EDITORIAL
TREAT YOUR KIDS AS WELL AS YOUR PETS
Editor Jeremy Cloud says too many people treat their animals better than they treat their children. Read his thoughts inside.
OPINION, p. 2

CAMPUS LIFE
PIONEER BRINGS HOME 30 AWARDS
The Pioneer staff recently attended an awards luncheon on the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater. Find out what awards they won on page 6.
NEWS, p. 6

SPORTS
PAINTBALL TOURNAMENT APRIL 29
A co-ed Capture-the-Flag paintball tournament will be held on campus for the first time as an intramural event April 29. Find out other details inside.
SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE
SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2012 DAY
OCCC is looking for volunteers for Special Olympics 2012. Find out how you can get involved on page 10.
COMMUNITY, p. 10

INSIDE
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
APRIL 6, 2012 WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Staged humor

Students have until April 13 to drop classes

**FINANCIAL AID AWARD IS IMPACTED BY WITHDRAWALS**

LAUREN TUBBS
News Writing Student

With the withdraw date for all 16-week classes coming up on Friday, April 13, some students may be faced with the difficult decision of whether to save their grade or save their financial aid.

Recent changes in federal financial aid mean that too many withdrawals can disqualify a student for financial aid — even if the withdrawals occurred years ago.

When a student withdraws from a class, it is considered “attempted hours,” said Joan Sublett, senior loan adviser in OCCC’s Financial Aid office. In order to qualify for financial aid, students must have a completion rate of at least 67 percent, Sublett said.

The Financial Aid office looks at what is called the “completion rate calculation” as part of the process in determining aid eligibility. The calculation is based on all the classes a student earns divided by how many classes the student attempted.

“[A withdrawal mark] just means it was an attempted but unearned credit,” Sublett said. “Therefore, it will impact your completion rate; however, an ‘F’ will impact your GPA as well. If it is necessary to withdraw from a course that will negatively affect your financial aid, you will have the opportunity to have it appealed, which may reinstate your financial aid.”

But reinstatement is not guaranteed, she said.

Nursing major Alisha Tasetano said she withdrew from two classes back in fall 2010. Tasetano was relieved to find she was still eligible for financial aid.

“If it is necessary to withdraw from a course that will negatively affect your financial aid, you will have the opportunity to have it appealed, which may reinstate your financial aid.”

—Joan Sublett
Senior Loan Adviser

Chris James/Pioneer
**OPINION**

**EDITORIAL | Child abuse cases outnumber animal abuse cases**

Some treat pets better than children

Every time I build up a little faith in humanity, something comes along and reminds me just how awful we are as a species. Case in point: last week News9.com reported that a couple was arrested by Rogers County sheriffs while robbing a home in Claremore.

Oh, and their 4-month-old child was waiting in the car while mommy and daddy picked up some new silver. Really.

In 2010 there were 720,000 substantiated reports of child abuse, according to a report by the Administration for Children and Families. In that same document, there were 3.6 million reports.

Three point six million.

And the worst bit? Of those confirmed reports, 78.3 percent are neglect — as in, forgetting a child exists, forgetting to feed or bathe or shelter a living human being that is wholly dependent on adults for every aspect of his or her life.

So many of us today think only of ourselves. The '90s and '00s bred a culture of entitlement, a culture that encouraged individuals to be proud of themselves simply for breathing and standing upright. And now, more than ever, many consider a crying child a nuisance rather than a helpless individual in need of assistance.

Worse, there may not be a way to fix this. Certainly I don't see one. We may, as a culture, have hit the point of no return long ago. How could I say that?

Those of weak stomach should grab a bowl for this next bit. Pet-Abuse.com lists a total of 1,214 pet abuse cases in the U.S. for that same year. Let me put that in perspective:

To the Editor:

The spring season is the time of year where chicks, ducklings, and other baby birds are given as gifts or put on display for children. The Oklahoma State Department of Health is warning Oklahomans of the risk of illness from handling baby birds. These popular springtime pets often carry Salmonella, a bacterium that causes a diarrheal illness.

The bacteria are carried in the baby bird's intestines, which can contaminate the body of the animal and their environment. When live baby poultry carry Salmonella, they don't appear to be sick, but they can still spread the germs to people.

People can be exposed to Salmonella by holding, cuddling, or kissing the birds or by touching things where the birds live, such as cages or feed and water bowls. Additionally, germs can be found on the hands, shoes, and clothing of those who handle the birds, or work or play in areas where birds live and roam. People become infected with Salmonella when they put their hands, or other things that have been in contact with droppings, in or around their mouth. Children are specifically at risk.

