse what they can will find that not only are they helping the environment, but also they are decreasing the amount of money they spend on things.

If an item must be purchased and it cannot be reused, instead buy items that are recyclable and recycle them.

In preparation for America Recycles Day, everyone should take the pledge to help make this world a cleaner place and preserve the fruits of the earth for future generations.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

YOUR VOICE | Correction to previous article

How a Bursar Hold affects you

To the editor:

I would like to correct a statement in the Oct. 26, Pioneer article, "Economy may be to blame for late tuition payments."

A Bursar Hold means students can no longer enroll in any classes, either online or in person.

However, they may drop classes by going to Registration and dropping in person. The hold will prevent them from dropping online.

Also, the Bursar Hold does not allow students to receive an official transcript of their grades, but they can view their grades online by logging on to their MineOnline account.

On their MineOnline account, students should select the 'Current Student' menu. Once in the Current Student menu, select the link for 'Grades' under 'Academic Profile', and then select the term for which they want to see grades.

—BRANDI HENSON
BURSAR

YOUR VOICE | A lesson and reminder

Volunteers happy to make a difference

To the editor:

A visit to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma at Purdue and S.W. 36 street shocked and saddened me as I was forced to add another word to my lessons — learning.

Learning a lot of families below the poverty level are short on food and other things most of us take for granted, learning how far a few dollars could go in relieving hunger.

Katie Treadwell, Service Learning and Student Life programs co-

ordinator led a group of volunteers Oct. 3 in sorting goods and food that were donated to this worthy organization.

Memories came back as I learned things may seem bad, but they could get a lot worse.

OCCC students do their share in volunteering, even donating money to aid kids and help families fight hunger.

wants to do her part for the needy a good attitude for a nurse.

OCCC student Christopher Brown was also present, making his third trip to the Food Bank. He was moved by the poster "Why donate? Because kids have more to think about than hunger."

I am proud of the students who serve as volunteers.

—MICKEY SHERMAN
JOURNALISM STUDENT

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

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

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has

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

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, faxed to 405-682-7843, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed on the Internet at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

Color printing this semester is paid for, in part, from a grant from OPUBCO Communications Group.

Vol. 38 No. 12

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | Wicked games continue in latest horror installment

'Saw VI' tops the previous five

Another Halloween brings with it yet another "Saw" movie, making it the sixth in the saga.

Those who have followed the series since the beginning know the movies are released during the Halloween season because of the type of movie it is: deranged.

"Saw VI" continues from the previous "Saw, Saw V," which finds Detective Hoffman (Costas Mandylor) escaping the eventual grave of Special Agent Strahm. With Strahm's sudden disappearance, Hoffman takes over the search for the mastermind behind the Jigsaw games.

As known from the previous "Saw" movie, Hoffman takes over the Jigsaw games after Jigsaw (Tobin Bell) dies

from a throat-slashing at the hands of a former player, and much like Jigsaw, Hoffman doesn't disappoint.

The games, as deranged and twisted as they are, seem to jump out to the players (or victims) and give them a new lease on life. That is, if they can survive long enough to get through the games.

Jigsaw's whole idea for the games is to help the players appreciate life and learn from the mistakes they've made. They are more or less designed as motivational exercises.

Throughout the movie, Hoffman is setting up the final pieces of games for those who have done wrong to Jigsaw. The players are those

Jigsaw decided needed a new outlook on life for their failed logic on the way to treat others.

The main player, William (Peter Outerbridge), devises a faulty formula for determining the acceptance or denial of his clients' requests for medical coverage, which lands him in the middle of the game. In a flashback, it is revealed Jigsaw disagreed with William's perspective on the formula, saying "It's incredible what people will do when their lives are on the line."

Without giving too much of the movie up, there are, of course, several portions where the viewer has no idea what could happen next. I think the creative minds

behind the franchise really out-did themselves this time.

In whole, the plot was well-written as a continuation from the previous film, and made for a great precursor to the rumored final "Saw" movie.

Unfortunately, some viewers may find themselves lost if they haven't seen the previous Saws, so some rentals may be called for before viewing this beauty. But, believe me, it is well worth the time.

The movie was directed by Kevin Greutert and written by Marcus Dunstan and Patrick Melton.

The movie is rated R.
Rating: B+
—STEPHEN SOSSAMAN
STAFF WRITER

FILM REVIEW | A testament to the King of Pop

'This Is It' melts the hearts of fans

Fans of Michael Jackson sat quietly as the Columbia Pictures release "This Is It" began its documentary tribute to him.

It was not long before that silence changed, and the audience began cheering and applauding each song as if they were attending a concert.

They were; and it would be the final concert of the musical icon. Familiar offerings such as "Billie Jean" and "Black or White" were to be a part of his last tour before retirement.

"Thriller," his renowned music and video, is remade in over-the-top splendor for the stage.

Unfortunately for the



world of music, Jackson died before the tour took place.

Jackson had his rehearsals taped for his personal use. He wanted them as a testament to the hard work and dedication he and those

involved with this project put forth. It was all that and more.

