OCCC to launch new emergency message system

Students can sign up for text, e-mail and Facebook alerts starting this fall

THOMAS HERndon
News Writing Student

If a gunman is loose on campus this fall or if a fire consumes the Biology lab, students and employees won’t have to turn on the news to find out the latest.

Rather, they will get an instant text message, e-mail and a Facebook wall post — if they sign up for the new OCCC alert notification feature to be unveiled by August.

The software, produced by the company Regroup, will allow OCCC to instantaneously communicate with students and employees via several different mediums, said John Richardson, Online Marketing coordinator.

“This is a very good solution,” Richardson said. It delivers a consistent message in a timely manner.

The software was purchased after a Feb. 26 gunman gaffe on campus, but was finalized after years of discussion and collaboration between Marketing and Public Relations, Information Technology, and Safety and Security, he said.

Richardson said the new feature will cut down on some of the confusion that often happens during emergencies.

He said officials will be able to provide a consistent message to students and employees.

The ultimate goal of the system is to provide pertinent information in a timely manner to the campus community that notifier them of emergencies and closures, Richardson said.

The system was tested on student volunteers during last week’s simulated bomb threat, he said.

In the test, the system was used to send out two text messages and a total of five e-mails to the volunteers, helping the college tweak the system so it would behave exactly as the college wants it to, Richardson said.

“I thought the testing went really well,” he said.

When the system debuts, notifications will be sent to OCCC e-mail accounts, Richardson said.

The e-mail will explain to everyone the opportunity to sign up for text-message alerts.

There will be no sub-

See MESSAGE page 9

HOUSE BILL 1888 TAKES STANCE ON EMS ISSUES

2 college staff members’ legislative push brings emergency services problems to the forefront

JENNIFER MASSEY
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

A bill written by two OCCC staff members to address problems in Oklahoma’s emergency services was passed and put into effect June 6.

House Bill 1888 requires local governments to take a serious look at the state of Emergency Medical Services, said Rodney Johnson, Health Professions lab assistant and bill co-author.

“EMS is in a state of collapse right now,” Johnson said. “It is the No. 1 health threat that no one ever heard about.”

Johnson said it would be a crapshoot whether people in emergencies would be responded to in a timely manner or if there would be qualified personnel responding to emergencies.

Recognizing the problems, Johnson enlisted the help of Leaugay Barnes, EMS director, to help write the legislation.

The law allows counties until April 1, 2011, to address funding issues and ensure countywide medical service coverage, Johnson said.

Johnson said the bill also requires county boundaries to be more accurately defined so 911 assessors can respond promptly to citizens’ calls.

The passing of the bill has been years in the making, Johnson said.

“If the citizens of Oklahoma realized the danger they face every day with the lack of funding, oversight, professional and educational standards, and the general lack of understanding of what EMS does, they would be shocked,” Johnson said.

After spending years petitioning Oklahoma
Shady visitors contort purpose of library

When the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library opened its doors in 1972, it was called the Learning Resource Center, and its mission was to offer students and non-students alike the opportunity to read books, study and relax.

Nearly 30 years later, the library's mission is still the same. According to policy, anyone with a valid college, state or federal ID may be granted access to the library and its materials free of charge.

For well-intentioned students and local citizens, this provides an excellent resource to learn, study and simply unwind with a good book or magazine.

Unfortunately, the library's open access is drawing seedy individuals to campus, and look up pornography or take up the space hard working students and well-meaning community members need.

Every week, it seems at least one library patron, including a registered sex offender last month, is escorted off campus for viewing inappropriate content on the computers.

That an outsider could stroll into our library and look at porn, amongst innocent children and adults, is disgusting.

And regrettable is that other non-students misuse the computers by idly surfing the Internet, feeding their FarmVille chickens or tweeting about the trivial happenings in their lives.

In 1972, the library's mission met the public. In 2010, times have changed. The college needs to get serious and tell the space wasters to move along.

Excluding public contradictory to college’s role

As a community college, OCCC has an obligation to enhance and help the community that supports it. But recently, some students and staff have been complaining about people who are neither students nor staff coming in and using the library's computers and study areas.

There are a few sensible arguments these complaints could be based on.

One is that allowing anyone to walk in and use the library's resources makes it more difficult for students who need those resources to use them.

Another is that students have to pay for the right to be here, and these resources are part of what they paid for.

And a third is that by giving the public access to our campus, and allowing them to use our library's resources, we open ourselves up to unsavory and criminal characters wanding about amongst the students.

While it is understandable that those complaining are concerned, simply banning the public is not a valid option.

It's true there are public libraries scattered all around the metro, and some of these people could go there.

But there are neighborhoods all around the college, and the next closest public library to the college is three miles away.

Some non-students might not have ready access to transportation.

For them, the library might be the only access they have to the Internet, to look for jobs or stay in touch with family.

On the other hand, if a person is homeless, the library may offer shelter in the dead heat of summer, or when winter storms drop temperatures below 30 degrees.

So instead of arguing for a total ban on community use of OCCC's library, maybe argue for a bit of moderation.