During 2006, the OSDH identified an outbreak of Salmonella associated with handling chicks, ducklings, and other baby birds purchased from farm supply stores as pets. Fourteen cases were identified and seven required hospitalization.

Symptoms of Salmonella include fever, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps; symptoms usually last four to seven days. In persons in poor health or with weakened immune systems, Salmonella can invade the bloodstream and cause life-threatening infections.

The OSDH offers the following preventive recommendations when handling baby poultry:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching baby poultry. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers if soap and water are not readily available. Parents should supervise hand washing for small children to make sure it is adequate.
- Avoid purchasing chicks, ducklings or other baby birds as pets for Easter gifts. Give soft toy animals as a safer alternative.
- If baby birds are purchased, avoid keeping them in a household with children younger than 5 years of age.
- Keep baby birds in a designated area away from family living spaces. Do not allow them to roam freely in the house, especially in areas where food or drinks are prepared or served, such as kitchens and dining areas.
- Supervise children when handling baby birds.
- Do not allow children to handle baby birds in other settings such as childcare centers, farm stores, or schools. If they do so, ensure they wash their hands with soap and water after touching baby birds or anything in their environment.
- Pacifiers, toys, or other objects should not come in contact with baby birds or their enclosures. Wash objects that come in contact thoroughly with soap and water.
- Disinfect areas where feeders, water containers, and cages are cleaned.
- Avoid eating or drinking around baby birds, especially when handling them.

For more information regarding safe animal handling and prevention of diarrheal illnesses, visit www.health.ok.gov or www.cdc.gov/healthypets.

—Oklahoma City-County Health Department

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Parents should consider risks before buying baby chicks for youngsters**

Health officials warn about salmonella from pet birds

To the Editor:

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—Oklahoma City-County Health Department
‘Hunger Games’ gets top rating

After the release of the film adaptation of the first of Suzanne Collins’s three “Hunger Games” novels, I am pleased to say that the movie (and also the book) did indeed live up to the hype. Having been an avid reader of the “Twilight” series, my delight in this book series and the first of the movies is beyond surprising.

“The Hunger Games” takes place in the ruins of what is a post-apocalyptic North America. What used to be the United States is the nation of Panem, a 12-district federation that is headed by the Capitol.

In order to reassert their authority and to punish the districts for their rebellious uprising some 75 years ago, the government stages the annual Hunger Games, a gladiator-style competition that is broadcast to the districts in a reality show manner.

One boy and one girl from each district, between the ages of 12 and 18, are forced into an arena to fight to the death, with the result of one sole victor.

The main character Katniss is played by newcomer actress Jennifer Lawrence. Having read the book first, I can say she properly portrays this character with just the right dose of strength and vitality. She’s not the only character that brings the story to life.

The casting for each role in this movie is what makes this story so convincing and compelling, a measure that some directors can easily neglect.

The characterization breaks the barrier in this category, giving the story a sense of weight and gravity that few Hollywood stars could muster for such roles.

Also impressive about this movie is how the set design mirrors the description that the book gives on the districts and the gaucheness of the Capitol.

The cinematography also is worth noting, with many scenes edited in such a pristine manner, you momentarily feel as if you are a character in the movie.

There are a few inconsistencies between the book and the movie, which I both expected and accepted graciously. However, without trying to spoil a good story, I will say those who have read the book will find that a couple of these inconsistencies are slightly bothersome but, because the movie holds its own value, these inconsistencies are easy to bypass.

The director did an outstanding job in bringing the author’s vision to the silver screen.

For men and women alike, from teenage to elderly, this is an en-grossing story that will leave you feeling anything but bored.

Rating: A+

— Case R. Akard
Videographer

Saving-A-Lot

The dietary habits of students are legendary, and tend to involve a great deal of mac and cheese, ramen and microwave dinners. But those habits arise from a need to save money, rather than a liking for that cuisine if the term can be stretched to encompass ramen.

For those who prefer to eat food rather than flavored cardboard, a local grocery option exists in the form of Saving-A-Lot, at the corner of SW 44th and Penn.

The first impression of the store leaves a lot to be desired. It’s cramped, laid out to maximize the amount of items that can be crammed into a store, and looks decidedly like the kind of place one shops as a last option.

But the prices and service more than make up for the appearance. My husband and I rarely spend more than $120 there, and that nets us three meals a day for two weeks — not just ramen or spaghetti, either, though those are on the menu. I’m talking about steak, pork chops, ribs; fresh greens and salads; bread, ice cream, and plenty of soda.

