

CAMPUS HELP

FINDING YOUR WAY

The beginning of a new semester can be overwhelming. Several campus offices have a variety of useful resources. Getting the right help starts by knowing where to look.

NEWS, p. 6 & 7

STUDENT LIFE

CLUB FAIR

Students will have the opportunity to meet members from campus clubs and organizations Jan. 27 and 28.

CLUBS, p. 10

EDITORIAL

ABORTION BILL WRONG

Are state lawmakers trying to keep women from seeking their constitutional right to an abortion? Senior Writer Justin Combs weighs in.

OPINION, p. 2

CULTURAL SERIES

ALUMS TEAM FOR SHOW

Edgar Cruz and Shannon Calderon-Primeau set to entertain at OCCC on Jan. 26.

NEWS, p. 4

INTRAMURALS

B'BALL MEETING SCHEDULED

Students interested in playing basketball this semester are asked to attend an intramural meeting in the Wellness Center gym Jan. 27.

SPORTS, p. 8

PIONEER

JANUARY 22, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Attendance policies return to normal

MARK SMITH
Editor
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OCCC's attendance rules have been restored after an outbreak in the H1N1 flu caused a relaxation in the policies last semester.

In an e-mail to the Pioneer, Felix Aquino, vice president for Academic Affairs, said the academic policy states that professors are to determine their personal classroom attendance policies.

To help prevent mis-

understandings, Aquino said, most professors post their policies in the course syllabus.

He said students should be sure to read the attendance policies written in their syllabi.

Should a student become ill, Aquino said,

students should contact their professor immediately by e-mail or telephone.

However, it is common for professors to require letters from a medical doctor confirming the illness, he said.

In the event a student

provides a doctor's excuse, Aquino said, many professors may allow the student to take a make-up test or give them extra time to turn in missed assignments.

Last semester, Aquino

See **POLICY** page 9

LAB, BUILDING HOURS POSTED

Helpful services available across campus

MARK SMITH
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The beginning of a new semester can bring many obstacles to new and returning students.

OCCC offers several departments that specialize in helping students be more successful.

Academic Advising

Academic Advising is where students can receive help with an academic plan for their major.

Sara McElroy, academic adviser, said the main purpose of Academic Advising is to help students develop their plan and choose courses that will move them toward graduation.

Meeting with an academic adviser is important, McElroy said.

She said students should call to set up an appointment.

Academic Advising is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See **SERVICES** page 6



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Daniel Bakewell, developmental math lab instructor, discusses math class options with Lori Roberds, physical therapy assistant major, in the Math Lab. The lab is located on the second floor of the Science, Engineering and Math Center.

COMMUNICATIONS LAB OFFERS HELP TO CONTESTANTS

Essay contest open to community college students

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
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Entries for the seventh annual Community College Baccalaureate Association's essay contest are due Feb. 5, said Beth Hagan, executive director.

The contest is open to any student currently enrolled in a community college in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean, Hagan said.

A \$1,000 check and an all-expense paid trip to the 10th annual Community College Baccalaureate Association

Conference in Baltimore, Md., will be awarded to the winner.

In addition, she said, \$1,000 will be awarded to the winner's college.

Students may only enter one essay for submission, Hagan said, and it must specifically address the topic given.

This year's topic is: "Why obtaining a four-year degree on my community college campus would be important to me."

Hagan said the idea of offering four-year degrees at community colleges is gaining momentum, but "no one ever

asks the college students what they think."

Contest entries must be received via e-mail.

Hagan said essays must be between 400 and 500 words and typed using any 12-point font.

Brandon Isaak, Com-

See **ESSAY** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Does Oklahoma have the right to invade privacy?

House Bill 1595 bad for women

An ill-conceived law passed last year by the Oklahoma Legislature would put more barriers in the way of a woman's right to an abortion — if allowed to take effect.



JUSTIN COMBS

Health reproductive services are a personal matter where information should be confidential between doctor and patient.

House Bill 1595 would put an end to that.

The bill requires women seeking an abortion to fill out a questionnaire with the results posted on a state-funded Web site. That exceeds the current reporting requirements.

It asks for the age, race and education background of the mother, total number of abortions prior to the current one, abortion method, anesthesia information, and a series of questions about the father.

Critics of the bill say the questions are so extensive that a woman living in a rural community could be

identified, even though her name does not appear on the questionnaire.

This begs the question: what's the goal — to humiliate women who have an abortion? This is nothing but a sneak attack to slowly outlaw abortion in the state and infringe on a woman's personal choice.

Rep. Ryan Kiesling (D-Seminole), who voted against the bill, said the Web site would cost \$250,000 a year to build and maintain, and has nothing to do with decreasing abortions.

"The bill is entirely aimed at making it more difficult for women to have access to their constitutional right of reproductive services," Kiesling said.

Keri Parks, director of External Affairs for Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma, agrees the true aim of HB 1595 is to make it more difficult for abortion providers to deliver health care services to women.

"The statistical reporting involved in this bill does nothing to improve health outcomes," Parks said. "In fact, it may put women's protected health information at risk of inadvertent disclosure."

A restraining order has been placed on the bill for violating a provision of the state constitution that restricts a bill to a single subject so it may be awhile



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

before it takes effect, if it does. Currently, the bill also assesses: a fine up to \$100,000 for being accused of performing gender-selection abortion and a fine of \$500 per day for a doctor who doesn't submit the questionnaire with 30 days of an abortion.

requiring invasive questionnaires and intimidating doctors with heavy penalties only shows some lawmakers still prefer the old-fashioned method of instilling fear instead of providing knowledge to help their constituents.

YOUR VOICE | Global warming proof in the numbers

Professor 'mistakes political ideology and propaganda'

To the editor:

I applaud you for your discussion of global warming.

The fact of human kind's exacerbation of global warming is supported by all credible climatologists and climate research centers.

It also is important to note that current climate modeling not only predicts overall warming trends globally, but also predicts erratic and anomalous weather pat-

terns.

Regarding a proposed solution to curb warming due to carbon emissions, OCCC Professor Alan Jones' assertion that "[c]ap and trade is really tax and trade" is a popular conservative maxim revealing that his political interests are deeply entangled in this issue.