The college also could implement the Metropolitan System's computer sign-up system, which limits users to a single hour if others are waiting.

Some of the staff could volunteer to offer career workshops to the public, held in the library, both to give those people a reason to be there, and to help them not have to be.

Finally, even if nothing is changed, to answer the grumblings of students, we as students should remember one thing: we may pay to be here, but without the community around us, we wouldn't have a college to pay for in the first place.

Comment on this article at www.occc.edu/pioneer
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | A couple of funny lines, but nothing more in this new movie

Fine actors can’t save ‘Cyrus’

There are good movies, bad movies, and movies in between.
“Cyrus,” the latest from Fox Searchlight Pictures, transcends these categories. This movie could qualify as a vile form of psychological torture.
“Cyrus” is currently in selected theaters and is one of those rare films that has absolutely nothing to recommend.

The acting is flat, the dialogue is bland, the cinematography is amateurish, and the plot moves so slowly that the first five minutes of the movie feels like an hour.

The basic plot concept is brilliantly dark. John (John C. Reilly) meets the woman of his dreams at a party that his ex-wife, Jamie (Catherine Keener) forces him to go to.

John and Molly (Marissa Tomei) hit it off and start dating. All goes well until John meets Molly’s adult son, Cyrus (Jonah Hill).

The problem lies in the fact that Cyrus and Molly have an unusually close relationship.

As John and Molly grow closer, Cyrus is revealed to be manipulative, cruel, selfish, and determined to make sure the little world he and his mother share stays exclusive.

A good idea like this deserved a better chance. The writers failed to take advantage of the many opportunities for macabre humor.

There are only a couple of good comedic lines in the whole movie, and most of what little humor there is comes from Reilly’s gift for subtle facial expressions.

To make matters worse, none of the actors give their best in this one, though Reilly and Keener try.

Hill struggles to achieve a creepy vibe but comes off as a pathetic loser.

As far as cinematography is concerned, the director looks to have tried for an “indie” feel, but it winds up looking incompetent and confusing.

The film often looks like a group of kids got their hands on professional equipment and made a home video.

All in all, “Cyrus” suffers from a case of good concept gone hilariously wrong. The few humorous moments aren’t nearly enough to outweigh the headache-inducing awfulness of the rest of the film.

“Cyrus” is a bad film. Plain and simple. Avoid this one at all costs, folks.

Rating: F

—Jeremy Cloud
Staff Writer

MUSIC REVIEW | ‘Thank Me Later’ a record filled with good music

Drake beats the odds on first album

One of hip-hop’s newest and best arrivals, Drake, aka Aubrey Drake Graham, dropped his first album, “Thank Me Later” last month.

This album is full of true hip-hop beats as well as a host of true hip-hop legends including Lil’ Weezy, aka Lil’ Wayne.

He drops more than his required sixteen bars for his Young Money protégé on this disc.

Ironicly, Wayne dropped his bars while behind bars, via a phone call.

One of the best qualities is Drake’s powerhouse voice. Although he’s a rapper, he sings great.

If you are in the mood for a slow jam serenade, or for a night of passion, the song “Fall For Your Type” is sure to get things going. It has slow, climatic beats, which makes a person daydream about being with that special someone.

It is sure to be one of Drake’s new hits, and it will be the next hit baby-making track.

Out of the bedroom, the song “Light Up,” featuring Lil Wayne and Jay-Z, has a mild-medium beat that sounds really smooth to listen to, until you get to Weezy’s part.

Listeners may get thrown off when they remember he is on the prison payphone spitting his verse out, while sounding like he may be on the sneak tip.

This album also features many snippets from Nikki Minaj. She goes hard as well.

On the song “Up All Night” Drake and Minaj have a special way of making the audience feel that they may have been up all night.

If there’s a downside to the compilation, it’s that the song Drake has with Timbaland, “Say Something” is not on Drake’s album.

I recommend this album to true hip-hop heads and to those folks who just love good music.

The disc goes hard and is a true head banger — it’s really good!

Rating: A+

—Christy Johnson
Staff Writer

YOU asked
FOR IT

Q: When can I expect my fall semester financial aid?

A: “It depends on how early it was filed. The first dispersant of loans is on Aug. 18 and the rest are throughout the semester depending on when the paperwork was filed and if the student is only enrolled in one semester.”

—Allicia Harris
Financial Aid Assistant Director

Q: What department helps students choose their schedules. Also who do talk to in regards to declaring a major?

A: “Academic Advising is the department that students can go to get advice on their schedules and what types of classes they need to take in order to be successful with their majors.”

—Mary Ann Bodine
Academic Advising Assistant Director

Q: Can students use the diving boards in the aquatic center?

A: “Students can use the diving board. But they can only use the one-meter springboard during open recreation times. The other diving boards are for the diving team only.”

—Tre Kramer
Head Life Guard

Q: What is the best place to get information about employment?

A: "In Student Employment and Career Services Room 1G7, we help with everything from resumes, interviews, job skills, and cover letters to assist our students.”