One of the key ingredients to the prices is the selection. While big brands are represented, they’re far outnumbered by off brands, and unique low-cost items. Some items are, of course, still relatively expensive, like ground beef, milk, and cheese. But the rest of the items can be bought almost for a song.

Another key in this mix is employees who are helpful and friendly but primarily there to stock the shelves and run the register.

There aren’t 20 different managers running about overseeing a megaplex shopping extravaganza; there are no door greeters, cart wranglers, or returns specialists. There’s just a handful of people working to keep the store running and make sure customers can find what they need.

As an aside, there are also no employees to sack the groceries, nor carousels for the cashiers to do it as they go. Instead, there’s a long table against the front window lined with bagging stations for customers to sack their own after checking out.

While sacking one’s own groceries takes a few moments longer, the savings go a long way to alleviating any annoyance, as do the greatly shortened wait times in the register lines.

Overall, between the low cost and friendly atmosphere, Saving-A-Lot easily overcomes that bad first impression. For any students looking to feed themselves, or a family, on a budget, Saving-A-Lot is an option that should definitely be tried.

Rating: A

— Jeremy Cloud
Editor

College degree the great investment

"... You can choose a ready guide in some celestial voice. If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice..." (from "Freewill" by Rush)

Making choices is one of the great paradoxes in life. Even the act of not making a choice is making the choice to let someone else decide for you. While some decisions do not present us with ideal options or even positive options, taking control of making the choice can help us reduce our anxiety about the situation.

Last July, new regulations regarding continued eligibility for federal financial aid went into effect. Student Financial Support Services personnel developed a partnership with Learning Support specialists in order to help as many of our students as possible maintain their eligibility. Students who successfully appealed their financial aid suspensions but who could not meet eligibility standards within only one semester, received their award for the spring semester. A contingency on that approval is that the students must meet with a Learning Support specialist to develop a plan for getting themselves in good standing. Our goal is to help students learn the skills and develop the strategies they need to make good choices for themselves. Alas, a few students have already made choices that will result in bad consequences at the end of the semester.

Many students who indicated on their appeals that they would work with us have yet to schedule appointments or keep the appointments they have made. While they technically have the entire semester to meet with us and develop a plan of action, the reality is that working with them is only one component of our job duties. We make ourselves available every week specifically to work with the students who must see us. Waiting until the last week or two of the semester greatly increases the odds that neither of us will have time to see everyone who still hasn’t come in.

For those individuals, continuing school will mean paying out of pocket. We like happy endings. We want our students to make wise choices and to have the money they need to pay for school. Numerous email and print correspondences have been sent to those who have not yet come in. There is a kiosk in a front area of Student Support Services so that students can conveniently schedule themselves with one of us. The process is relatively fast and painless, but students must make the choice to participate. We hope to see you soon.

— Alta Price and Mary Turner
Learning Support Specialists
**COMMENTS AND REVIEWS**

**MOVIE REVIEW | Dr. Seuss adapts well to the big screen**

‘Lorax’ a fun, feel-good movie for the family

I had promised to take my children to see “The Lorax” after it opened in March, so over spring break we took our seats as the theater began to fill up for the morning viewing.

Dr. Seuss’ classic stories have always had a way of capturing an imagination and taking it on a magical journey. This adaptation didn’t disappoint my family.

It was full of colorful teddy bears, Seuss-like characters, a zany grandmother and the stereotypical bad guy with a slew of known names bringing the characters to life.

Danny DeVito lent his voice as the Lorax, guardian of the trees. Betty White is the cool and crafty grandma Norma while the main character Ted is voiced by Zac Efron. Ed Helms brings life to the Once-ler, the crazy character that few have seen, and the villain Mr. O’Hare is voiced by Rob Riggle. Jenny Slate provided the voice-over of Ted’s single, quirky mom and Taylor Swift is the voice behind Audrey, the artistic girl who captivates Ted’s heart.

The movie starts on the premise of the original storyline with a message to take care of your environment but with a modern touch.

Ted learns that to win Audrey’s heart he must find a real tree.

Thneedville, the synthetic city they live in, is complete with blow up shrubs and trees that light up at the push of a button on the remote control.

Clean air is provided to the citizens by Mr. O’Hare at a cost. He has convinced the townfolk it’s unsafe to venture past the walls of their quaint perfect city.

Mr. O’Hare does everything he can to stop Ted from crossing over the wall and finding a tree because, as you know, trees produce air.

When Ted decides to risk those walls and sneak out of the city on a quest to bring Audrey a real tree, he learns that the only one who can help him is the Once-ler who lives outside of town where no one dares to go — no one but Ted, that is.