Jones' claim that while "[t]he few brokers [of carbon credits] become richer, the rest of the world will become poor-

er" is a slippery slope indeed.

As a "practicing operations research analyst," Jones should know better than to mistake political ideology and propaganda for scientific inference.

It is truly amazing — and frightening — that such an educated person can fall prey to the lies and deceptions put forward by those such as U. S. Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and the energy interests he represents.

Proposing an international conspiracy amongst researchers, Jones has obviously abandoned the principle of parsimony in lieu of accepting conclusions based on empirical evidence that contradict his political interests.

Jones further asserts that the biosphere has benefitted from carbon levels that were "up to five times the current level," presumably referring to the Eocene epoch or the

late Permian-early Triassic transition.

He fails to mention that global temperatures averaging 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit), compared to modern global temperatures of about 15 C (59 F), marked both time spans.

Furthermore, "[a]s a matter of historical evidence," the World Meteorological Organization reports that "2009 is likely to rank in the top 10 warmest on record

since the beginning of instrumental climate records in 1850" (see press release number 869).

The United Kingdom Met Office reaffirms these conclusions, stating that 2000 to 2009 has been the warmest decade on record, based on data from about 1,500 global monitoring stations.

The raw data from each station is openly available at www.metoffice.gov.uk.

—JOHN WEIS
PHYSICS MAJOR

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

Vol. 38 No. 18

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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.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FOOD REVIEW | Restaurant offers healthier alternative to ice cream

Gelato on the menu at local café

In a state where deep-fried is a way of living and health food is generally regarded as a profanity, good gelato — a kind of Italian ice cream treat that is lighter and healthier than its American counterpart — is hard to come by.

Never fear, however: il Dolce is here.

Located at 937 B S.W. 25th Street in Moore, stepping into il Dolce Gelato is like stepping into one of Italy's finest gelaterias.

Immediately, customers are greeted by warm faces, friendly smiles, and a cozy atmosphere —

and that's before you even make it to the counter.

It is at that counter where the most harrowing portion of any visit to il Dolce begins: choosing what to order.

At any given time, il Dolce offers its customers their choice of two dozen flavors from an assortment of more than 150.

Selections change daily, making every visit to il Dolce a bit like eating a box of chocolates — you never know what you're going to get.

Rest assured; however, that whatever you get will be unlike anything you have ever tasted before.

Flavors range from the ordinary, such as vanilla and chocolate, to the extraordinary, like roasted almond and rosa — an ethereal, rose-infused creation, and one of my personal favorites.

In addition, many Italian standbys, like spumoni and mascarpone, are also present, as well as childhood fantasies such as bubblegum and peanut butter banana.

And for the truly adventurous, there is even cioccolato habanero: an intimidating mixture of chocolate and hot peppers, combined to make a spicy-sweet dessert that

is sure to rock your taste buds.

With so many mouth-watering flavors to choose from, it can be hard to pick just one. Luckily, you don't have to.

In true Italian fashion, gelato at il Dolce is not served one flavor at a time, but rather in combinations of the customer's choice.

For just \$2.95, patrons can order a piccolo-sized helping of two flavors, while \$4.10 offers a grande-sized creation of up to four.

Rating: A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
STAFF WRITER

COUNSELOR'S Corner

"Give thanks for what you are now, and keep fighting for what you want to be tomorrow."

—FERNANDA MIRAMONTES-LANDEROS

As humans, we are often plagued by feelings of inadequacy and insecurity.

We tend to look in our mirrors only to criticize the perceived flaws in ourselves.

We mentally fold ourselves up into the tiniest possible thing so we can hide ourselves away.

Sometimes, we may say silly things such as, "When I lose 10 pounds, I'm going to do this or that," or "If I were any good at _____, I'd really be able to be successful."

While it may be a human tendency for many people to gravitate toward the negative, it's very important that we learn to turn this "stinkin' thinkin'" around.

One of the first requirements for maturity and success is liking who we are. That doesn't mean that we ignore things that might need improvement, but it does mean accepting that we are human.

Diamonds are formed after millions of years of pressure is applied to rotting vegetation and animal matter.

Who doesn't love a good diamond!

Like us, each one has its flaws.

If you want to change something about yourself, do so.

But do so because you want to, and not because you think someone else cares.

Do the same with your future. You know what you enjoy. You know what you like to do. Only you can dream your dream of tomorrow.

The world is uncertain and our economy is shaky. These seem to be one of the few constants in life.

So, hop on the merry-go-round and reach as far as you can for your brass ring. In time, you'll grab it.

—MARY TURNER

LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

FILM REVIEW | Things get complicated with Streep, Baldwin

Divorced couple ignite old passions

A woman having an affair with a married man is not an unusual plotline for a movie.

When the married man is the woman's ex-husband, the plot thickens.

When the ex-husband is married to his former mistress, who is pressuring him to have a child in spite of the fact he is 50-years-old and still in love with his ex-wife, "It's Complicated."

Nancy Meyers ("What Women Want") wrote and directed this film in rich comedic style.

Meyers had help in bringing her story to life with the fine performances of Alec Baldwin, Meryl Streep and Steve Martin.

Jane (Streep) is finally getting her life in balance after being divorced for 10 years from her cheating husband, Jake.



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Jake (Baldwin) is miserable in his marriage to his former mistress, Agness (Lake Bell)

Agness has a great figure, a bad attitude and a young son from an affair she had while married to Jake.

Confused yet? There's more.

While staying at the same hotel the night

before their son's graduation, Jake and Jane have a few drinks, dance a bit, and end the night in bed together.

Jake is sure they are meant to be together again. Jane is not so positive.

Enter Steve Martin as Jane's architect, Adam, to further complicate matters as he falls for Jane.

After a fiasco in the Pink Panther series, Martin is back on his game in this movie.

The character suits his personality and comedy style.

Streep and Baldwin play the divorced couple beautifully.

There is just enough tension between them, and just enough residual

love, to make the idea of an affair plausible.

The movie has an R rating for some drug content and sexuality (a nude Alec Baldwin).

