SAY NO TO TEXTING WHILE TALKING

Staff Writer Erin Peden says people need to put phones down and pay attention to others. Read her thoughts inside.

OPINION, p. 2

ARTS FESTIVAL OKLAHOMA

Arts Festival Oklahoma brought hundreds flocking to OCCC over the three-day Labor Day weekend. Turn to page 7 to see pictures and read more about it.

NEWS, p. 7

CAMPUS LIFE

ERIN PEDEN Staff Writer staffwriter1@occc.edu

Dream Machines offer incentive to recycle

In addition to doing a great thing for the planet, environmentally aware folks can get an instant reward for recycling on campus by using the Dream Machines located around campus.

Added in February 2011 as part of the school’s Green Taskforce recycling initiatives, Dream Machines recycle both aluminum cans and plastic bottles using technology-enabled kiosks.

Sociology major Rachel Brand said she was not aware of the kiosks around campus but is interested in trying them.

“I recycle all the time and have seen normal recycling bins around campus but had no idea we had machines such as this,” Brand said.

“I think it’s a great idea because not only does it make recycling a little more fun but you are getting rewarded and helping the environment at the same time. I will definitely be signing up,” Emergency Planning and Risk Management Director Lisa Teel said the machines are the first interactive recycling system that brings together online and on-street technologies.

“Dream Machine kiosks are computerized receptacles that include a personal reward system allowing consumers to collect and redeem points for each bottle or can they recycle in the kiosk,” Teel said.

Points can then be redeemed at www.greenopolis.com for a range of coupons for shopping and dining venues such as Best Buy, Michael’s, Taco Bell and even various local museums, Teel said. She said points also can be donated to help organizations such as the Humane Society. Users must have an account with www.greenopolis.com and at least 100 points before redeeming coupons.

Signing up is easy, Teel said. To begin recycling and redeeming points, students must simply go to a Dream Machine receptacle on campus and create

See RECYCLE page 9

E-books offer readers an interactive experience

Students looking for a more interactive way to read books may want to check out the OCCC library’s selection of e-books. With its start last summer, the service provides a wide range of fiction and non-fiction, including many of today’s popular books.

Electronic Services and Reference Librarian Amanda Lemon said two e-book services are offered:
• Overdrive e-books, which, she said, are the ones most students will be interested in, and;

See E-BOOKS page 9
EDITORIAL | Put the phone down and have a conversation with the one you’re with

Texting while talking is really rude

One of the most annoying things for me is when I go out to eat with someone and cannot keep a conversation going, not because there is nothing to talk about, but because they are having a conversation with someone else via text. You try telling this person about something you find important going on in your life while they sit there, phone in lap, with fingers flying across the keypad, only looking up at you occasionally and sneaking in a few “uh-huh.” Eventually you give up on your story, not wanting to waste your breath on someone who clearly isn’t listening.

I am not opposed to texting at all. In fact, I love it. Not only is it a convenient way to carry a conversation while you do other things, but you also avoid long and unwanted phone conversations. So why does a situation like this bother me so much? Because it’s rude. If the person you are texting were sitting in the same booth with you and your friend at a restaurant, you would not try to have two different conversations at the same time with each of them because it would be virtually impossible.

I am appalled at the number of people who cannot find it in themselves to put their phones away for a few hours or at least while they are having a conversation with someone. The message they are sending isn’t “I am listening to you” but rather, “this conversation is more important than the one we are having now.”

Some people need to realize leaving their phone alone for a while can be a very liberating experience. Sometimes we miss exciting or important things because we are too busy looking down rather than up. I believe cell phones have their time and place but people need to know when enough is enough. Your phone is not an extension of your arm.

Some professors may encounter the same problems while teaching class.

I am opposed to texting while teaching class. Phone conversations while teaching class is not an extension of your arm. People need to know when enough is enough. Your phone is not an extension of your arm.

West Nile virus cases break record

To the Editor:

Oklahoma’s West Nile virus case total has jumped to 118, the highest number of cases ever recorded in a single year in Oklahoma. Two additional deaths have also been reported, for a total of seven.

State health officials warn that favorable conditions continue for the spread of WNV. Using insect repellent when outdoors, draining standing water from items in the yard that mosquitoes can use to breed, and assuring doors and window screens are in good repair are essential to “fighting the bite” to help prevent West Nile virus.