—Judith McGee
Student Employment and Career Services Coordinator

Comments? Opinions? Let us Know!
E-mail Justin Combs at editor@occc.edu
Let your voice be heard!
Students will have new nursing labs this fall

ALYSON COOK
News Writing Student

Students in the nursing program this fall will be able to practice their assessment and other skills in three new nursing labs.

"I think the new labs will be a good opportunity for all the students to be able to practice the hands-on skills required to succeed in nursing."

—KAYLI BURBRIDGE
NURSING MAJOR

Kayli Burbridge, nursing major, said the new labs would provide a better learning environment for all nursing students.

"There will be more lab space for everyone to be working in a lab setting," Myers said.

The labs, which will have tile floors, cabinets, sinks, and mobile desks and chairs, will be used for hands-on practicing skills, she said.

One lab will contain simulators, which are dummies used to practice hands-on skills.

Another will be the practice lab for skills that do not require a simulator, Myers said.

The other lab will have beds and a classroom in it for theory involvement work and for assessment work she said.

Kayli Burbridge, nursing major, said the new labs would provide a better learning environment for all nursing students.

"I think the new labs will be a good opportunity for all the students to be able to practice the hands-on skills required to succeed in nursing," she said.

The construction on the new labs started in May and is around 80 percent complete, Myers said.

She said the project was budgeted for about $43,000.

Myers said the remodeling is being funded through the OCCC funds for renovating and updating.

"(Building the labs) was a recommendation when we had our site visit from Oklahoma Board of Nursing in October," Myers said.

"They recommended that we expand the lab space for the students."

Assistant Nursing Program Director Deborah Myers, talks to technicians from Facilities Management July 20, as she inspects the progress of new labs.

Higher numbers of international students transfer to OCCC

Lower tuition costs attract international students

THOMAS HERNDON
News Writing Student

The tiny Asian country of Nepal has had a huge impact at OCCC this year, International Services Coordinator Sunny Garner said last week.

With 139 students and approximately one-third of the international student population, Nepal tops the charts at OCCC when it comes to international student enrollment, Garner said.

Nepal is near India, with a land mass approximately the size of Arkansas.

Garner credits the numbers to the country’s familiarity with the community college system.

She said OCCC has seen an increase in Nepalese numbers because other colleges, including University of Central Oklahoma, began recruiting heavily in Nepal.

"OCCC began getting reverse transfers from students who decided to come to OCCC after being at UCO," Garner said.

Suman Raut, medical technology major, participated in the reverse transfer process by transferring to OCCC from UCO.

Raut said he made the choice to come to OCCC after realizing that OCCC had the same classes but at a fraction of the cost.

According to the OCCC Bursar’s office website, non-residents pay $236.20 per credit hour, plus an additional student status maintenance fee, compared to $88.60 for resident students.

Garner said the number of international students from other countries also has risen.

She said she credits the community the international student body has built as reason for the steady growth.

"Students here have really built a community and the more it grows, the more it will build on itself," she said.

Garner said the students from Nepal and other countries at OCCC now are going to be future leaders in their own countries.

She said she hoped the Nepalese and other students will have positive experiences in America, and will take the experiences and use them to better their home countries.

"International] students here have really built a community, and the more it grows, the more it will build on itself.”

—SUNNY GARNER
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR
Homeless struggle for education

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David Carmichiel, a man in his mid-50s, was a student at OCCC in the summer and fall of 2009. He also was homeless. Carmichiel said his problems began in early 2009 when his trailer caught fire.

The flames spread to his motorcycle, destroying everything, leaving only him and his cat.

That, combined with the bad economy, he said, led to him falling through the cracks of society and becoming homeless.

Eventually, he said, he found a spot at Grace Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City, and the mission pushed him to enroll at OCCC.

That’s when Carmichiel talked to someone in OCCC’s Student Support Services to see what other help he could get, he said.

“They offered me access to organizations that could get me a job,” he said. “They had leads on apartments that would work with students. They also gave me bus passes to get to and from school.

“They were really helpful and have a lot of good advice,” Carmichiel said.

Mary Turner, learning support specialist, said she personally counseled 12 homeless students in the Spring 2010 semester, and several more have been seen by her colleagues.

“We have many homeless individuals going to school here,” Turner said. “We had a female student who lived in her old van with her daughters during the ice storm in February.

“For families, it’s devastating.”

Turner said not everyone understands the plight of the homeless.

“There have been complaints about people dragging these big suitcases behind them when they walk the halls,” she said.

“But some of these people are taking everything they own in those suitcases.

“We have students who will show up to OCCC early in the morning and they’ll go and put everything they own into a locker, and shower and get ready for school,” Turner said.

Last semester, she said, she referred several people to local shelters and charity organizations.

“I would encourage students to contact our office if they have these needs,” Turner said.

“It’s tough with the economy and we can’t work magic, but hopefully we’ll be able to move them to the top of the list for subsidized housing,” Turner said.

A December 2009 study of hunger and homelessness from the City Mayors Society shows a 26 percent national increase in the demand of hunger assistance programs and a significant rise in the homelessness of families.

The study states that homelessness in America is the worst it’s been since 1991.