Truth be told, this is not a movie small children would enjoy or understand.

This film is instead a great example of adult comedy.

Yes, it is complicated, but it is also two hours of fun and laughing out loud at a tale the audience seemed familiar with.

If you need a night of entertainment, and some good hearty laughter, "It's Complicated" will deliver.

Rating: A

—CYNTHIA PRAEFKE
STAFF WRITER

EDGAR CRUZ, SHANNON CALDERON-PRIMEAU SET AS FIRST CULTURAL PERFORMERS

Cultural Arts Series to showcase alumni

ETHAN HENDRICKS

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Two former students will return to the college to display their song and dance talents for the semester's first Cultural Arts Series performance.

Professional Latino musician Edgar Cruz and professional Latino dancer Shannon Calderon-Primeau will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

Lemuel Bardeguez, Cultural Program director, said the two artists are OCCC alumni.

"It's a neat story to have previous OCCC students who have gone on to successful careers to come back and share their stories with us," he said.

Tickets are \$10 for children and students; \$17 for faculty, staff, alumni and seniors; and \$22 for general admission.



Shannon Calderon-Primeau and Edgar Cruz

Cruz is an accomplished and world-renowned fingerstyle guitarist from Oklahoma City who composes his own renditions of famous songs, ranging from the classical style to modern day hits.

Calderon-Primeau is a critically-acclaimed dancer, whose style ranges from ballet to flamenco.

Bardeguez said the two-hour show will have plenty of performances by both artists.

"The program is built as 'an evening of extraordinary Latin guitar and dance,'" he said. "Shannon does all type of dance and Cruz plays the guitar."

Despite one being a dancer and the other a musician, Bar-

deguez said, a large amount of cooperation between Cruz and Calderon-Primeau will take place.

The show will be a unique blend of both of the artists' talents while, at the same time, each getting a chance to perform solo.

Both Calderon-Primeau and Cruz said they were excited to return to campus.

"I'm really looking forward to performing at OCCC," said Calderon-Primeau. "The classes I took at OCCC helped prepare me so much for running my dance studio."

Cruz echoed Calderon's enthusiasm.

"I'm excited about returning to OCCC," said Cruz. "There are so many good memories of that college and it will be nice to be able to give back something to it."

Cruz attended OCCC for

three years, graduating with an associate degree in music in 1982, and an associate degree in drafting and design in 1983.

Calderon-Primeau attended OCCC from 1989 to 1991, taking a variety of classes in preparation for a dancing career.

Bardeguez said the Cultural Arts Series is a schedule of performances by professional and popular performing artists.

"Some of the previous performers from last semester were the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, Bill McGuigan and the Four Freshman," he said.

"Every year, we try to program a selection of performers which will appeal to a large audience. And then, once a semester, we have a performer who is from Oklahoma."

For more information or for tickets, visit the CAS Web site at www.occc.edu/cas.

Opening Day leaves volunteers, students satisfied

JENNIFER PEARSALL
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Candace Hyams, liberal studies major, won the drawing for a new Dynex 22-inch LCD high definition television from the spring 2010 Opening Day on campus Saturday, Jan. 16, said Stephanie Baird, First Year and Student Life program coordinator.

In addition to the television, a Nintendo Wii was given away to Kendall Briceland, sociology major.

Baird said about 350 people attended Opening Day, less than the fall semester's Opening Day.

Personalized tours and free snacks were, by far, the most popular among the students, evident by the long lines of those waiting for a college professor or staff member to show them where their classrooms were located.

"I came to get some popcorn

and find my classes, so I don't look crazy on the first day," said Karlyn Morrison, theater major.

Morrison said this was her second time to come to Opening Day.

Christa Cunningtubby, accounting major, said she always attends.

"I like coming to Opening Day each semester to find my classes," Cunningtubby said.

"My favorite part is the free snow cones."

To encourage students to learn more about OCCC, Student Life put together a scavenger hunt for Opening Day, Baird said.

"We wanted a way for students to become more engaged in the event," she said.

Baird said the goal was to complete five tasks: Sign-up for a personalized tour, take the tour, visit the library booth, check out the Communication Lab, and stop by the Safety and Security booth.

Once students completed all five tasks, they received a free OCCC T-shirt.

Baird said about 143 students participated.

The library also got in on the action.

"We are passing out print cards and telling about the library services," said Librarian Mary Grace Berkowitz.

Print cards are used to print documents in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library, she said.

Students are given 60 free prints a semester which can be uploaded on to their print card at the circulation desk with their student I.D.

"We are putting a human friendly face on the library and discussing 'The Maltese Falcon' for the next Big Read."

The Big Read is a nationwide program to encourage people to read.

Security Officer Jeff Porter told students about the Safety and Security office and its role

“

We wanted a way for students to become more engaged in the event."

—STEPHANIE BAIRD

FIRST YEAR AND STUDENT LIFE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

on campus.

"We explained what we do and that we have 240 (surveillance) cameras on campus," Porter said.

Baird said, "There is no way this event would be do-able without the volunteers."

About 60 faculty, staff and student volunteers served in various positions, Baird said.

Many led tours, including

President Paul Sechrist.

Others staffed the refreshment stands.

Jorge Lopez, Modern Languages professor, helped run the snow cone stand.

"I really enjoy helping out," Lopez said. "It is a good service to the college. I also like to see the diversity of our new students. It's wonderful."

"That, and I like snow cones."

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Do you have news you'd like to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC student worthy of a mention. If so, contact Justin at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409.

NEW COUNSELOR 'EXCITED TO HELP STUDENTS'

College hires evening mental-health counselor

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Evening students who are struggling with stress, depression, anxiety or who simply need someone to talk to, have a new face on hand.

The college recently hired Heather Murphy as the evening mental-health counselor.

"I think college students are amazing," Murphy said.

"But a lot of them get lost

along the way. That's why I want to help."

Before coming to OCCC, Murphy said, she worked with troubled families at Shadow Mountain Behavioral Health System in Oklahoma City.

Murphy obtained her master's degree in Community Counseling from the University of Oklahoma.