Ted makes his way out of the safe confines of the city but before the Once-ler will agree to help, Ted must listen to a story about how there came to be no trees.

As the tale goes, a young entrepreneur, anxious to find fame and fortune via a product made from the trees, broke a promise to the Lorax and cut down all the trees, leaving a barren land and driving the Lorax and animals of the area away.

It’s revealed that the entrepreneur is the Once-ler who is now guilt ridden over his choices, and decides to help Ted make things right again.

As the movie unfolds, viewers will enjoy the series of mishaps and adventures that unfold as Ted tries to get a tree, the girl, and bring back the Lorax and the cuddly animals to their home.

Rating: A

—YVONNE ALEX
Staff Writer

**MOVIE REVIEW | Reviewer ‘hooked’ after seeing a movie on a six-story screen**

‘John Carter’ great IMAX 3D experience

Engulfing explosions, and flying debris all seemed bigger than life as screams rang out from spectators in a packed crowd at the 3D IMAX viewing of Walt Disney’s “John Carter,” at Warren Theater in Moore.

Having never seen an IMAX film, all I can say is wow. I am hooked. The Warren Theater boasts a six-story IMAX screen which, according to Warren Theater executives, is the largest IMAX screen in North America. The surround sound is so realistic, theater-goers may think they are actually living in the movie. Comfortable padded partially-reclining seats add to the fun experience and make the movie all the bolder.

Although I have seen plenty of 3D movies, this was the most realistic one I have seen. The glasses not only cover your eyeballs, but your entire eye cavity. This makes for a very realistic 3D experience that expands to peripheral vision.

Admission is $16, something I initially thought was a bit high, but now believe to be worth every penny. I climbed several levels of stairs to get up high enough to see the entire screen; however, an elevator is available.

And, the movie was great, too. The premise of the movie seems simple enough. The main character, John Carter (Canadian-born Taylor Kitsch), a defiant Confederate Army cavalry man in search of gold, is accidentally transplanted to Mars, and must help rescue a beautiful princess, help stop a Martian civil war and get home to his gold. And, he must do it all while avoiding capture by larger-than-life barbarian Martians, as well as the princess’ own people.

So what is not to believe about that — especially when you see Mars right in front of your eyes? Nothing. Even if it does look a bit like Utah.

Carter, who is obviously confused to find himself in an unknown world, is immediately heralded as a champion by the Martians. This is because his denser bone mass makes him able to leap far into the air — a feat no one else on Mars is able to do. The barbaric Martians see a chance to use Carter as a secret weapon, something Carter wants nothing to do with.

However, he finds himself enslaved by the leader of the barbarians Tars Tarkas (Willem Dafoe) and rescuing a Martian woman who claims to be the princess of the martian city Helium.

When Princess Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins) — fleeing her own arranged wedding to the Martian tyrant and leader of the city of Zodonga, Sab Than (Dominic West) — suddenly comes falling from the sky, causing Carter to leap into action, it makes for some awesome 3D.

It is up to Carter and Thoris to save the planet and prevent annihilation of all the races of Mars.

John Carter is a romantic comedy, a sci-fi movie, an action adventure and a thriller all in one as the two lovable characters race against time and odds to save the Martian planet and defeat the evil Zodonga and fall in love.

This movie is so diverse you can go see it alone, with a friend or with your mother. The twisting and turning plot, memorable performances, and awesome views and sound make “John Carter” worth seeing again.

Rating: A+

—SHAWN STAWICKI
Contributing Writer
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED, EMPLOYEES MOVED IN

New John Massey Center open for business

JON HOOVER
News Writing Student

YVONNE ALEX
Staff Writer
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The John Massey Center, home of OCCC’s administrative services such as finance, payroll, purchasing, human resources and planning research, has officially relocated to the southeast corner of the OCCC campus from its previous location near Interstate-44 and SW 119th.

The move-in began March 26, after the Board of Regents voted to accept the new building, said Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer.

As soon as the employees were in the building, it was officially up and running, he said.

Construction of the new location began more than a year and a half ago, Messer said.

Chris Snow, Facilities Management assistant director, said the construction was completed within the approved budget of $2,301,950.

The move was completed in about a week, he said.

In its former location, the John Massey Center housed administrative offices as well as professional development classes for businesses in the Oklahoma City metro area. The center also was home to aviation classes for OCCC’s partner school, Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Those classes have been relocated to other rooms on the main campus, Messer said.

In its new campus location, the Massey Center contains offices plus two classrooms for staff development, Messer said.

Once employees enter the doors of the newly completed center, they will see a contemporary reception area with modest seating.

Amonotor on the wall, similar to those located around campus, airs campus, local and breaking news.