Carmichiel said he is grateful for the help he received.

“If you aren’t aware of the stuff [Student Support Services] offers, it’s really good information to find out,” he said.

Carmichiel decided to drop all his classes multiple times, but he has plans to start back to OCCC in the fall, he said.

In the meantime, he spends most of his days in the school library.

OCCC professor learns at American Indian workshop

SAMANTHA DAVIS
News Writing Student

OCCC English Professor Bertha Wise was selected as one of 50 professors from across the nation to attend a workshop to learn about the Ponca, Pawnee and Omaha American Indian tribes.

Wiseclassified National Endowment for the Humanities, a grant-funded workshop for community college faculty June 20 through the 25 at Central Community College in Columbus, Neb., she said.

Wise, who has taught Native American Literature was selected as one of 98 applicants from across the nation.

“(The workshop) gave me a lot better insight and understanding of both the history and culture of these three tribes and the role they played in the different regions of the plains,” she said.

The workshop, titled “Legacies and Landmarks of the Plains Native Americans,” focused on three different American Indian tribes of Nebraska, she said.

Wise said her knowledge was expanded through trips to various museums, including the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha and a museum in Genoa, Neb. that had once been a part of an American Indian boarding school.

Additionally, Wise and the other teachers met with Head Chief of the Pawnee Nation, Pat Leading Fox, and visited the Pawne Indian Village Museum in Republic County, Kansas, she said.

The professors also heard a lecture from University of Nebraska journalism professor Jose Starita, she said.

Starita is the author of “I Am A Man: Standing Bear’s Journey for Justice” according to the workshop’s website.

Wise said overall the workshop proved to be beneficial.

“It just gave me more knowledge, really,” she said.

“Everyone can use more knowledge.”

“Never stop learning,” Wise said.

Language director leaves OCCC after 35 years of work in education

CHRISTIAN LEACH
News Writing Student

After 35 years in education and four years at OCCC, the director of the Language Arts Department retired last week.

Cheryl Stanford, who instituted the multicultural English program, made the decision to retire in January.

In an e-mail to her staff she said, “My job here at OCCC has given me the chance to be innovative and create which I have enjoyed.

“My favorite aspect of the position has been working with full-time faculty,” the e-mail read.

“I’ve made many new friends since coming to Oklahoma City, and my life is richer for those friendships and opportunities” she said.

Stanford was the college’s first department director for Language Arts.

She also helped to develop the World Languages and Cultures Center, which caters to ESL students and those learning other languages, she said.

Stanford said working with the faculty was her favorite part of working in the Language Arts Department.

“I enjoy my colleagues and the students,” Stanford said.

She said she admires the professors in her department and their passions for teaching because they mirror her own passion.

Stanford said she enjoyed her career and is looking forward to her next adventure.

She said she would like to thank the college for allowing her to work in her position.

Arts and Humanities Dean Susan Van-Schuyver described Stanford as a compassionate and strong leader.

“I am sad that she left but it is wonderful to see someone fulfill their dreams,” Van-Schuyver said.

“She made a tremendous difference here at OCCC,” she said. “Cheryl will be missed.”
**Preschool children play dirty with worms**

**LAUREN REED**
News Writing Student

Worms don’t gross out the children at the Child Development Center and Lab School, said Alexandra Sitzman, early childhood education major.

Students in preschool A at the CD-CLS studied several kinds of worms July 5 to 9.

As part of their project, the children set up an aquarium that contains Night Crawlers, Sitzman said.

“They also constructed individual aquariums made out of two liter soda bottles,” she said.

“The children are really interested in worms right now.”

All of the children in preschool A are involved with the worms.

Children who did not enjoy handling the worms did not have to participate, Sitzman said.

Hailey and Kylie, two 5-year-olds in the class, said they wanted to show off their worms.

The worms were not gross, Hailey said.

“They don’t bite,” she said. “They can use their mouths to go into the dirt.”

Sitzman said she also is conducting field work over how students interact with each other while studying the worms in the aquarium.

Field work is required for early childhood education degrees, much like a capstone project is for other majors, Sitzman said.

Sitzman said she is studying the way the children learn with the project approach.

“I chose my field work for early childhood education as worms,” Sitzman said, "because it is of interest to the children, and they learn best through hands-on projects.”

Aside from the wormy studies, the children also constructed a compost bin which was then infused with Red Wiggler worms, Sitzman said.

Sitzman said the children bring in leftover food to put in the compost bin.

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**Business students to receive aid through Clothes Closet**

**KATHRYN NASH**
News Writing Student

Graduating business students on a tight budget won’t have to scour the sales racks to find professional dress for interviews.

Some students will be able to select free clothing from the Business Division Clothes Closet this fall, said Lisa Adkins, business professor.

She said the closet will be located in the Business Division and students will be able to find business suits, ties, shoes and accessories.

Some of the donated clothing still has price tags on it, she said. Adkins is helping coordinate the program, she said. “Many of these students are working individuals, and are trying to make ends meet,” Adkins said.

She said students need something to wear to their first job. “You have to look the part, and if you don’t, you might get overlooked for a job,” she said.