She said she hopes her addition will help more students.

"Hopefully, having a counselor available at different

hours of the day will encourage more students to get help," Murphy said.

Murphy said she will work in partnership with Jenna Howard, the college's other mental health counselor, who provides services during the daytime.

Murphy will be available from 4 to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, in the Student Support Services office.

She said no appointments are necessary for students who find themselves in need of assis-

tance for depression, substance abuse, relationship problems or other mental-health issues.

If any student is found to require long-term counseling services, Murphy said, he or she will be referred to an affordable, off-campus service for assistance.

"I'm really looking forward to it," Murphy said.

"I love people. It's the perfect job for me."

For more information, contact Murphy at 405-682-7520.



Heather Murphy

Alzheimer's awareness to be discussed at luncheon

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OCCC has planned an educational luncheon to help those affected by Alzheimer's disease.

"Coping with Alzheimer's" will be from noon to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, in CU1, said Lisa Vaughan, Risk Management coordinator.

Vaughan said the college has made a commitment to educate people on the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and the importance of early detection.

"The goal of the session is to cover the 10 early warning signs of Alzheimer's," Vaughan said.

She said many people are touched by Alzheimer's, since five million Americans are living with the disease, which is why the college hopes to educate participants about early symptoms.

Vaughan said the session also will cover where to get tested and seek help.

The speaker, Paula Avery, specializes in helping families who have been affected by Alzheimer's, she said.

"A lot of times there is a stigma associated with Alzheimer's."

"We're wanting to get over that and let people know that the more you know about it the better equipped you are to deal with it."

Avery said in an e-mail that diagnosing Alzheimer's can be difficult.

People forgetting where they parked their car or having difficulty recalling a person's name are not necessarily symptoms of the disease, Avery stated.

"These isolated incidents are far different from Alzheimer's disease," she stated. "It's when we see a number of early warning signs happening collectively that families should be concerned."

There are multiple factors that should be considered and age bias should be avoided when determining cognitive screening, Avery stated.

"Family members should be the best barometer for

“We're wanting to ... let people know that the more you know about it, the better equipped you are to deal with it.”

—LISA VAUGHAN

RISK MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

recognizing signs indicating a cognitive decrease in function level," she stated.

Statistically, Avery said, Alzheimer's affects 1 out of 8 people over the age of 65 and 50 percent of people over the age of 85.

"Since age is the greatest risk factor, the disease affects more women," she said. "Statistically, we have longer life spans."

Vaughan said the session is open to all employees, active

or retired.

Employees can register for the session through WOW! Classes on MineOnline.

However, Vaughan said, students also are invited to the luncheon.

Students who would like to attend should contact Vaughan.

For more information, contact Vaughan at 405-682-1611, ext. 7148, or e-mail lvaughan@occc.edu.

Less of Me at OCCC encourages employees to get in shape

LANDA MCCLURE
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Losing weight is the goal of a fitness program for college employees, said Lisa Vaughan, Risk Management coordinator.

Less of Me at OCCC begins Monday, Feb. 1, and is open to all college employees including faculty, staff, adjuncts and student workers, Vaughan said.

She said participants can sign up as individuals or teams, two to five on a team, until Jan. 29.

Vaughan said employees interested in signing up should e-mail lessofme@occc.edu saying they would like to participate.

She said the first weigh-in will be Feb. 1 and 2 in the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Vaughan said the college has been trying to incorporate a healthy living style.

"The idea is healthier employees equal better employees," she said.

Vaughan said the idea for the program was inspired by

the television show The Biggest Loser.

Danny Cahill, last season's winner, is from Oklahoma.

"The show is pretty popular and having an Oklahoman win is what gave us the idea to create a fun and healthy program," Vaughan said.

"The challenge is a fun way to support each other," said Mary Turner, Learning support specialist and member of the Wellness Task Force.

Turner said students can work out on or off campus to

meet their goal.

Vaughan said the challenge will be a three-month program ending April 30.

She said there will be weekly weigh-ins and luncheons where guest speakers will talk about health and fitness topics.

Weekly prizes also will be given away and participants will make personal weight loss goals.

"To be eligible, the person doesn't have to lose weight that week, but they can't gain any," Vaughan said.

To be included in the drawing, participants will have to attend the weigh-in and the luncheon.

"The grand prize to be drawn is two Bedlam tickets for the game in the fall," Vaughan said.

She said in the future, the college hopes to include students and the community in the wellness program.

For more information contact Vaughan at 405-682-1611, ext. 7148.

To register for the program, e-mail lessofme@occc.edu.

Services: Students urged to take advantage of assistance on campus

Continued from page 1

Mondays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682-7535.

Records and Graduation Services

The Records and Graduation Services desk provides a variety of services associated with student record requests and international student services, said Alan Stringfellow, registrar.

These services include enrollment verifications, name and address changes, requesting official transcripts, printing ID cards and parking permits, evaluating transfer transcripts and receiving academic forgiveness paperwork, among others.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682-7522.

Financial Aid

Students in need of financial assistance can receive help in the college's Student Financial Support department, said Alicia Harris, Financial Aid assistant director.

"We help with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, financial aid paperwork, and managing financial aid loan debt," Harris said.

Harris said students should begin applying for financial aid for next fall. "The 2010 and 2011 FAFSA is online now," she said.

Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682-7525.

Student Employment and Career Services

Students who need help finding jobs, writing résumés and cover letters, or practicing for interviews, can find help from Student Employment and Career Services, said Judi McGee, Employment Services coordinator.

Students also can find an online job board by visiting www.occc.edu/es and clicking on the link provided.

Students can visit the department 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7519.

Student Life

Many clubs, organizations, honor societies and student support services are offered through Student Life.

Katie Treadwell, Service Learning and Student Life programs coordinator, said Brown Bag lunches — training seminars offered to students — cover topics such as succeeding in college, life skills, budgeting and relationships.

Student Life is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682 7523.

Transfer Center

Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college may want to use the resources available at the Transfer Center located in Academic Advising.

McElroy, transfer coordinator, said she assists students by advising them of the courses needed to transfer, scheduling university tours, and inviting several universities to come to the college's transfer fair.