Jackson's musical ability, even when he was saving his voice, was amazing.

He shows a kindness to those working with

him, while demanding perfection.

He repeated the phrase "That is why we have rehearsal" several times when errors occurred. The movie showed a soft side of a very hard-working man.

Jackson looked thin, but that didn't stop him from keeping up with his dancers, who were half his 50 years.

Pictures of the original Jackson Five are shown while the song "I'll Be There" plays in the background in tribute to Jackson's beginnings in the industry. There is certain sadness in Jackson's eyes during this scene. The special effects are beyond fantastic; the talented staff

COUNSELOR'S Corner

As we move into the final quarter of the fall semester, let me offer some words of encouragement.

Take control of whatever you can for the remainder of the semester. Plan. Work hard. Have positive thoughts. Remember that you are not aiming for perfection because that is always out of reach. Instead, aim for what you can do and nail it.

Take a moment to reflect on what has gone well and what has gone less well this semester. Learn from both experiences and carry that knowledge with you into the future. No experience is ever truly wasted if you use it to your advantage.

We are enrolling now for the spring semester, so bite off only what you can chew, and chew well whatever you bite off. In other words, consider what is truly reasonable for you to do and only enroll in that much. Then, make a point of showing up every day and working hard in those classes.

Know your options. One reason people sometimes don't choose better options for themselves is that they don't know those options exist. Talk to an academic adviser and/or your faculty adviser. Talk to your financial aid adviser. Talk to one of us in Student Support Services. Find the courage to ask questions and get good information so that you can make good decisions.

Hold onto positive thoughts and practice random acts of kindness. This will annoy those who should feel annoyed and endear you to those who might turn out to be the silver lining in your cloud. Sometimes, the only thing we can control in a situation is our attitude about it. Strive for a happy demeanor because there is always tomorrow.

We in Student Support Services wish you peace for the end of this year and the start of the new one.

—MARY TURNER
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

surrounding Jackson is extraordinary; but the audience is ever aware of the super-star quality of Michael Jackson.

This documentary is a testament to the brilliant artistic capabilities of the man known as the "King of Pop."

The film is suitable for all audiences. It is promoted as a limited run

film.

Some time in the next two weeks, you may want to spend an hour and a half being at a concert that would have been a spectacular.

There is a sad ending, but we are aware of that.

Rating: A
—CYNTHIA PRAEFKE
STAFF WRITER

GOAL FOR WELLNESS INITIATIVE TO BE MORE CONSCIOUS, SAYS CHAIRMAN

Employees walk into fitness initiative

PATTI ROGERS

News Writing Student

OCCC employees participating in a month-long wellness initiative logged more than 4 million steps in the first three weeks of October, said Lisa Vaughan, Risk Management coordinator and campus Wellness Taskforce chairman.

Vaughan said the initiative, held during National Walking Month, was designed to promote healthier lifestyles.

"The goal was to get people a little more conscious of their daily activity in hopes of it becoming a part of their everyday life," she said. "We

geared our effort toward the staff, but we eventually want to encompass students and, ultimately, the community as well."

Vaughan said 66 employees signed up for the challenge.

Participants received a pedometer, compliments of the United Way, to track their steps, and each person was assigned a motivational buddy, she said.

Everyone set his or her own personal goal for the number of steps to walk each week.

The goal of 10,000 steps in a day is a rough equivalent to the Surgeon General's recommendation to accumulate 30 minutes of activity most days

of the week.

While program participants were responsible for logging their personal activities, Vaughan said she led walkers on a 1.04-mile trek — about 2,382 steps — along the campus indoor walking trail at noon on Tuesdays throughout October.

The path, which starts outside the president's office, is marked by simple signs — laminated color copies crafted in-house — that can be easily missed, she said.

Another of Vaughan's efforts, however, will result in new signs she hopes will be more visible.

"We applied to Wal-Mart

for a grant in August and were notified recently they were awarded a \$1,000 grant to mark the trail," Vaughan said. "Our goal is to make it where community members can come and follow the indoor trail without getting lost."

Vaughan said the Wellness Task Force hopes a signage committee that is working on getting uniform signage across campus will include the signs for the indoor walking trail as part of their project.

The \$1,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation would be used to offset the cost of the indoor walking trail signs.

Ralph deCardenas, Stu-

dent Accounts coordinator in the Bursar's office, and his motivational buddy, Paula Whitehead, Institutional Advancement assistant, regularly joined Vaughan on the Tuesday walks indoors.

DeCardenas said he increased his daily steps goal more than three-fold by month-end.

Both he and Whitehead, who is accustomed to walking for exercise, agreed the program has been good for them, and both said they are committed to continuing to walk their way to better health.

"We need to keep this up," Whitehead said to deCardenas.

Buddy Holly's music comes back to life Nov. 10

SADIE SHORT

News Writing Student

It's leather jackets and poodle skirts when '50s rock 'n' roll music comes to OCCC at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10.

"Rave On! A Tribute to the Music of Buddy Holly" will take place in the Bruce Owen Theater.