State Epidemiologist Dr. Kristy Bradley said, “We continue to urge people to heed the warning and protect themselves.”

Although I find it acceptable that some people may have emergencies and need to keep their phones nearby, others do not have an excuse. Yes, you may have to go to class but that doesn’t mean you get to control how it works. You are in school to learn and if the phone conversation you are having via text is more important than education, maybe college isn’t the right place for you to be.

—Erin Peden
Staff Writer

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Oklahoma State Department of Health offers lifestyle advice

Eat more fruits and vegetables for a healthier you

To the Editor:

It’s no secret that Oklahomans tip the scales when it comes to being obese or overweight.

In fact, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently that nearly one-third of adults in Oklahoma are obese.

Not surprisingly, Oklahoma ranks last among all states in the consumption of fruits and vegetables, which are critical in the fight against obesity.

“Your mom was right when she said to eat your fruits and veggies,” said Keith Reed, director of the Center for the Advancement of Wellness at the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

“Eating fruits and vegetables is a sound investment in long-term health. Adding more to your diet is easy and can be inexpensive when you remember that all product forms count: fresh, frozen, canned, dried or 100 percent juice.”

Reed suggested using the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “My Plate” as a healthy eating guide. “My Plate” encourages making half your plate fruits and vegetables as a way to improve health and control weight. To view the “My Plate” recommendations visit www.choosemyplate.gov.

In an effort to promote the need for Oklahomans to make healthier food choices and to eat more fruits and vegetables, the OSDH Center for the Advancement of Wellness supports September as National Fruits & Veggies — More Matters’ Month!

“We encourage everyone to try making half your plate fruits and vegetables, this month and every month,” Reed said.

To learn how to add more fruits and veggies to your diet, visit www.shapeyourfutureok.com.

—Oklahoma State Department of Health
Area vapor shops offer vast array

Electronic cigarettes and vaping mods are fairly new to the market and there are not many places to purchase non-disposable vaping devices. This helps make vaping shops a real treat to vapers. For anyone who is still lost, let me quickly explain.

Electronic cigarettes are basically a battery with a very small heating element (atomizer) and some form of a tank or cartridge that holds the liquid nicotine, or e-juice. When the element is ignited, the liquid is heated to a vapor that can be inhaled. This allows an ex-smoker such as myself to get a bit of nicotine and even a bit of flavor but none of the other 2500+ carcinogens known to cause cancer and addiction in analog cigarettes. The vapor also is not harmful to innocent bystanders. There are several places to purchase from in Oklahoma City.

Doc’s Vapor, located on SW 59th Street next to the college, has a fairly small selection. The owner seems nice enough, but I paid more than $10 for a cheaply manufactured 10 milliliter (ML) bottle of e-juice. I also paid more than $10 for a new atomizer for my eGo-T brand e-cig, and it only came in one color — purple. This was probably the highest price I have seen anywhere for liquid, but they are comparable to other local stores on accessories.

I purchased my eGo-T from a store on NW 50th in Oklahoma City called OKC Vapes. Stephanie, the owner, really knew what she was talking about, but once again I paid more than $75 for my eGo-T set, with a 10 percent discount. That included a carrying case and 10 ML bottle of liquid. However, seeing that I did not have to wait a week for an online store to deliver it, it was kind of worth buying at the time. OKC Vapes does have cheap liquids though. The price is only $6 for a 10 ML bottle. That’s a good deal for a local store.

Vaporescence, at 635 NW 7th Street in Moore, has a vast selection to choose from. With four locations in Texas, I can see why they can afford to have the largest selection I have seen of eGo-T’s and flavors. They have every color you can think of. And I was pleased to find they carried more than 200 flavors.

I decided to purchase two really cool metallic blue eGo-T atomizers and a box of blue tips. The tips were $6.95 for five, only about $2 more than an online store charges. The atomizers were $23.90 for two, comparable to other local stores. According to their website, the eGo-T I purchased for $75 sells at Vaporescence for $89.95 plus tax.

As far as local stores go, I personally would recommend Vaporescence for friendly and knowledgeable service. Also, you can try any flavor you find on the massive wall of flavors. And Vaporescence charges a little more than $16 for a 30 ML bottle of flavor — not too bad considering the time you can save not waiting on a delivery. And, they are manufacturing their own line of 6 volt mods. The mods are kind of pricey — $150 — but they do offer a lifetime warranty.