The transfer center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682-7567.

World Languages and Cultures Center

To learn a new language, receive tutoring in foreign language classes, or learn about a particular culture, students should visit the World Languages and Cultures Center, said Chiaki Troutman, World Languages and Cultures Center lab assistant.

Troutman said the center offers tutoring, an international film collection, computers with the world-renowned Rosetta Stone foreign language software, and language workshops, among many other services.

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682-7560.

Student Computer Center

The Computer Center offers help and tutoring for most computer science and computer aided technology courses, said Michael Reeves, evening and weekend supervisor.

However, Reeves said, students don't have to be enrolled in computer science courses to use the lab.

The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7397.

Engineering Lab

Engineering students can benefit from the services offered in the Engineering Lab, said Greg Holland, engineering professor.

Holland said the Engineering Lab offers study space, access to engineering professors, free tutors, tools and equipment, and workshops.

Students can visit the lab from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7483.

Recreation and Fitness Center

OCCC offers plenty of services to help students remain active.

Students can use the weight room, gym and swimming pool for free.

In addition, there are several wellness classes offered for a reduced price to students, said Roxanna Butler, Recreation and Fitness director.

The Wellness Center is open from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information, call 405-682-7860.

Communications Lab

Students who need help with writing assignments can find help in the Communications Lab, said Tonya Kymes, lab supervisor.

The lab offers free tutoring in English, writing and other communication areas, Kymes said.

In addition, she said, students can use the computers for completing their assignments.

The lab is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

Math Lab

In the Math Lab, students have access to a wide assortment of assistance with their assignments and tests, said Christine Peck, acting lab supervisor.

With more than 100 computers for study and homework, and instructional videos, students with any learning need can receive assistance, Peck said.

There also are developmental math instructors who specialize in helping students taking developmental courses, she said.

These courses include Basic Math, Elementary Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.

In addition to having textbooks the students can use in the lab, students unable to purchase a graphing calculators can lease one from the lab, she said.

The lab is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7291.

Biology Science Center

The Biology Science Center helps students succeed in all biological science classes by offering tutoring, group and independent labs, state-of-the-art computers and study materials, said Virginia Hovda, lab supervisor.

Hovda said the center offers assistance in areas such as zoology, botany, anatomy and general biology.

Lab hours are 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7269.

Chemistry and Physical Science Center

Students needing help with chemistry and physical science courses should visit the Chemistry and Physical Science Center, said Betty Jo Higgins, lab supervisor.

Higgins said students can receive free tutoring and use the lab's computers to work on their assignments.

The lab is open from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays, and 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7711.

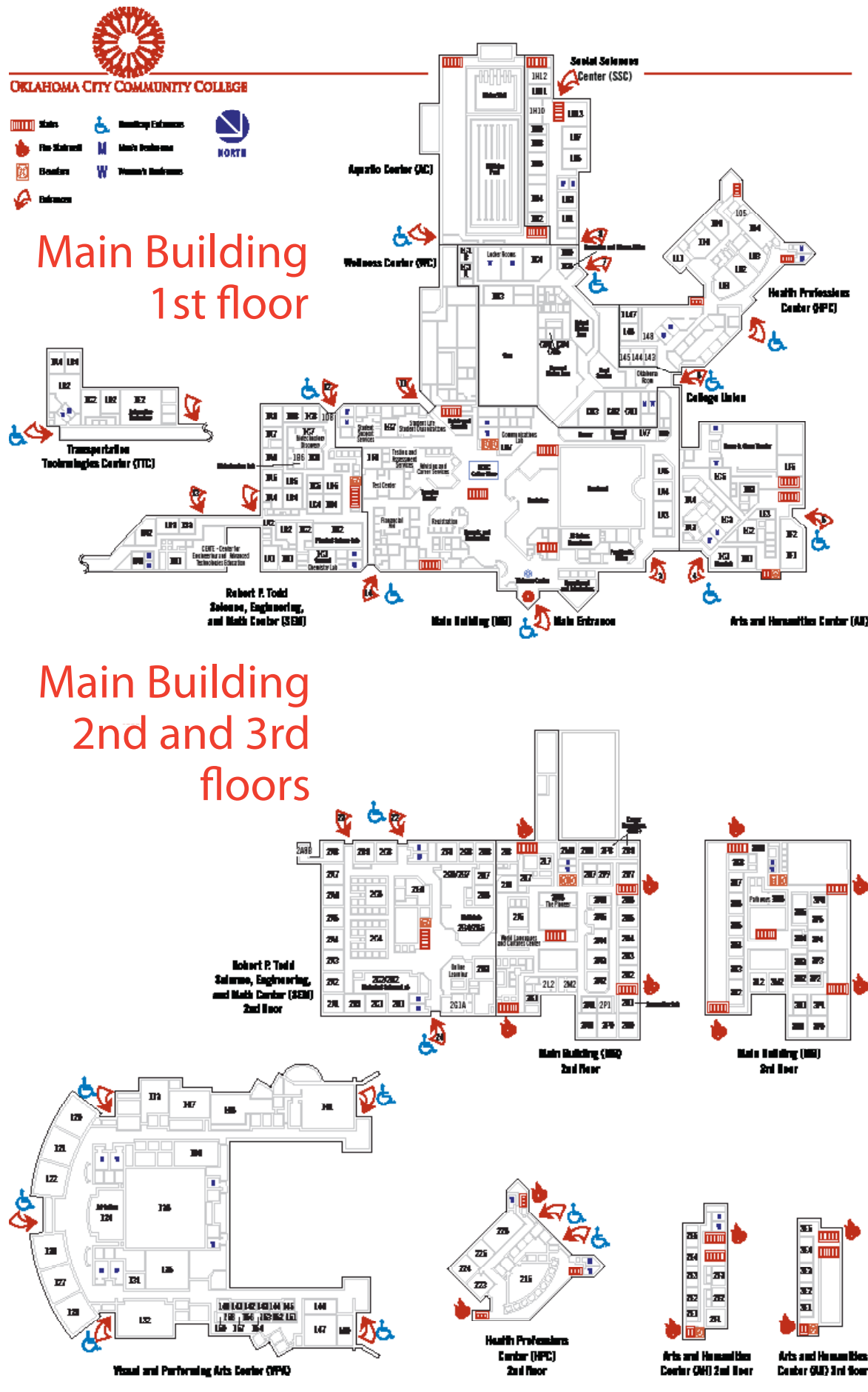
Staff Writers Jennifer Pearsall and Whitney Knight contributed to this article.