“The clothing will help the students until their first paycheck.”

The Business Clothes Closet is only available to business students because of limited supply. Adkins said the goal is to start small, tweak the program and then expand.

She said the business faculty is devising an application process.

Students who need the assistance can apply and see if they meet the criteria to be approved, Adkins said.

She said the Business Division has been planning this venture for two years.

One thing that has been holding off the debut of the closet is that the program directors wanted to have a wide selection of clothing in more sizes, Adkins said.

She said she wanted to make sure there is something wearable for students of all sizes.

“We are getting to the point now where we have a pretty good supply of women’s clothing, but still need more men’s,” Adkins said.

Donations have come from OCCC employees and the Faculty Association garage sale, she said.

However, anyone is free to donate.

Adkins said the division is still looking at some other donation avenues, such as dry cleaners.

“I have thought about going around to garage sales and handing out my business card to try and get more clothing for the closet,” Adkins said.

Adkins said she will drive or walk to pick up donated clothing that might be appropriate for interviewing.

She said the department is looking for nice, clean, gently used clothing.

Jennifer Kirk, graduating business student, interned in the Business Department and worked to organize the closet this summer.

“It was good to know I was working on a project that would directly benefit students in my department,” Kirk said.
Students complete film ‘Going Down’

DANIEL PARKER
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Filming at OCCC ended July 16 for the upcoming short film, “Going Down.”

Students and filmmakers are working on the editing process and a rough cut of the short should be completed by July 23, said Aaron Chenoweth, who co-wrote the screenplay with its female lead Demyilo Ray.

The short film stars students Celia Gunn-Zaboli and Ray. They play the characters Sera and Ryan, a couple arguing aboard an elevator, according to the script and the unfinished footage.

As they quarrel, the elevator makes stops and quirky bystanders crowd in.

The seven-page script is a dialog-derived comedy about a woman questioning her boyfriend’s fidelity after reading his text messages.

The film’s script is full of cultural references about everything from Tiger Woods to “Marathon Man.”

Its jokes are mainly sex zingers about fake orgasms and threesomes, or people pretending to be stoned.

“The film’s similar to an experience I had once upon a time,” said Ray, film and video major. “I was with a young lady and she was a little crazy. She took it offensively when I got a text message from another lady when we were hanging out.”

This film is the product of the Oklahoma Film Institute’s Seminar, “Producing a Short Movie,” according to OCCC’s website.

The seminar was overseen by the OCFC film department which includes Hollywood veterans Gray Frederickson and Greg Mellott, as well as independent film producer and director Sean Lynch.

“It’s a whole week seminar that undertakes everything necessary to make a film,” Frederickson said.

“We take students from the first day of pre-production when we cast the film and build the props, to the final day of editing.

“The filming crew rotates so each scene has a different director.”

Mellott, video production professor, said the only way to learn how to make a movie is by doing it.

“The school teaches foreign languages through immersive experiences,” Mellott said.

That’s what this seminar is, only for film. It’s the only way to teach filmmaking,” Student filmmakers shot the film using RED Digital Cinema Cameras, giving the picture quality a professional sharpness and clarity.

OCFC bought the cameras on a matching grant that cost the school $75,000, Mellott said.

On July 15, the film crew shut down the elevator on the second floor of the Science Engineering and Math Center.

For hours, the alcove behind the stairwell was crowded with bright lights and boom mics, all to capture a shot of the elevator doors opening and closing, revealing the actors inside.

The remaining scenes were filmed on the soundstage in an elevator replica set built from wood by the stagehands, Frederickson said.

Chenoweth said upon release, the film’s name may be changed to “The Elevator.”

“Going Down” will soon be posted at the OCCC film department’s website, which is not yet active, Chenoweth said.

Benches placed around Arts Festival site

CARLOS NAZARIO
News Writing Student

Sixteen benches were recently installed around the Arts Festival site on the northwest side of campus, said Larry Barnes, Facilities Management project manager.

The 16 benches surrounding the site each have an L-shaped flower bed in front of the bench. They are made of black metal and can fit up to four people, Barnes said.

“The benches are there for students and members of the community …,” he said.

Barnes said each bench costs around $1,200, with the total for all 16 being around $20,000.

J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director, said Tru Green Land Care installed the benches.

He said the company was one of several who bid on the project.

Messer said although it is hot during the day, the benches won’t burn people who sit on them.

The powder coating used to paint the benches keeps the benches from becoming too hot, Barnes said.

Students seemed to like the new additions to the festival site.

“It is very beautiful, and I love the silence and being able to hear nature while I relax from my classes,” said student Kayla Parker.

Community members also were eager to use the benches.

“I sure haven’t got a chance to see the new and improved site but I am definitely going to check it out,” said Nancy Coleman, a parent of a future OCCC student.
Championship Swim Meet open to all ages

DEMERYE PAULIN
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James Hensley, Aquatic and Safety Training specialist, had passionate words of advice for all those willing to participate and prepare for the annual Age Group Championship Swim Meet held July 30 and Aug. 1 in the Aquatic Center.