If you’re already vaping and need a good upgrade from that cheap disposable, or you’re just looking into vaping as an option, Vaporescence might be the place for you. I don’t recommend spending that kind of money on something you are unsure of though, so make sure the options are right for you. And the kind folks at Vaporescence can help you with that.

**Rating:** B

—SHAWN STAWICKI
**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

‘Let’s Play’ trend has a rising star

My fellow gamers out there may be familiar with a rising Internet phenomena known as “Let’s Play.”

Although the concept — which involves playing a video game and posting some sort of corresponding walkthrough for others to view — is fairly old, it’s recently become an explosive YouTube trend.

Whether they’re toiling in the fiery depths of “Diablo” or playing the hero in “Skyrim,” ordinary gamers are becoming Internet celebrities by recording themselves playing games, providing an audio commentary and uploading it onto the popular video site.

The trend has become so profuse, it’s getting a little hard to find quality videos that actually deliver what they should: a lighthearted walkthrough that not only entertains, but helps fellow gamers with tips and tricks.

That’s why I was delighted to find a YouTube user by the name of “Poopydoop45.” If the handle alone wasn’t enough of a giveaway, when you watch this guy’s work, you’re getting pure fun. Poopydoop specializes in “Minecraft” videos, although he’s recently ventured into “Skyrim” territory too. With his canine companion Bananas at his side, Poopydoop offers his fans a pretty unique take on “Let’s Play” videos.

Instead of just recording his adventures in the pixelated world, Poopydoop is very fan-focused. He communicates with his viewers and helps them accomplish in-game tasks by creating step-by-step tutorials. His commentary is always entertaining — whether he’s got your attention span in a chokehold while he navigates through the Nether, or cracking hilarious jokes without much effort.

But it’s his genuine kindness that is the best thing about his “Let’s Play” series. It’s obvious that Poopydoop is all about his fans. He is constantly asking his viewers what they want to see. Most of all, he is sincerely grateful for every view, subscribe and “like” he receives.

It’s refreshing to see such a down-to-Earth attitude in this ego-centric world where any ol’ Joe thinks his rendition of a Lady Gaga song is YouTube gold.

Even if you’re not a “Minecraft” player, I highly suggest checking out Poopydoop’s channel at www.youtube.com/poopydoop45, especially as he continues to explore other gaming venues.

You might just find yourself a new gaming obsession — and you’ll definitely find yourself a great friend.

**Rating:** A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**
CD REVIEW | With the use of instrumentation and guest appearances, hip-hop artist proves he’s still a heavyweight

‘God Forgives, I Don’t’ album speaks loud

Rick Ross has become a household name to hip-hop fans around the world because of his plethora of classic albums. Recently, Ross has become more of a CEO/mogel then a rapper but in his latest album "God Forgives, I Don’t," Ross makes it clear that he isn’t going anywhere.

Notable standouts from the album begin with the introduction called "Pray For Us" which is a part where he brings back the classic prayer in the movie "Baby Boy" right before they try to kill Snoop Dogg. Ross made a brilliant choice in selecting this sample because the prayer is the perfect omen to what hip-hop culture has become — sort of a huge contradiction if you will. Speak about God and how you love him in one line but then immediately spew insults toward women and glorifying money. Great choice to start the album.

The song with the most star power was "3 Kings" which features a rare appearance from Dr. Dre and the genius Jay-Z. I like the theme of the record but I was disappointed by the beat selection. A song with such legendary wordsmiths should have a beat that will take you on a ride with such greatness. I still believe the song was solid.

The much anticipated "Maybach Music IV" did not disappoint as far as instrumental use. It was a beautiful compilation of saxophone, trumpet, keys and drums which causes you to sit back and shake your head. Only thing I would have changed about the song was I was looking forward to seeing who would appear on the song but Ross went with just Ne-Yo on this one. Wish I could have heard someone like Kendrick Lamar show out on that record.

Just seeing the name Andre 3000 brings excitement to hip-hop fans who respect his genius. He stole the show on "Sixteen" which allowed him to get some things off his chest. It was great seeing Andre 3000 come back to the craft that he masters so effortlessly.

I have the most respect and appreciation for Rick Ross, not just as a rapper but for his beat selection. He has a deep appreciation for instruments which has become a lost art in hip-hop today. Though this was not his greatest album, this definitely reminds you why Rick Ross is still a heavyweight in the hip-hop arena. No pun intended.