The show will feature vocalist Billy McGuigan, one of the premiere Buddy Holly impersonators in the nation, said Lemuel Bardeguez, cultural arts director at OCCC.

"Billy is phenomenal," Bardeguez said. "McGuigan has studied Buddy Holly and his style extensively."

Holly died in a plane crash when he was 22, according to the Buddy Holly Center website. Even though Holly had been in the music business for only a year and half before his death, many people consider him the father of modern rock 'n' roll. The day he died was "the day the music died," according to website.

Some of Holly's well-known titles include "Peggy Sue," "That'll be the Day," and "Oh Boy."

Holly's music style was unique and has helped other styles of music emerge in today's society such as grunge and electric guitar, Bardeguez said.

After Holly's death, it became the responsibility of others to keep his music alive, Bardeguez said.

"McGuigan is trying to accomplish the concert that never took place," Bardeguez said.

Although Holly's music is more than 50 years old, it has survived to reach young people today.

"I am excited to go," said Alayna Ray, psychology freshman. "I like Buddy Holly and his music so much. He was very talented and had accomplished a lot in his short life."

Holly's music is relevant in today's time, even though it might not be evident, Ray said.

"He had so many songs," she said. "We all know a Buddy Holly song, but we might not know that he sang it."

Bardeguez said the program is for those who are fans of 1950s high-energy rock 'n' roll.

"It will be a little bit of nostalgia mixed in with pop culture."

A free educational lecture will be offered at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in room 132 of the Visual and Performing Arts Center. During the pre-

sentation, McGuigan will discuss the importance of Holly's music.

Tickets cost \$22 for general admission, \$17 for seniors, faculty, staff or Alumni Association members, \$10 for OCCC students and \$10 for

children 17 and under. Tickets may be purchased in advance in the Main Building in room 1G1-A, at the OCCC Bookstore, online at www.occc.edu/cas/BuddyHollyREview.html, or at the door the evening of the performance.



You need a flu shot too.

For information on seasonal and H1N1 influenza go to www.OCCHD.org.



ABOUT 100 STUDENTS HAVE JOINED NING

Social network site connects internationals

SABEENA MAHARJAN
News Writing Student

A social networking site where international students can rendezvous is now available. The OCCC International Student Forum is similar to Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, said Sunny Garner, International Student Services coordinator.

It has attracted about 100 members, including some American students, Garner said.

"Members can create their own profile page, write blogs, upload photos, make com-

ments over the posts and interact with other international students," she said.

Nhu Nguyen, a literature major from Vietnam, is a member. "It is a door to share information and make friends," he said.

Navin Parajuli, a Nepalese student majoring in science, recently posted a link about Dashain, the national festival of Nepal which generally falls from late September to mid-October, celebrating the victory of god over demons.

"Cultural sharing is what I like the most about it," Parajuli said. "When I log into

my page, I feel like I am not the only one who is missing home."

"You are not only sharing when you write; you are improving your writing skills as well," he said.

John Richardson, Marketing and Public Relations coordinator, said the college was experimenting with the idea of social networks, but wanted something that allowed them to make the page look the way they wanted it to.

"There is a free social network company called Ning [where] anybody can create their own social network and

it does not cost anything," Richardson said.

That's the option the college chose for the OCCC International Student Forum, he said.

"Being in a foreign country, it is very important to connect, to feel like you belong," Richardson said. "I thought, for international students, this was the perfect opportunity to bring people together."

Garner said she is excited about the website. "I want it to be more OCCC than just a Facebook or Mypace."

Her plans include a live chat on the website at some point.

Garner encourages domestic students to join.

"I think it would teach them a lot about other cultures and also friendships can be made."

Richardson said he is interested in what students think about the site. He said adjustments can be made based on feedback from users. He can be reached at jrichardson@occc.edu.

OCCC students can invite their friends and relatives to join this forum by signing up at www.occc.edu/myinternational or www.occcinternational.ning.com.

Arts Alive! experience brought to the classroom

DREW STONE
News Writing Student

The headless horseman swept across the stage with a pumpkin on its shoulders when a group of OCCC students attended "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" ballet as part of a class assignment.

The performance took place Oct. 30 at the Thelma Gaylord Performing Arts Theater in the Civic Center Music Hall in downtown Oklahoma City.

The students had enrolled in the OKC Arts Alive! course that meets once a week for eight weeks on Friday evenings. Class time is split between attending performances and arts events, and analyzing what they experienced.

Students offered mixed opinions of the ballet, which converted Washington Irving's 19th century short story into a narrative dance brought to life by the Oklahoma City Ballet and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

The OKC Arts Alive! class exposes students to a wide variety of performing arts, many of which are new to some students.

"I came across this class

when looking to sign up for a humanities course," said Spanish major Angelica Sanchez. "I was hoping to get my foot in the door on what it felt like to go to a theater or ballet. It brought something new to life that I can enjoy."

The students attend ballets, musicals, and theatrical performances over the course of eight weeks to earn three humanities credits.