A few electricians could be seen securing the final pieces of wiring in the rooms, but the majority of the building is finished.

Every room has a video monitor (which varies in size) and wireless capability, which may be utilized for presentations, Messer said.

However, as Larry Robertson, Compensation and Human Resources director, said it could be up to three weeks before all the employees are settled in.

The southwest corridor has an application station awaiting job seekers.

ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO APPLY ARE ACCEPTED

Tuition fee waiver application deadline April 20

RACHEL TILLMAN
News Writing Student

Students hoping to receive Tuition Fee Waiver scholarships for summer must apply in the Financial Aid office by 5 p.m. Friday, April 20, said Mia Rojo, assistant to the dean of Financial Aid.

Many OCCC students meet the requirements for a Tuition Fee Waiver but do not apply.

All applications go through the Financial Aid Office where Rojo makes certain applicants are eligible for a Tuition Fee Waiver.

A Tuition Fee Waiver is an opportunity for OCCC students to have up to six hours of tuition waived for the summer semester, Rojo said.

It’s not cash, she said, but allotted credit hours.

Even if the tuition waiver is granted, students would still have to pay the fees, which amount to approximately $24 per credit hour.

Early Childhood Development major Katie Chesher said she wasn’t aware the deadline was approaching but would apply and encourages others to do the same.

She said the application process is simple and is not time consuming.

Rojo said once applications are in and the Financial Aid Office has approved their eligibility, waiver applications are sent to the division committee where the student’s major field of study is located. The divisions are listed on the back side of every application.

She said the division committees then determine whether students can be approved for a Tuition Fee Waiver.

The committees have a specific budget to work with, which limits how many waivers they can award, Rojo said.

“Approximately 60 percent of students get some sort of waiver, depending on their department and their academic standing,” she said.

In order to be eligible for a Tuition Fee Waiver, students must be an Oklahoma resident, have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA, be enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours, and have a transcript with the Tuition Fee Waiver Application.

For more information, visit the Financial Aid Office or contact them at 405-682-7525.

It’s a connected world.
Do your share.

For 30 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share, 3400 International Drive, NW, Suite 2K (AL 34), Washington, DC 20037.

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Journalism students sweep awards banquet

MIKE WORMLEY
Online Writer
staffwriter4@occc.edu

Collegiate representatives from all over Oklahoma descended upon Stillwater on Friday, March 30, for the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association’s annual conference and awards banquet. Events for the conference consisted of two sessions of morning workshops, a group lecture, and an awards luncheon.

Students from OCCC took home 30 awards in 16 different categories, with Videographer Casey R. Akard sweeping every award in the multimedia category for two-year schools. “I feel the humbling,” Akard said. “Sometimes you get to doing something, and you wonder if it makes a difference and then something like this gives you validation.”

Pioneer Editor Jeremy Cloud placed second in two categories. Cloud said he is happy with the results as well. “I do believe this is the best two-year publication,” Cloud said. “I enjoyed having everyone I worked with last year recognized.”

Online Editor Whitney Knight and Special Projects Writer Joey Stipek received a perfect score on their investigative story about Carson’s Catering which earned them first place in the team investigation category.

Stipek, who also was the recipient of the Year award, thanked journalism professors, Pioneer staff members and friends of the paper individually and by name. “I’ll tell you, it’s always humbling,” Stipek said. “It’s great working with your friends, and collaborators.”

Journalism Professor and Pioneer Faculty Adviser Sue Hinton said she feels the students who won awards were outstanding. “Week in and week-out we put in the work and don’t think about winning awards, so it is nice to go through a year’s work like this,” Hinton said.

Two sessions of morning workshops each presented three options for attendees to sit in on.

The first session offered a lecture about internships, a presentation about investigations done statewide by KWTV and KOTV, and a discussion about writing, editing and running a magazine.

The second session had a discussion about open records, a talk about the future of radio news and a presentation about sports reporting.

There also was an adviser discussion during the second session.

Following the morning sessions attendees were invited to a lecture by William D. Snyder, four-time Pulitzer Prize winner for photojournalism.

Snyder’s presentation included pictures from his entire career, including the fall of the Soviet Union, the AIDS epidemic in Uganda, orphanages in Romania and his coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

The number of awards received by the Pioneer staff this year is an increase from the prior year of 21.

For more information about the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association or to see a list of colleges attended, visit http://ocma.okstate.edu/.