Navigating OCCC a map away

Shown are maps of buildings on campus where OCCC's labs, Bookstore and other helpful offices are located.

For the fall semester, the Main Building will open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The campus is closed Sundays.

Students are encouraged to ask any college employee for directions if they have difficulty navigating any of the buildings.



TRiO offers student support

ALICIA SMITH
News Writing Student

TRiO provides academic tutors and more personalized advising to students in the program, said Ginelle Gordon, TRiO director.

TRiO students attend transfer trips, and even meet faculty at other colleges in their desired field of study, Gordon said.

She said they also help members get better acquainted with other services on campus.

First-generation college goers, students in financial need, or those with a disability should take advantage of TRiO student support services, Gordon said.

The program offers a lot of help that should be used by students who fit the criteria, she said, whether students are seeking a certificate, an associate degree or a bachelor's degree.

To join the program, students must apply, Gordon said.

TRiO measures its success by four "outcome objectives," she said.

The first, Gordon said, is at least 70 percent of TRiO members maintain a 2.0 grade point average.

The second is at least 50 percent of students in their first year will enroll for a second year, and at least 30 percent of students in their second year enroll in a third, excluding transfers, of course, she said.

Gordon said the third objective is at least 10 percent of members will graduate within three years of joining the program and 30 percent will transfer to a four-year university within three years of joining.

Though TRiO is capped at 160 students a year, she said, there is no deadline to fill out an application to join the program.

In December, TRiO students attended a holiday cultural event to learn about different traditions and customs from around the world. They also did arts and crafts, watched a movie and played board games throughout the week, said Daniel French, TRiO Programs assistant.

For more information, contact Gordon at 405-682-1611, ext. 7620 or e-mail ggordon@occc.edu.

Green Tip of the Week:

"According to the EPA, U.S. consumes more than 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps each year. Worldwide, we consume well over 500 billion plastic bags annually, or almost 1 million per minute. After purchasing your books, you can make a difference by returning your plastic bags to the OCCC Bookstore to be reused."

— Courtesy of the OCCC Green Task Force

SPORTS



Fast Track

Joel Gifford, occupational therapy major, watches television as he begins his workout routine. The cardio and weight room, located in the Wellness Center, is open to students and faculty free of charge with their ID.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Jan. 25:** The spring Sports Bash will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Wellness Center gym. Instructors will be on hand to give fitness class demonstrations and students can sign up for intramural sports.

• **Jan. 27:** Intramural basketball organizers will have a meeting at noon in the Wellness Center gym. All students interested in playing are invited to attend.

• **Jan. 4-27:** Boot camp classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 4-27:** Pilates classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, and noon to 12:55 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 4-27:** Spinning classes will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, and 6 to 6:45 a.m. and 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 4-29:** Combo aerobics class will be held from noon to 12:55 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 4-29:** Deep-water exercise classes will be held from 10 to 10:55 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 4:30 to 5:25 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are held in the Aquatic Center.

• **Jan. 5-28:** Zumba classes will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; 10:30 to 11:25 a.m. and 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Fridays. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 7-28:** Total body workout classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. Thursdays. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

INTRAMURALS | Recreation officials encourage students to participate

Intramural basketball kicks off with meeting

LANDA MCCLURE
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Students interested in playing basketball will have a chance to form teams at the first intramural basketball meeting at noon Wednesday, Jan. 27, said Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist.

The meeting will take place in the Wellness Center's gymnasium.

"We are looking for teams, players and captains," Watson said.

Intramural sports are coed, he said, so all students are encouraged to join intramural basketball.

Watson said the meeting will let Recreation and Fitness know how many teams will participate.

"Once we have all the teams formed, we can start to schedule game days," he said.

Watson said intramural sports are free to students. All that is required to register is a valid student ID.

Charlie Tarver, Recreation and Fitness sports assistant, said the teams will be playing by intramural rules, which are similar to Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association rules.

Tarver said he expects to have between six and eight teams sign up.

He said each team will play at least four games and the games will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Fridays.

Tarver said games will be played throughout February.

He said a tournament at the end of the season will determine who the

basketball champions would be.

"Recreation and Fitness will also hold a banquet for the intramural players after the season is over," Tarver said.

Tarver said he believes intramurals are good for students.

"Students who join an intramural sport get the benefit of getting to know other students and gaining best friends," he said.

Watson said Recreation and Fitness will host a three-on-three basketball tournament and a basketball hot shots challenge later in the semester.

For more information about intramural sports, contact Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

occcpioneer.wordpress.com

Metro Transit system alters bus route to OCCC

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

The Metro Transit bus system is changing its route to OCCC beginning Feb. 1, said Wayne Simpson, scheduling manager. The changes came as a result of the recent approval