Students get to experience not only different style performances, but also performances with vastly different settings, ranging from the expansive 2,481-seat Thelma Gaylord Performing Arts Theater to the intimate setting of the 106-seat CitySpace Theater.

Ruth Charnay, Communications and the Arts department director, is the professor. She said she developed the course when she realized many people remained oblivious to the city's offerings in the performing arts. Before becoming a college administrator, Charnay worked for several years as a professor.

"As I was teaching, I noticed many students saying there was never anything to do in Oklahoma City," Charnay said. "I wanted students

to grow an appreciation, to show them there are arts in Oklahoma City."

The students had already experienced "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" musical on Oct. 23, meeting shortly before the performance to discuss what to watch for and again after the performance to discuss everything from the selection of actors to the message behind the story.

"We love being able to host the OKC Arts Alive! course,"

"I wanted students to grow an appreciation, to show them there are arts in Oklahoma City."

—RUTH CHARNAY

COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

said Richard Charnay, Civic Center Music Hall events manager.

"Education is important to us. That's why we have outreach programs from grade school to high school."

"We have to look at who our audience is going to be in

several years."

The OKC Arts Alive! course will be offered again in the fall of 2010. It meets on Friday evenings and begins at mid-term.

For more information, contact Charnay at 405-682-1611, ext. 7143.

College offers vets guidance

JUSTIN COMBS
Editor
editor@occc.edu

With more than 600 veterans enrolled now, and more expected for the spring semester, OCCC's Veteran's Office is hustling to keep up with the paperwork, said Janis Armstrong, Veteran's Services coordinator.

"Helping veterans get certified for educational benefits from the G.I. Bill is the service we provide at the Veterans Office," Armstrong said.

She encourages veterans to submit their schedules early

to the Veterans Office to avoid a delay in payment from their G.I. Bill, as it can take up to 12 weeks to receive a payment.

If there is a delay in getting the G.I. Bill, Armstrong said, her office works with the Bursar's Office, so the veteran won't be assessed any late fees or finance fees.

"There are different benefits for different chapters," said John Mansera Veterans Affairs representative.

"Some veterans receive more money from the G.I. Bill than others depending on what they qualify for."

Mansera said the Veterans

Office also has the ability to refer veterans to different agencies where they can receive the help and benefits they may need.

That helps veterans with "things like where to go for medical, employment, family relief or counseling," Mansera said.

"I encourage each veteran to stop by the Veterans Office so we can help each veteran out with their individual circumstances."

For more information, contact Armstrong at jarmstrong@occc.edu or call 405-682-7527.

VETERANS CELEBRATED VIA MUSIC, SPEECHES

Veteran recognition planned for Nov. 11

ETHAN HENDRICKS

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

A bagpipe performance will follow the opening welcome at a Veterans Day Memorial Reception for students and faculty at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in CU3.

Performer Gary Wallace will play "Military March" and "Highland Cathedral." Wallace is a transcript assistant in the office of Records and Graduation Services, who served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 until 1992.

The reception has become an annual tradition.

"Last year we had 50 people in attendance," said Stephanie Baird, Student Life programs coordinator. "This year we hope to have more students."

Janis Armstrong, Veteran's Services coordinator, said she hopes this year's event will be even bigger. She said she changed the time the ceremony starts to allow more people to attend.

"The last few years the ceremony has been at 11 a.m. because that's officially when Veteran's Day starts," Armstrong said. "I received some letters from faculty this year asking me to set it at a different time so that more people could attend."

Armstrong said she conducted a survey of faculty and students to find out what time would be best.

After the bagpipe music, the Marine Corps will give a presentation of the color guard and lead the ceremony in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"It's not easy getting the actual Marine Corps color guard to do a presentation," Armstrong said. "I'm glad we could get them to do this."

J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director, will introduce the main speaker William Brown, readjustment counseling technician for the Department of Veteran Affairs. Brown will speak on "Lessons Learned From One Soldier's Perspective."

Hillary Shatley will sing "God Bless America" to close the ceremony.

"There will be a lot of veterans involved in this

“ Veterans Day is important for me because I can give back to all the service members that have served in a war.”

—JANIS ARMSTRONG

STUDENT LIFE PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

ceremony," Baird said. "There are currently 650 veterans enrolled and that's just for this fall semester," Armstrong said. "I will be sending out postcard invites to all the veterans."

Armstrong and Baird both said the ceremony is to honor veterans and those who are still in the service.

"Veterans Day is important for me because I can give back to all the service members that have served in a war," Armstrong said. "I wish the whole college would shut down on that day to honor the veterans."

WWII veteran sadly watches 61-year tradition fade away

Soldier reunions come to an end as numbers dwindle

MICKEY SHERMAN
News Writing Student

It started and ended in Oklahoma. 1942 was the year the 312th Light Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps was formed at Will Rogers Field. At age 20, I was one of several hundred men in the original group.

We trained at Cimarron Field, now Clarence C. Page Airport, west of Oklahoma City. The A-20 Havoc light bombers we flew were made by Tulsa Aircraft in Tulsa.