### Awards won by category

**Editorial Writing**
- First: Sean Tolbert
- Second: Jeremy Cloud
- Third: Whitney Knight

**Feature Writing**
- First: Joey Stipek
- Second: Sarah Hussain
- Third: Morgan Beard

**General News Writing**
- First: Joey Stipek
- Second: Jeremy Cloud
- Honorable Mention: Whitney Knight

**Multimedia Story**
- First: Casey R. Akard
- Second: Casey R. Akard
- Third: Casey R. Akard

**Sports Reporting**
- First: Sean Tolbert
- Third: Jacob Chambers

**Feature Photography**
- First: Rachel Morrison
- Third: Yasmin Shirali

**Individual Investigative Reporting**
- First: Emily Schorr

**News Photography**
- First: Rachel Morrison
- Second: Rachel Morrison
- Third: Robert Bolton

**Photography Portfolio**
- Honorable Mention: Rachel Morrison

**Journalist of the Year**
- (two-year schools)
- First: Joey Stipek

**Team Investigative Reporting**
- First: Joey Stipek and Whitney Knight

**Reviews**
- Third: Robert Bolton
- Honorable Mention: Casey R. Akard

**Video**
- First: Whitney Knight

**Whitney Knight** received by the Pioneer staff

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Casey Akard, Pioneer videographer, works on a video project about the OCCC automotive department on April 3. Akard’s work earned first, second and third place in the multimedia division at this year’s Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association awards ceremony.

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**Wednesday BINGO Night**

$1.25 Happy Hour Drafts
4 p.m. to Midnight
Budweiser, Bud Light, Coors Light, Michelob Ultra and AmberBock

Win the $1000 Jackpot! Don’t miss your chance! Other Great Prizes!!
Every Wednesday!

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**Bill’s Island Grill**

11940 S.W. 94th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73179
405-631-3430
Student artist displays mosaic art on campus

LAUREN TUBBS  
News Writing Student

Artist Gina Boerner said she had no idea when she enrolled in her first mosaics class at OCCC that she would fall in love with it.

"I thought, well, it looks interesting, and it's another art class...and it's just going to be an addition to my degree," said Boerner, who is on track to graduate in May 2013.

Today she thinks of herself as a mosaic artist.

Her work is being exhibited in a display case in the Arts and Humanities building until the first week of May.

The body of artwork is anaccumulation of what she has created in Mosaics I and Advanced Mosaics while a visual arts major at OCCC. The collection includes a relaxing frog sculpture, a square picture depicting two chickens, a jug, a mirror, and a few abstract pieces. There is also a biography detailing Boerner's history with the arts.

Mosaic is a type of three-dimensional art where tiles made of glass, rock, shell or glass are positioned together according to color to make patterns; the art can be realistic or abstract. Boerner said she believes mosaic art has helped her to branch out into the abstract side of art.

Professor Mary Ann Moore is Boerner's mosaic instructor, who said she loves Boerner's work.

"She has a passion for the process," Moore said. "She is an outstanding student in my mosaic class...I think Gina has a great future as an artist."

Boerner said she likes to stay busy by working on two or three pieces at a time. While one project is drying, she is drawing or planning another project. The process is never ending as her mind is always turning with new ideas.

Boerner explained that she built a great foundation for her art when she attended Putnam City High School.

"They really support visual arts and performing arts, and they have been that way for a long time," Boerner said.

"I took all of the art classes I could get."

In addition to her class projects on display, Boerner did her first custom work in 2010 for Putnam City Christian Church, which was an acrylic mural of a doe and her two fawns next to an oak tree. It was painted directly onto the wall in the new Child Developmental Center.

Today she thinks of herself as a mosaic artist.

"I took all of the art classes I could get."

In addition to her class projects on display, Boerner did her first custom work in 2010 for Putnam City Christian Church, which was an acrylic mural of a doe and her two fawns next to an oak tree. It was painted directly onto the wall in the new Child Developmental Center.

Boerner started teaching art privately from home last year, and has an aspiration to attend Oklahoma City University and get a bachelor's degree in studio arts.

Payne talks about storm chasing, tornado safety

NATHAN HARKINS  
News Writing Student

David Payne, meteorologist for KFOR Channel 4, spoke about the weather conditions that led to multiple tornadoes that hit in Oklahoma on May 24 of last year.

A packed room of students and staff came to hear Payne talk about his experience chasing tornadoes in a speech on campus March 30.

Payne reminded the crowd of the week leading up to that day, as he and his weather team warned citizens of the severe storms on the horizon.

When the day approached, Payne felt the same way he does every time a severe storm hits.

"As the event gets closer and closer, the anxiety starts to build," Payne said.

When the day finally arrived, the outlook didn’t look good. At one point Oklahoma City was the target of multiple tornadoes.

"Three separate storms were pointing right towards Oklahoma City," Payne said.