“The key to winning this event is simple, listen to your coaches and do what they ask you to do with all of your might,” Hensley said.

In the competition, he said, children of all ages will compete against each other in their own age groups to ensure fair play and equal opportunity.

Hensley also said each team is required to compete only if a coach is there to lead their teams.

The swimming competition is a bi-yearly relay team event, with one 50-meter competition in the summer and a 25-yard event in the winter, Hensley said.

Relays team brackets are for ages 10 and under, and under, 14 and under, and under 19.

Through the weekend games, teams can build up points based on their placement of the top three performances at the end of each competition. The team with the highest total of points after all games are completed will receive the Championship Swim Meet's highest honor, the High Point award, Hensley said.

He said individual competitors who score high in the regional games advance to the zone based games — an event that decides who will move on to higher levels of competition. Those who do well in the Zone games will then advance to national competition.

Hensley said his role in the upcoming event is to put the events together and get a team together to assist him in making sure the competition is safe and enjoyable for all those involved.

The entry fees for the swimming event are $3.50 per individual event and $14 per individual deck entry event.

The cost of the relay event is also $7, and relay time trial event is $7, $14 per relay deck entry event, and an $18 facility surcharge per athlete entered in the meet.

A portion of the fees will be converted into proceeds to benefit the OKS Aquatic Fund and the OKS Reserve Fund. The amount of money used for funds range from $1.75 to $4.38.

To take a closer look at the scores and view information for upcoming events, visit www.chesapeakeswimclub.org.

For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Sports specialist, 405-682-1611, ext. 7786, or contact Hensley at 405-682-1611, ext. 7662.

Students may also contact Learn to Swim Program Assistant Tre Kramer at 405-682-1611, ext. 7442.
HEALTHY EATING

Containers of vegetables sit behind the the salad bar July 21 inside Carson’s Cafeteria. The eatery is looking to add more healthy options to its menu, including gluten-free and vegan menu items, said Corrine Aguilar, Carson’s general manager.

Students may see healthier food options in Cafeteria, manager says

ASHLEY MERRITT
News Writing Student

Students looking for healthier food choices or those who are diabetic, on gluten-free diets or vegan may soon find more offerings in the cafeteria, said Corrine Aguilar, Carson’s general manager.

Aguilar said she plans to expand the healthy options in the College Union lunch area to include meals and foods that are more health and diet centered.

“ I want everyone to have options and right now a lot of people are trying to eat healthy, so we are trying to do our part,” Aguilar said.

Carson’s has received criticism for not caring about its customers, Aguilar said, but that is not the case.

There is a variety of healthy options including grilled chicken, fresh sandwiches and a salad bar, she said.

Aguilar said she also is in talks with Carson’s management about incorporating diet-specific foods into the menu such as vegan, diabetic and gluten-free options.

Students with gluten intolerance, or Celiac Disease, are allergic to wheat barley and rye, which are found in corn dogs, pizza and any other dishes that include wheat, flour or oats.

It is a severe food allergy whose only cure is to be on a very specific diet, according to webMD.com.

The website said failure to follow the diet can result in fatigue, depression, loss of focus and, in long-term situations, cancer.

“I think it’s important to give people with those restrictions more options,” Aguilar said.

“The main obstacle with ordering gluten-free foods is the fact that they are generally more expensive than regular meals.”

Aguilar’s first step is to continue her research of gluten-free foods and hopefully have gluten-free cereals this coming academic year, she said.

Shaun Hajjari, microbiology major, said Carson’s was already doing a lot to provide healthy choices.

He said he was drawn to the cafeteria because he noticed the healthy choices.

“I noticed that they were serving grilled chicken and it seemed like the healthiest choice especially because we can actually watch them grill the food,” Hajjari said.

Bill: Law requires counties to address funding issues

Continued from page 1

“ It has been a race to the bottom,” Johnson said. “If it weren’t for OCCC, EMS would be in terrible shape.”

Johnson and Barnes won’t be stopping their crusade for change any time soon, Barnes said. “There is always resistance to change,” she said. “We are lucky to be at the forefront of that change.”

Barnes and Johnson agree there is more work to be done in regard to Oklahoma emergency medical service laws.

“We have several things in the works right now,” Johnson said.

Message: System’s goal is to quickly send notices, information to students

Continued from page 1

He said the system has capabilities to work in any situation, even a campus-wide power outage.

“The system that sends out the text alerts and e-mails actually resides off site, so the primary challenge would be connecting to the system without electricity on campus,” he said.

“Our plan is to utilize either a cell phone or iPad for access — both of which will run on batteries.

“Should the college’s wireless network be down, too, we would get online via the devices’ 3G networks,” Richardson said.

Darren Rogers, sophomore student, sees the new system saving him time and money.

Rogers, who lives in Norman, said the text messages about closures or campus lockdowns would save him time and money by eliminating unnecessary drives to the campus.

“The idea of receiving a text, which I will check, lets me breathe a sigh of relief,” he said.

“I am guilty of not checking my student e-mail as often as I should.”