After training, the entire unit relocated in the Pacific Theater of War. We flew missions out of New Guinea and the Philippine Islands until the war ended in 1945.

It is only fitting that the last of 61 consecutive reunions wound up at the Waterford Hotel in Oklahoma City in late September.

Only two of us, Hank Eales of Arkansas and I, remained from the original roster. Bob Hester and I were the only two

left from the Oklahoma City area. Fifteen others plus their families came from around the country.

Adding a sense of solemnity to some of the proceedings was the awareness that the rest of our mates are now flying A-20 Havocs in Air Corps Heaven.

Among our fond memories is the reunion here in 1998.

It was the best we ever had with 140 men and families attending. Al Good's Big Band performed for us at the old Lincoln Plaza. Bricktown was just getting started and we took it in.

At this year's reunion, the group was treated to a meal at Toby Keith's Roadhouse, boat rides on the Bricktown Canal, and a visit to the Oklahoma City Memorial and the Air and Space Museum. We went to the Remington Casino and had lunch at the County Line Restaurant.

There's some sadness to see the reunions disappear. Where else can we get together, tell lies and share memories of a time long ago? But we are now all over 80.

We loved the A-20 Havocs. They were great planes for

their day.

How else would I, a young man from Baltimore, have been able to see Sydney, Australia, get malaria and dengue fever in New Guinea, and rescue the Philippine Islands with Old Douglas MacArthur.

It is hard, in the general's words, to see "old soldiers fade away."



PHOTOS COURTESY MICKEY SHERMAN

WWII Veteran Mickey Sherman joined the 312th Light Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps at age 20. The OCCC student said, after training, his entire unit relocated in the Pacific Theater of War. "We flew missions out of New Guinea and the Philippine Islands until the war ended in 1945." The group just celebrated the last of 61 consecutive reunions.

Halloween Carnival hosts thousand

Student clubs and organizations provide games and treats to children

Beautiful princesses, valiant superheroes, and metal robots were among the hundreds of costumed children who filled the College Union Friday, Oct. 30, for the annual Halloween Carnival, hosted by Student Life.

Stephanie Baird, Student Life programs coordinator, said more than 1,000 people attended the carnival.

"It was very, very successful," Baird said. "We couldn't have asked for a better turnout."

She said children were charged \$1 for admittance and adults were free.

A record number of 17 student clubs and organizations, along with 88 student volunteers, hosted various activity booths throughout the evening, Baird said.

The organizations delighted children with treats such as painted pumpkins, snow cones, temporary tattoos and plenty of candy.

Among the most popular attractions: a fishing-for-candy game hosted by the Business Professionals of America, face painting courtesy of the Society of Performing Artists, and the 7777th M.A.S.H. Halloween Hospital, complete with fake blood and bandages, provided by the Health Professions Club.

Shana McLaughlin, Black Student Association activities coordinator, said her club's button-making activity was an overwhelming success.

"We were actually the only booth still set up after closing time," McLaughlin said.

"The kids had so much fun. It was great seeing the community come together."

In addition to games and sweets, she said, Student Life also provided a DJ and dance floor where children happily boogied throughout the night.

Alisha O'Lague, BPA president, brought her three children to the event.

"My 2-year-old, Lydia, really enjoyed the music and dancing," O'Lague said.

"They all really had fun."

Brian Smith, who owns Chameleon Entertainment, has been coming to the carnival for several years and playing popular kid-friendly music, said Katie Treadwell, Service Learning and Student Life programs coordinator.

"We are glad to have provided such a fun, affordable event for the community," Baird said.



Tinkerbell, Lexis Sims, 2, and her father, John Sims, dance at the annual OCCC Halloween Carnival. DJ Brian Smith played popular kid-friendly music throughout the event. The carnival offered children a safe environment to dress up, play games, dance and get candy.



Tino Ceballos and Katye Wood, business majors, work the Kappa Beta Delta booth at the Halloween Carnival. Kappa Beta Delta — an honor society for business majors — offered picture bingo to attendees.



Ladybug, Gabriell Harjl, 16 months, grabs a ducky at Phi Theta Kappa's booth during the OCCC Halloween Carnival. The college opened its doors to community children Oct. 30 for \$1.

**Text by Whitney Knight
Photos by Jennifer Pearsall**

SPORTS

Defense at its best



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

Devil Dog player Collin Gentry, liberal studies major, rushes by Swagga member Kevin Crawford, physical therapy major, as Josh Vanover, business major, rushes in to help Crawford. Swagga defeated Devil Dogs 39-30 to win the OCCC Flag Football championship Oct. 30.

INTRAMURALS | Student turns desire into action

Cheer program gets jump start

LANDA MCCLURE
Sports Writer
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OCCC has intramural sports, but they have not had a cheerleading team — until now.

Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, said Sierra Brajas, political science major, has been placed in charge of organizing a team.

Brajas said she spoke to Watson and he advised her to set up a meeting to see how much interest there was from other students.