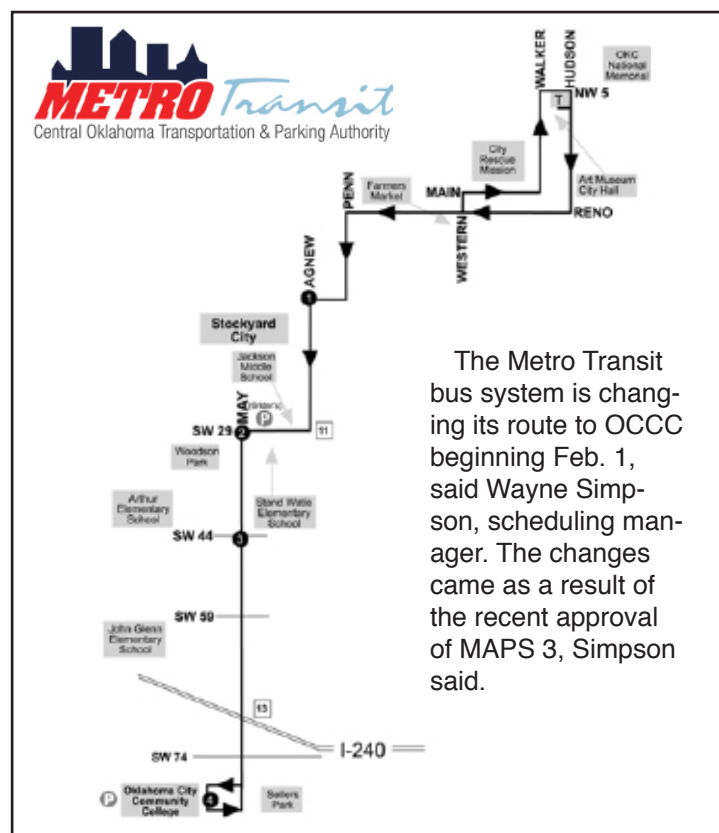
of MAPS 3, Simpson said. "One of our main stops is the downtown Goodwill facility." "That location is moving to make room for the new park, so we are changing the route to accommodate that move." Instead of following Exchange Avenue to and from downtown Oklahoma City,

Simpson said, buses will continue traveling north and south bound on Pennsylvania Avenue, then turning east onto Reno. He said he does not believe the change will affect many students.

"Once the route hits Agnew, it will continue its normal course to and from the OCCC campus," Simpson said. "These changes will only impact those who get on between Reno and Agnew."

Those students will now need to go about a half mile further to Pennsylvania Avenue to reach the bus stop, Simpson said.

For more information, including a map of the revised bus route, visit www.gometro.org or call 405-235-7433.



The Metro Transit bus system is changing its route to OCCC beginning Feb. 1, said Wayne Simpson, scheduling manager. The changes came as a result of the recent approval of MAPS 3, Simpson said.

Policy: Students should check with professors

Continued from page 1

said, the President's Cabinet urged professors to temporarily suspend their attendance policies to discourage sick students from attending class and risk infecting others.

He said the recommendation was made in the interest of public health.

Sherry Ray, math professor, said she is glad the policies have returned to normal.

While Ray said most of her students were honest, "there were some students who took advantage of the vague atten-

dance policies last semester." However, some students still came to class sick and had to be sent home, she said. This semester, Ray said, she will require students to provide documentation when they miss class due to an illness.

Instead of punishing students for missing class, she said, she awards bonus points for being present during class.

For more information on attendance policies, students can speak with their professors.

Students also can contact Academic Affairs at 405-682-1611, 7546.

Essay: Cash up for grabs

Continued from page 1

munications Lab assistant, said students interested in entering the competition can stop by the Communications Lab for help.

"A lot of people think we only help out with strictly in-class writing, but that's not true," Isaak said.

"We are always here to help students improve their work, regardless of what it is for."

He said he strongly encourages students to enter the contest.

"Win or lose, anytime you encourage someone to write, it's a good thing," Isaak said.

Several students asked by the Pioneer said they were not interested in the contest.

Kelsea Burton, film and video major, said she might have considered entering a few weeks ago, but is too busy now.

"(With) work and classes

starting back up, I just don't have time right now," Burton said.

Hagan said the essay contest offers students an opportunity to voice their opinions.

"When we compile these entries, there's a good chance that some of them will be sent to (the) legislature," she said.

Hagan said she encourages students who enter the contest to explore the issues of bachelor's degrees at community college campuses.

"This isn't just another essay contest," Hagan said.

"This is a chance for students to make a big impact in the collegiate world."

For more information, visit the CCBA website at www.accbd.org.

In addition, Hagan said, completed contest entries may be e-mailed to bhagan7@aol.com.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Giving a hand



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Robbi Daniels, Hog Wild Entertainment worker, helps James Cox, film and video production major, create a wax hand. Student Life sponsored the free event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20 as a part of Welcome Week activities.

STUDENT LIFE | Clubs, organizations look to grow at fair

Club fair to promote involvement

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Campus clubs and organizations will attempt to recruit new members during the Clubs and Organizations Fair, said Darin Behara, Student Life director.

The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, and Thursday, Jan. 28, in the College Union.

Behara said the event provides students an opportunity to browse different clubs, meet

other students, and get involved in "an important facet of college life."

"I strongly encourage anyone who is even remotely interested in joining a club to stop by and see what it's all about," he said.

Behara said more than 20 student clubs and organizations have signed up to participate.

Held at the beginning of every semester, he said, participating groups set up booths and tables, providing information to potential members.

Centerria Wright, Black Student Association president, said she hopes the fair is a "huge success" for her club.

"We are hoping to get a lot of people from all different cultures involved," Wright said.

She said BSA's table will include informative pamphlets such as Black History Month facts.

Club membership is an experience well worth having, Wright said.

"It's really incredible," she said. "You

learn leadership and networking skills, you make friends, and you have a blast.

"Everyone should experience it."

Students unable to attend the fair can visit the Student Life Web site and join clubs online, Behara said.

"It's as easy as going online, selecting a club and hitting the 'join' button," he said.

For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523, or visit their Web site at www.occc.edu/StudentLife.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Thunder tickets for sale

Student Life will have 100 tickets for the Jan. 27 Oklahoma City Thunder game available for purchase, beginning at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 25. Tickets cost \$5 for students and are limited to five per person. Faculty and staff members may purchase \$10 tickets beginning Tuesday, Jan. 26. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Alzheimer's session scheduled

OCCC will host an informative Lunch 'N' Learn session entitled "Coping with Alzheimer's" from noon to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, in CU1. The session is primarily for employees. However, students who would like to attend the session and learn more about coping with Alzheimer's disease, can register online through MineOnline WOW! classes. The course number is ENHS-1027-001. Seating is limited. For more information, contact Lisa Vaughan at 405-682-1611, ext. 7148.

Job seminar planned

Learn how to work on campus at the OCCC Student Jobs Orientation. Sessions will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, in CU3. For more information, contact Judy McGee at 405-682-1611, ext. 7369, or Karen Schmidt at 405-682-7819.