“[The new system] would save me a lot of headaches,” he said.
Welcome Week to greet fall students

BONNIE CAMPO
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Lori Farr, learning skills professor, said this will be her third year with the Opening Day event. She said the tradition, which includes free refreshments, is an experience students greatly benefit from.

“Opening Day is a paramount of an event,” Farr said. “Students can make a better connection with the faculty, and the school is able to market that the college is a place to come and expand their horizons.”

She said the large number of students who turn out each year shows Opening Day is a worthwhile event.

Farr said she feels students would not come to the college on a Saturday and participate in something they don’t feel is valuable.

Baird said after Opening Day, students should attend Welcome Week events Aug. 22 to 27, which is a series of different activities students, can participate in such as food giveaways and discount sporting event tickets.

“We try to make the students feel comfortable during the first week of class,” Baird said.

She said Welcome Week helps students become more aclimated to the college and meet new people while gaining information about the college.

“Welcome Week hosts many events that Student Life promotes for students, but we have decided to make TRiO’s ice cream social a part of it this year, too,” Baird said.

Other events include a Welcome Breakfast, Taco Tuesday, New Student Orientation, airbrush tattoos and a Deal or No Deal contest, among others.

She said these events are offered on a first come, first served basis, and are taken advantage of quickly in the morning.

For more information, e-mail Baird at sbaird@occc.edu.

Welcome Week Events
• Aug. 23 — Welcome Breakfast
• Aug. 24 — New Student Orientation, Taco Tuesday
• Aug. 25 — New Student Orientation, TRiO Ice Cream Social
• Aug. 26 — Airbrush tattoos, Deal or No Deal
• Aug. 27 — Student Life Open House
BOOK FOR SALE: “Business Communication” by Guffy and “Fundamentals of Accounting,” chapters 1 through 12, new workbook. Contact: Rachel Wiseman at 405-413-8017 or e-mail wiseman.rachel@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: 1996 Mitsubishi Eclipse, two door, maroon color. Good condition and drives great. $3,750. OBO. Contact: Liton at 405-822-1638.

FOR SALE: 2001 Ford Focus ZX3-S2 Special Edition, 80,500 miles, new transmission, water pump, four low-profile tires, light damage on driver-side door and minor cracks due to the hail storm. Good condition and drives great. $3,200. OBO. Contact: Lily at 918-740-7906.

FOR SALE: 2003 Mazda Protege5, auto transmission, four door, leather interior, moonroof, keyless entry, auto lock, power steering. Good condition and drives great. $5,500, or better offer. Contact: Victoria at 405-335-2155 or e-mail vicchristofi@yahoo.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

Tutoring Offered: Are you struggling with math or chemistry? If you need some assistance then here is the solution. Take a tutoring class with Nguyen, who has 8 years of tutoring experience and a master’s degree in both subjects. Contact: Nguyen at 918-850-5625 or e-mail nguyen.h.truong@email.occc.edu.

FOR RENT

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female roommate needed to share room in SW Oklahoma City. Must have a good reference. Roommate offered own bedroom. Pets are allowed inside the house. Smoking and drugs are not allowed. Contact: Kelli at 405-205-0740, only after 6 p.m. or e-mail poohbear73064@hotmail.com.

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TEXTBOOKS

Book For Sale: “Business Communication” by Guffy and “Fundamentals of Accounting,” chapters 1 through 12, new workbook. Contact: Rachel Wiseman at 405-413-8017 or e-mail wiseman.rachel@hotmail.com.

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A lot of campus rapes start here.

PIONEER TREASURE HUNT

Search the Pioneer for answers to our weekly treasure hunt questions.

Pioneer Treasure Hunt Winners:

1. Bernadean Woods
2. Alicia Gonzalez
3. Mia Diaz

The Pioneer would like to thank everybody who participated.

Congratulations to all three winners.

Collect your prizes at the Pioneer office, located at second floor in the Main Building, Room 2M6.

Contact: Bishal Malla at 405-882-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

The Pioneer would like to thank everybody who participated.

Contact: Bishal Malla at 405-882-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

TODAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

ACROSS
1. God’s relative
5. Salad-dressing cheese
9. “I’m glad that’s over.”
13. Outdoor area
14. UFO plot?
15. Roof part
16. Son of Aphrodite
17. Destructive creature
19. Henri’s negative
20. Soldier’s shoe
21. “1984” author
22. Art for art, e.g.
24. Old Norse inscription
25. Rover’s need
26. Clamsery
30. Warsaw’s place
33. Helper
34. Electrical unit
36. October gem
36. Weapon
37. Garden soil
38. Soak (fix)
38. Basset hound
41. Actress
42. Plummer
43. Pew adjustments
45. Prune (branches)
46. Fancy kim
47. Traded
51. Quality
54. Actor Connery
55. An Asian
56. One way to quit smoking
58. Contented sound
59. Tennis pro
60. Fortys
61. Atlanta arena
62. Bears’ shelters
63. Stop
64. Hardly heroine