"I have always cheered, and when I came to OCCC, they did not have cheer," she said. "I missed it and I'm sure there are girls who miss it too."

Brajas said she held the first cheerleading meeting Oct. 30, and four girls attended.

She said she has talked to other girls who also are interested in cheering.

Jessika Brittain, physical therapy

major, said she is excited about being able to cheer again.

"I think the squad could have a lot of potential," Brittain said.

Brajas said in order to be on the team, cheerleaders have to be over 17 when the semester started, a full-time student at OCCC and maintain a grade point average over 2.0.

The squad would only participate in competitions, she said, and would not perform at intramural sport games.

"There are a few competitions including nationals, regionals and state," Brajas said.

"Nationals will be Feb. 14 and 15 in Anaheim, Calif."

She said the cheerleaders could compete in two divisions: dance and regular cheer.

According to the National Cheerleading Association, squads can have a mascot who performs with the squad and in an all mascot division.

Brajas said anyone interested in becoming a mascot should attend the

next cheerleading meeting.

Although OCCC does not have an official mascot, she said, the team will decide what the mascot would be for the cheer team.

Brajas said she really would like to have a mascot on the team, as well as male cheerleaders.

"If the team is all girls, we can have 16 members," she said. "If it is coed, we can have 20 members."

Brajas said the team would have to fundraise in order to buy their uniforms and mats.

The program also is in need of a head coach, she said.

"I have been talking to some people, but nothing is for sure yet," Brajas said.

"As soon as we have a team together, we are going to start practicing so we can submit videos to the competitions and see if we qualify."

For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

- **Nov. 3-28:** Zumba classes offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., Fridays from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

- **Nov. 2-30:** Pilates classes held Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 12:55 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

- **Nov. 9:** Volleyball: Can You Dig It vs. All Set Are Off at 7 p.m. on court 1. Serendipity Slammers vs. Coasties at 7 p.m. on court 2. All Set Are Off vs. Serendipity Slammers at 8 p.m. on court 1. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. Can You Dig It at 8 p.m. on court 2. Coasties vs. Garder at 9 p.m. on court 1. Brookwood vs. The Bow-Legged Pirates at 9 p.m. on court 2.

- **Nov. 13-15:** Club Flag Football will attend the Intramural Flag Football Tournament at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

- **Nov. 16:** Volleyball: All Set Are Off vs. Coasties at 7 p.m. on court 1. Can You Dig It vs. Garder at 7 p.m. on court 2. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. All Set Are Off at 8 p.m. on court 1. Brookwood vs. Coasties at 8 p.m. on court 2. Brookwood vs. Serendipity Slammers at 9 p.m. on court 1. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. Garder at 9 p.m. on court 2.

- **Nov. 20:** Bowling: Games will start at 8 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. at the Moore AMF Bowling Lanes.

- **Nov. 30:** Youth Basketball: Pre-season coaches meeting at 7 p.m. in the Recreation and Fitness Center's gymnasium.

For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Injury accident, theft highlight campus crime

MARK SMITH

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An OCCC student injured her head in a traffic accident on campus Oct. 27.

Student Stephanie Ihbe told Safety and Security Officer Tim Densmore her head was hurting from hitting it on the window during the crash.

Densmore called EMSA and Ihbe was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

The two drivers involved gave Densmore conflicting reports of what happened.

Student Gaurav Pradhan said he was pulling out of

Parking Lot A and crossing into the inbound lane of J. L. Keels Boulevard when a green 2002 Sentra turned into Parking Lot A and struck his black 2001 Camry.

However, Ihbe, the driver of the Sentra, told Densmore the other driver struck her vehicle when she tried to pull into parking lot A.

In another incident the next day, Gustavo Guzman reported his Chevy truck had been broken into.

Guzman told Safety and Security Officer Tanya Vroenen he noticed someone had broken into the driver's side of his truck and stolen a CD player and five CDs worth about \$170.

Guzman said he noticed the theft as he was preparing

to leave college.

Vroenen checked the driver's side door and found evidence of forced entry under the door handle.

There are no suspects and no arrests have been made at this time.

On Oct. 26, a student at the library reported her cell phone was missing.

Allison Phisaiwath told Safety and Security Officer Jacob Roby she left her BlackBerry Pearl cell phone in her backpack unattended and went to the second floor in the library.

She told him that when she returned, her cell phone was missing.

Safety and Security Officer Kevin Tipton and Roby reviewed security camera video

footage.

Phisaiwath and her backpack were in clear view of the camera during the entire time she was at the library.

Video footage didn't show anyone tampering with her bags, according to the report.

On Oct. 30, Jason Kimball, lead library circulation assistant, reported suspected misuse of library computers.

Kimball told Safety and Security Officer Fredrick Evans a man was viewing pornographic material.

The person identified himself as Steven Francis, a visitor to campus.

Evans reported asking Francis what he had been viewing on the computer.

Francis admitted to Evans he had been watching pornography.

Evans issued Francis a Notice to Leave Campus and escorted him to his vehicle without incident.

On another matter that same day, Evans received report of a missing cell phone near the OCCC Coffee Shop.