"It was the worst case scenario." The storms were so severe that Payne told viewers that getting out of their homes and driving to a safer place was actually one of the best options.

"With a storm like that, if you aren't able to get underground in a shelter, your best option is to get out before it hits," Payne said.

Payne told the audience that when driving, going east would always be a safe plan.

With tornadoes as big and as dangerous as the ones on that day, driving away is safer than staying in the home.

There were 11 fatalities on that day.

"What drives me is just trying to keep that from happening," Payne said.

"That's why we spend all this time and money chasing and finding out about tornadoes: To keep Oklahomans safe." Payne also spoke about tornado safety, dispelling certain theories such as opening windows in a house, or going to the southwest corner of the house.

He also told the audience that tornado shelters were worth the cost. Payne said he even promotes sharing with a neighbor to save money while still being safe.

"If you have a neighbor that you like, buy one together, splitting the cost," Payne said.

"Having a shelter could be the difference in surviving or not."

Payne, who has been with KFOR Channel 4 since 1993, said that he has always been drawn towards weather, especially severe weather.

"I love weather first and my job second," Payne said.

Payne took questions from the crowd, addressing the recent earthquakes and the potential for a hot summer.

He predicted the summer would be fairly hot, but due to the recent rain, he doubted that it would be as severe as last summer.

"You can never say never in my business, but it is almost impossible for us to have the heat wave that we had last year," Payne said.
SPORTS | College brings new sporting event to campus

Paintball offers variety to active students

SETH BAETA
News Writing Student

A Capture-the-Flag paintball tournament will be held on the field south of the Aquatic Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 29, said Eric Watson, Sports and Recreation specialist at OCCC.

Any student interested in joining must sign up by April 16 in the Recreation and Sports office. The cost is $10. This is the first year for the tournament, Watson said he hopes it continues to grow in the number of students. The paintball tournament will feature two teams with no limit on the number of players on each team, he said.

It is open to male and female students, Watson said. Students are advised to wear clothing that is easy to run in. Also, Watson said, students should expect to get a little dirty.

This tournament is not only active but also strategic, he said because each team has to come up with the best way to get the other team’s flag and bring it back to their side without being shot.

Teams can begin forming before the deadline, Watson said. He said some of the experts start planning the best strategy before the tournament. The tournament can be an all-day event, or however long it takes to crown one winning team.

Student Ryan Raberding said he looks forward to the tournament and showing off his marksmanship skills. “I like to hunt so I think this will be perfect for me,” Raberding said.

Raberding is not an amateur. He said he has played paintball in large groups in difficult settings, such as wooded areas. For more information or to sign up for the tournament, contact the Wellness Desk at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.
Stolen car tops incident reports list in March

Continued from page 1

SARAH HUSSAIN
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A stolen vehicle to a stolen radio kept campus security busy the past few weeks.

According to a campus police report filed by Sgt. Kevin Tipton, student Julia Cobble’s 2006 blue Dodge Caravan was stolen sometime before 3:30 p.m. on March 16 from parking lot A.

Tipton reported that Cobble arrived on campus to take a test and when she returned to the location where she parked, her van was missing.

Tipton said security camera surveillance of the area confirmed the theft.

It showed a white Crown Victoria sedan arriving on campus from the May Avenue entrance.

Footage shows it stopping at a white Chevrolet Impala.

The suspect can be seen getting out of the driver’s side of the Crown Victoria and getting into the passenger’s side door of the Impala.

The Crown Victoria is then seen traveling around the A lot and stopping two parking spaces from Cobble’s van.

The passenger of the Crown Victoria gets out, opens the door of the van, gets in and immediately drives off.

The van is followed by the Crown Victoria and both are seen exiting the campus via May Avenue.

Tipton said Oklahoma City police were notified. Officers took a report.

Cobble told Tipton her vehicle was parked for a family vacation to Las Vegas, and contained her family’s clothing valued at more than $1,000, and two cameras with an unknown value.

Attempts to reach Cobble by press time were unsuccessful.

According to a campus police report filed by Officer Fredrick Evans, student Arianne Wright’s car radio was stolen out of her 2000 silver Jeep Cherokee sometime between March 14 and 26 in lot B.

Evans reported that Wright did not file a report until March 26 because her car had broken down on campus March 14 so she had left her car parked in lot B.

Evans said he reviewed surveillance video of the area but found no evidence of the theft.

He said it is possible it could have happened any of these days between 12:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. due to the parking lot lights being turned off.

Wright said there was no sign of forced entry and the valued amount of her radio was only $5 due to the CD player not working.