DOWN
1. Laughing mammal
2. Tom’s dad
3. Swedish money unit
4. Sullivan and Asner
5. Flower
6. Happy tune
7. Long fish
8. Raisined
9. Baseball’s Reese
10. Possess
11. Harmful
12. Water source
14. On the train
18. Tennessee—Ford
20. Kind of muffin
23. Hockey score
24. Harness part
26. Contest
27. Midday
28. Sudan

neighbor
29. Jane Austen novel
30. Type of barrel
31. Frank
32. Behind time
36. Achar
37. Richard—Reinder herder
38. Act like a farmer
39. Act like a professor
40. Firehouse
42. Haunted house noise
44. Avoids acidity
47. Flower starters
48. Feathery
49. Takes in, as salary
50. Singer Day
51. Vinegar, e.g.
52. Double agent
53. Ken or Lena
54. Slip and slide
57. Wras up for election
58. Cook’s vessel

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Newspaper lab, office moving

KATHRYN NASH
News Writing Student

When people are directed to the Pioneer newspaper office, they are often told to go to the second floor of the Main Building and locate the yellow shag carpeted walls. Those walls will be dismantled in a couple of weeks when the Pioneer office, lab and classroom relocates to the former ceramics lab in the Arts and Humanities Building. Construction on the new space began July 1 and should be finished before fall classes begin, said Susan VanSchuyver, Arts and Humanities dean.

"The new space will provide much more room and will house the Pioneer, the Broadcast News Lab, two audio labs and a storage closet," she said.

The lab space, located near Entry 2, is receiving a total renovation. It was completely gutted and will have new walls, ceilings, floors, rewiring and furniture, VanSchuyver said.

She said there are no plans to secure the new Pioneer lab with window coverings. She said the Pioneer is currently in an open space and has had no problems with vandalism.

When the Visual and Performing Arts Center was developed, the plan had always been to move the ceramics lab to the new facility, VanSchuyver said. It was moved to the VPAC last year.

She said having enough available space on campus and allocating it in the best way is always a concern so the decision as to what would be in the former ceramics lab was decided at the President's Cabinet level.

VanSchuyver said mass media communications professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, journalism professor Sue Hinton and News Writing Instructional Assistant Ronna Austin were heavily involved in the layout and design of the new space.

"J.B. Messer and Chris Snow, OCCC Facilities Management, were incredibly helpful in the execution of our ideas," she said.

Austin said she is excited about the move. She said it will be nice to finally be in the same area as the rest of the Arts and Humanities division.

Austin said a change in scenery also will be welcomed. "I have sat in the same space at the same desk for the last 14 years, so it will be nice to move to the new space."

Austin said the new Pioneer office will be more secure because they will have a door, but it won't lose the open, relaxed feel of students being able to walk in and talk to the Pioneer staff.

Summer Pioneer Adviser and English professor Mark A. Schneberger said he thinks it's great the Pioneer is getting an updated space.

"By the looks of the architect drawings, the new office will be better looking and more functional than some of the professional newsrooms I've worked in," Schneberger said.

Campus fish a big attraction

AMBER HODGE
News Writing Student

Students on the second floor of the Main Building are being stared at all day by a non-student named Fox Face. But this non-student is not a threat, unless a student encounters his spiky fins.

He's the new fox-face rabbitfish that was added to the saltwater tank by the biology center two weeks ago, said Ross Kiddie, Biology Lab assistant.

Kiddie who is the caretaker of all the fish tanks and ponds on campus, said Fox Face is a highly poisonous fish. He said the yellow and black fish shows he is not afraid of others by raising his sharp spikes on his back when other fish come near.

"He does not go after others on purpose, but merely uses his spikes as a defense mechanism," he said.

Fox Face is just one of the dozens of creatures that live in the campus tanks.

Another professor brought in some aquariums and I just took them over," he said.

Another fish students are fond of is a clownfish and coral, "he said.

"They study the different phylum of each species, and I just took them over," he said.

Another fish students are fond of is a clownfish named George that lives in the same tank as Fox Face, Kiddie said.

He said students also are amused by a shy yellow fish who lives in the same tank they call Golby or Watchmen because every time someone comes near, he retreats into hiding.

Kiddie said the couches are filled nearly every day with students who come to watch the fish by the Biology lab.

For instance, he said the zoology students make use of the tanks for class.

"They study the different phylum of each species, and look at the fish, crabs, snales, starfish, sponges and coral," he said.

Kiddie, who buys the fish as well as cares for them, said there is a large price difference in the types of fish he buys. He said freshwater fish cost about $3 to $4 apiece while a saltwater fish costs about $50.

Because there is so much traffic around the tanks, Kiddie said, he gets all kinds of questions about them.

"That's why I put pictures up of everything in the tanks. Mothers bring their children by also so they can look at them," he said.

Kiddie said another place students might want to go to see fish is in the zoology lab where a saltwater tank holds three fish, a mushroom sponge and coral.

Kiddie said he takes care of the saltwater tanks by monitoring salinity and adding chemicals each week.

Although many students walk by and see only fish, Kiddie said, there are many different things living in the tanks.

"Mothers bring their children by also so they can look at them," he said.