Andrez Blanco told Evans he had left his 8900 BlackBerry on a table in the coffee shop for three minutes. When he returned it was gone.

Blanco told Evans he tried calling his number, but no one answered.

He told Evans he would file a police report with the Oklahoma City Police Department for insurance purposes.

If anyone has any information regarding these or any other crimes, contact campus Safety and Security at 405-682-1611, ext. 7691.

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DROP: Check financial aid before finalizing withdraw

Continued from page 1

would hurt my financial aid so bad," Viezcas said.

"I had to go through lots of paperwork this semester to clear up things."

"I didn't talk to anyone about my decisions beforehand, but I won't make those mistakes anymore."

Due to each student being a different case when it comes

to withdrawing from classes, McMurtrey said, she recommends the student first stop by the Financial Aid office located on the first floor of the Main Building, across from the Testing Center.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/financialaid and review fact sheets regarding OCCC SAP policy and Federal Return of Funds Policy.

BANQUET: Nine people honored at ceremony

Continued from page 1

sa Davis, dentist; Christina Makarim, veterinarian; plus Eddie Manley, Shannon Nance, and Dee Porter.

President Paul Sechrist commended the honorees.

"OCCC alumni make outstanding contributions to their communities and to their profession," he said.

"We are proud of what each

has accomplished since leaving here, and are excited to have them back on campus to officially recognize them."

This was the fourth annual Hall of Fame Banquet sponsored by the OCCC Association of Alumni and Friends. For more information on Alumni Hall of Fame recipients, benefits and scholarships, visit www.occc.edu/alumni.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

STUDENT LIFE | Black Student Association raises funds, spirits with cosmetics



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Reva Hammons, journalism major, receives a 10-minute makeover from Cydney Womack, Dillard's makeup artist, on campus Nov. 4. The Black Student Association partnered with Dillard's to provide makeovers to students for \$5. The money raised will go to help BSA attend The Big XII Black Student Government Conference.

Makeovers made easy by club

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Pampering busy students was the goal of the Black Student Association Nov. 4 when the club partnered with Dillard's to provide women with full facial makeovers.

Held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the College Union, the "Super Duper 10-Minute Makeover Event" treated participants to a quick,

professional makeover for only \$5.

"I love makeup," said Centerria Wright, club member.

"A lot of women wake up in the morning and don't have time to do their makeup," Wright said. "We wanted to provide this service for them."

One student, Virginia Jimenez, said she received a makeover and "loved" it.

"It was so much fun," Jimenez said. "It was a

great thing for the club to put on.

"It was nice for us girls to have something so fun and enjoyable."

Erika Ochoa, psychology major, was another recipient of the makeovers.

"I loved it," Ochoa said. "It was a great experience."

Wright said money raised through the event will primarily go towards the Big XII Black Student Government Conference, to be held

on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence next year.

"This is a major event held every year in February," she said. "It is very educational and opens several doors for black students."

"It is something we would like to attend as a family."

For more information, visit the Black Student Association website through Student Life at www.occc.edu/StudentLife.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Book drive scheduled

The Military Student Association will hold the "Support the Troops" book drive from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, Nov. 9 through 13 in the College Union. Drop boxes also will be located throughout the Main Building. For more information, contact Brandon Hunt at 405-213-6580.

Lawyer-athlete to speak Nov. 12

Dr. Marcus Bivines, attorney of law and University of Oklahoma graduate, will speak to students during the monthly Business Professionals of America meeting, held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in room 407 of the Library. For more information, contact Germain Pichop at 405-682-1611, ext. 7285.

Pet food donations sought

The Psi Beta Club is challenging OCCC students to donate pet food and money to the Oklahoma City Pet Food Bank. Donations will be used to help struggling owners care for their pets. Drop boxes will be placed throughout the Main Building during the week of Nov. 16 through 20. For more information, contact Yuthika Kim at 405-682-1611, ext. 7715.

Language festival hosted

The World Languages and Cultures Center will host "The Modern Languages Festival" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16 in the World Languages Lab. The event will offer an opportunity to spread awareness of world languages and cultures. Finger foods and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact the World Languages and Cultures Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7104.

Scholarship opportunity offered

Applications for the 2010 USA Academic Team and Coca-Cola All-State Community College Academic Team scholarships are now available. Information and applications are available online at www.ptk.org/schol/aaat/announce.htm with use of access code ausat2010. Applications also may be obtained through the Enrollment and Student Services office at 405-682-7595 and Student Life at 405-682-7596. Applications are due to the Enrollment and Student Services office Monday, Nov. 16.

Tuition waiver applications available

Tuition waiver applications for the spring 2010 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20. For more information, contact Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

**All Highlights are due Monday by 5 p.m.
for inclusion in the next issue.**

**Highlight forms can be picked up in
the Pioneer office, located on the second floor
of the Main Building, across from the elevator.**

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

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 2001 Lexus LS 300. Pearl white, tan leather interior, moon roof, spoiler. 142K miles. \$6,900. Call 405-471-9320.