Withdraw: Financial aid impacted by dropped classes

When a student needs to get out of a class because things are not going to work for them, but again it comes back to trying to plan well.”

Turner recommends students who are considering withdrawing talk to the professor and make sure of where they are in the class.

Turner also recommends consulting a financial aid adviser to ensure they are making an informed decision.

For more information regarding financial aid, visit the Financial Aid Office.

Look for the fact sheets: Total Withdrawal/Return of Funds and Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy at www.occc.edu/FinancialAid/FactSheets.html. Students also may receive the Financial Aid Office by calling 405-682-7525.

For more information about Student Support Services, call 405-682-7520 or stop by the office in OCCC’s Main Building.

HAVE A COMMENT?
EMAIL JEREMY AT
EDITOR@OCCC.EDU

A mind is a terrible thing to waste.
Special Olympics help needed

They train so hard for this and we want to give them the ultimate experience.”

— Amy Reynolds

First Year and Student Life Program Coordinator

ROBERT BOLTON
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Special Olympics Oklahoma is returning to Norman on April 14 and Student Life is hosting a service day to help provide a good experience for the participants, their families and the students themselves.

According to specialolympics.org the Special Olympics has been providing people with intellectual disabilities with continuing opportunities to get fit, demonstrate their courage and have fun since 1968.

Amy Reynolds, first year and Student Life program coordinator, said students will meet in the Student Life office at 7:45 a.m., and leave OCCC at 8 a.m. Reynolds said students should be returning to campus around 3 p.m. Time spent at the Olympics counts towards the civic honors program at OCCC.

Student Life Director Erin Logan said she thought the opportunity the Special Olympics offers those with intellectual needs can be helpful in establishing personal strengths.

“So often they are defined by their challenges, the Special Olympics allows them to be acknowledged for their strengths. And to be a part of that is life changing,” Logan said.

Students are anticipated to assist with events, concessions and morale.

“They train so hard for this and we want to give them the ultimate experience.” Reynolds said. “So whatever they need us to do from high-fiving the contestants and encouraging them to manning concession stands, whatever they need us to do.

“We’ve been partnering with the Special Olympics as a service agency for quite a while,” Reynolds said. “But this is the first year that we have scheduled a service day with them.

“They were so excited to be working with us, so we’re looking forward to providing our students with that opportunity.”

Reynolds said there has been a large amount of support from students and faculty.

“In the spring, Special Olympics hosts their big athletic event and when you have a big event like that you need the manpower and the volunteers to help it be successful,” she said.

Reynolds said approximately 40 to 50 students and faculty members have signed up for the service day, yet there is room for more and no student will be turned away that wishes to help.

For more information or to sign up for the service day, contact Student Life at 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.
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BEVERAGE LINEUP INCLUDES ORGANIC FARE

New coffee and tea bar features ‘quality’ drinks

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Online Writer
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A new coffee and tea bar in the College Union dining area is the result of hard work throughout spring break, said General Manager Corrine Aguilar.

Beginning Monday, March 26, Carson’s Catering made the switch from Neighbors Coffee to Henderson Coffee, an Oklahoma-based company located in Muskogee.

Overall, Aguilar said, the change took place to provide customers with new and better quality beverages.

“We did a tasting a while back and really loved their drinks,” she said. “They were a lot better than the ones we had before.”

Some of the latest items include various coffee flavors like mocha, French vanilla, and caramel, and special drinks like cappuccino, java chillers, and lattes. Roy’s Fresh Lemonade, traditional hot chocolate and flavored teas also are offered.

“It’s gaining a bit of attention,” Aguilar said. “The spring semester is getting warmer, so people aren’t drinking the hot drinks as they do during the cooler fall semester. But, those who have said they really like it.”

The switch also included getting rid of packaged coffee and introducing whole beans, as well as exchanging the Coca-Cola Fountain Tea with True Leaves Tea. Besides the usual peach, and sweetened and unsweetened tea, there are presently also original flavors such as Organic Mint, Berry Black, Chamomile Citrus, and Earl Grey.

“They’re all fabulous. Everyone should try them,” Aguilar said.

An extra machine allows for people to create their own beverages with unique recipes, such as Mud Slide and White Moose, along with supplementary ingredients, like steamed milk.

Besides satisfying taste buds, the fresh display is also easy on the eyes.

“Our station used to be sort of small and scattered. Now, it’s own kiosk with matching graphics and cabinets,” Aguilar said. “It looks a lot more modern.”

“We enhanced the cafeteria to offer more, and we’re really excited. It looks nicer and adds variety,” she concluded.

Carson’s innovation has branched out to all its units on campuses across the state, she said.