Baptist club offers free lunch

Baptist Collegiate Ministries will offer free lunch to all students, faculty and staff during the meetings this semester. Meetings will be held from noon to 12:50 p.m. Mondays in the Bruce Owen Theater and 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. Thursdays in room 3N0 of the Main Building. For more information, contact Mark Barnett at 405-323-0583 or e-mail Chris Verschage at cverschage@occc.edu.

Haiti donations requested

Student Life has placed collection jars around campus in an effort to support victims of the recent Haitian earthquake. Students, faculty and staff can drop off donations in Student Life, the Bookstore and in the General Dining Area. Cash donations and checks will be sent to the American Red Cross. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7532.

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.

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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.

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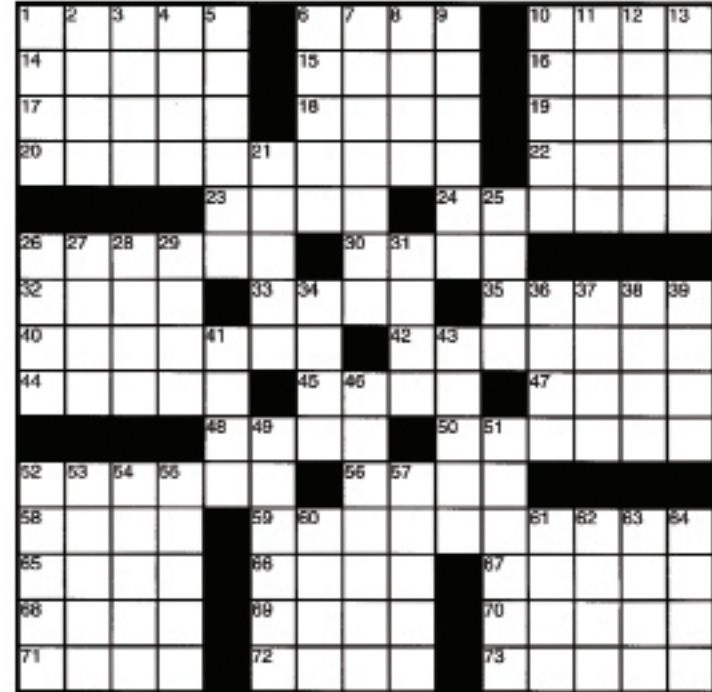
TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Florida city
 - 6 Pretenses
 - 10 Bum
 - 14 Caesar's tongue
 - 15 Diving bird
 - 16 After-bath attire
 - 17 "— You Glad You're You?"
 - 18 Division word
 - 19 Jazz's home
 - 20 Moocher
 - 22 Allot
 - 23 "What — is new?"
 - 24 Badge
 - 26 Giddy
 - 30 Style
 - 32 Type of spray
 - 33 "— and the King of Siam"
 - 35 Hand warmers
 - 40 Solar spectacle
 - 42 Walden Pond dweller
 - 44 North Woods animal
 - 45 Pool's inspiration
 - 47 Social misfit
 - 48 Farmer's produce
 - 50 Highland misses
 - 52 Take to task
 - 56 Peddle
 - 58 Arkin or Ladd
 - 59 Insect repellent
- DOWN**
- 1 Norway's patron saint
 - 2 Mystery writer John Dickson —
 - 3 Fit to —
 - 4 Queue
 - 5 Stag feature
 - 6 Pseudonym
 - 7 Express strong disapproval of
 - 8 Carry
 - 9 Made sleep noises
 - 10 Bit of bread
 - 11 Marriott holding
 - 12 Subside
 - 13 Change the length of
 - 21 Earthenware pots
 - 25 Note
 - 26 Polite cough
 - 27 Texas town
 - 28 Hawaiian port
- 65 Bean —: tofu**
 66 Dash
 67 Frostier
 68 Brink
 69 King's address
 70 Ridge
 71 Bambol, e.g.
 72 Mounts (gems)
 73 Ejects from power

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

MIRAGE	PEA	OPTS
ISABEL	REV	BAIL
SHEENS	ERE	ONTO
TRAFFICLIGHT		
PLATE	LEE	ESSES
SOME	CAR	SAT
HOUDINI	YAK	TUG
ANS	SIR	COPE
WYE	SCS	UPDRAFT
SUN	BAY	ODIE
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THUNDERCLOUD		
HIDE	AGE	REMOTE
ANEW	SUP	CLAWED
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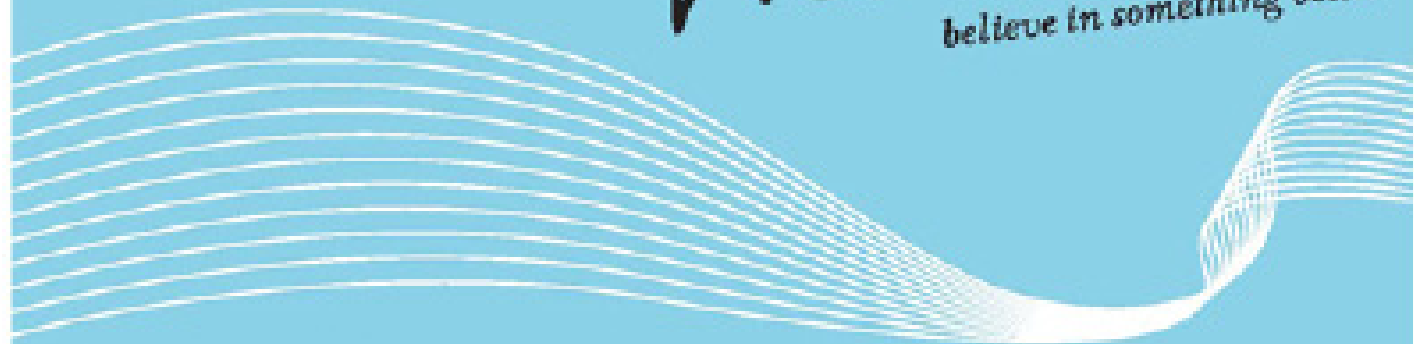
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