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ELECTRONICS

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MISCELLANEOUS

RIDE NEEDED: Looking for someone who could give me rides from the OU campus in Norman to OCCC. Also need rides to Norman from OCCC. Call me at 405-413-2177, or e-mail: juanse2606@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: 2 floor seats for the **Billy Joel/Elton John** concert on Wednesday, November 25. Section 7, Row F, Seats 13 and 14. Will sell for face value of \$358.

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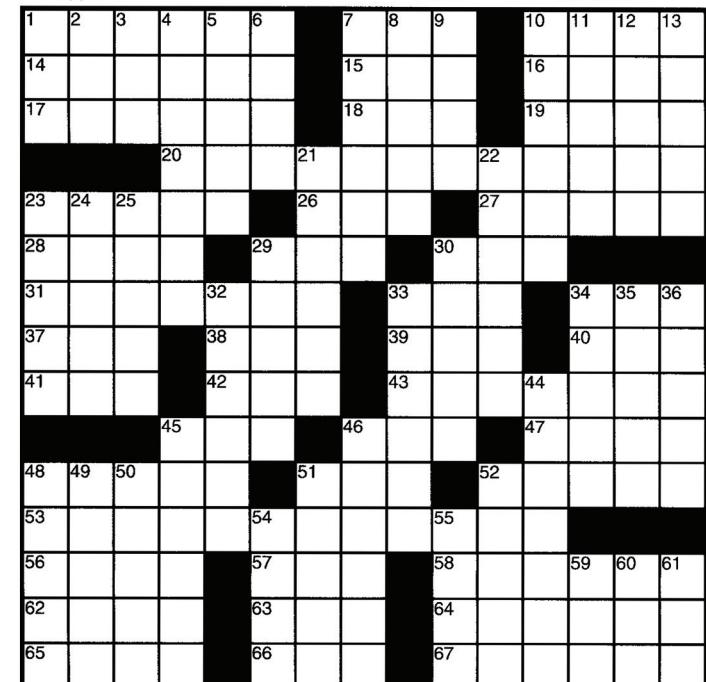
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BRANDON ISAAK HEADS OCCC'S RECYCLING EFFORTS

Task Force works for environmentally friendly college

MARK SMITHSenior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

America Recycles Day — the only nationally recognized day dedicated to recycling — is Sunday, Nov. 15.

The goal is to make recycling a habit, not just a once-a-year event.

OCCC has made efforts to become a more environmen-

tally friendly college.

Brandon Isaak, OCCC's Green Task Force chairman, said he began his volunteer recycling here at OCCC in 2008.

Isaak said it all started in the Communications Lab.

"I placed bins with spray painted recycle emblems on them outside of the Communications Lab's front door," he said.

"People would bring their recyclables trash, and I would remove it each time it was full."

After the bins were full, Isaak said, he would empty and transport them to the recycling centers himself.

Isaak said the Green Task Force, which is made up of students, faculty, and staff, is making plans to improve upon his recycling efforts.

For example, he said, the task force is looking at ways to recycle paper goods and make a profit.

Currently, OCCC recycles paper and cardboard through Oklahoma City's Waste Management Program, Isaak said.

However, if the college were to contract with the Paper Retrieval Company, it would be possible to make a profit.

"The company would weigh our paper and cardboard, which is a lot, and pay us based on that weight," he said.

The Green Task Force also is working on starting an official recycling program here at the college, Isaak said.

However, he said, it is very costly to maintain this program.

"It would cost \$23,546 a year to fund this program (and) the first year would cost \$31,000 since we need to

purchase the recycling bins," Isaak said.

Even though the program is costly, he said, he thinks the program will start soon.

Other projects in the works are biodegradable and reusable clamshells in the cafeteria, Isaak said.

Each day students throw away a tremendous amount of these products, he said. In addition, the clamshells the cafeteria currently uses are made of Styrofoam, and therefore, are not biodegradable.

Isaak said another important method of protecting the environment is by reducing the number of items a person uses.

"If we use less then we have less garbage," he said.

Isaak said he recommends people to become informed about recycling and pollution.

For more information about the Green Task Force, students can contact Isaak at 405-682-1611, ext. 7588.

Students who wish to learn more about America Recycles Day can visit their website at www.americarecyclesday.org.

America Recycles Day is Sunday, Nov. 15
[americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org)

Available recycling centers in OKC

Midland Recycling
1432 W Main St.
405-232-8811

West Recycling Yard
3900 SW 15th St.
405-680-8700

Campbell Crushing
6900 S Sunnylane Road
405-672-6800

CFF Recycling
100 N Bath Ave.
405-239-7144

Waste Connections of OK
4625 S Rockwell Ave.
405-745-2942

Recycle for Life
1110 NW 2nd St.
405-606-8448

Hite Plastics Recycling
5405 NW 10th St.
405-495-4483

Recyclers of Main
1001 SW Fifth St.
405-270-0006

Recyclers of Oklahoma
2115 SW 19th St.
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*Source: recyclingcenters.org

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