Rating: B+

—BRANDON WILLIS
Sports Writer

MOVIE REVIEW | Unexpected storylines make this movie an unexpected hit

‘Premium Rush’ an action-packed tale

Heading to the Warren Theater on Thursday night, I was unsure of what to expect of the new action movie, "Premium Rush," released Aug. 24 by Columbia Pictures.

To be honest, my initial interest in the movie wasn’t the storyline but rather the fact that Joseph Gordon-Levitt was the star of the movie. An hour and 40 minutes of some sweet Joseph eye-candy is reason enough for interest, right? I thought so.

However, I was rather surprised by how much I enjoyed the action-packed, adrenaline rush of a movie that not only kept me on the edge of my seat, but made me want to watch it again.

The movie takes place in the fast-paced and dangerous streets of New York. We are introduced to Wiley (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), a college graduate whose degree could get him a respectable and very well-paid office job. But because of his free-spirit and anti-conformist points of view, he instead chooses to work as an overworked and underpaid bike messenger.

We follow Wiley as he is given the task to deliver a package that, unbeknownst to him, is an extremely important and valuable package that will take him on the most dangerous ride of his life.

During his adventure, Wiley is continuously threatened and chased down by Bobby Monday (Michael Shannon), who is a greedy, debt-ridden NYPD cop who will do absolutely anything to get his hands on the package Wiley is delivering.

After his life being threatened and almost getting arrested, Wiley gives up on delivering the package he knows nothing about and returns it to the sender.

However, after learning how important and vital the package’s delivery is, he re-embarks on his journey. This in turn, leads to a life-threatening accident, a trip to the hospital, and having to hide from police, along with tons of plot twists and unexpected connections.

What I was most impressed by is how unpredictable the plot is, while still making sense and being appropriate. The twists and turns of the story kept me and everyone in the theater unaware of what was going to happen next and needless to say, the theater was filled with moments of "Holy cow!" and gasps of sheer shock.

The scenes are fast-paced and the camera continuously changing, making the experience of the movie feel as if it were happening right in front of one’s eyes. At times, I felt like I was right in on the action.

Gordon-Levitt doesn’t disappoint in the least bit with his role as Wiley. He takes the character of Wiley and captures our hearts by drawing us in with his whole-hearted, genuine acting. With so much passion in his eyes during the more intense scenes, it didn’t even feel like he was acting.

Shannon’s character as the bad cop undoubtedly is the most interesting character of the movie, and it is solely because of Shannon’s impeccable ability to make his characters so outrageous and unique, with his quirky and comical touches.

"Premium Rush" is great for anyone looking for a great action movie. With the great acting and unique, unexpected storyline twists and turns, it is definitely worth the trip to the theater.

Also, getting to see Gordon-Levitt’s cute face is a plus.

Rating: B+

—PARIS BURRIS
Online Editor
Brown Bag speaker to promote financial literacy

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Student Life will be hosting a Brown Bag series focusing on personal finance literacy throughout the Fall 2012 semester, said Student Life Director Erin Logan.

“Last spring I applied for a grant through HigherOne for a little extra funding to come in from them to help us pay for books and resources to do with our programming on financial literacy,” Logan said.

She said the grant, which is also an initiative of the state, caught her eye due to a problem she sees around her office.

“I see students in my office daily who need money for the bus, or who tell me they haven’t eaten breakfast because they don’t have food in their house,” Logan said. “And the whole time they’re on their iPhones, or carrying their Coach bag.”

“There’s a disconnect between wants and needs. I was a college student, and I know it’s easy to blur the lines between the two.”

Logan said her approach to setting up the classes was to see what financial trends were going on in the media, and then create sessions based on those trends.

Logan said the ideas then became realistic and applicable to the average student.

She used couponing as a good example.

“There’s a big couponing craze going on right now, but extreme couponing is not realistic for the average person. I have a student who’s hopefully going to be able to teach a session on couponing.”

Logan said the student’s parents are not native English speakers, and are not able to speak fluently.

“So she helps to raise her three younger sisters and does all the working and funding for the family. With that, she’s learned to coupon realistically, and save her family a lot of money while going to school full time, working and maintaining a very high GPA,” Logan said.

“So she’ll use her personal stories and tips to help students create a couponing plan. We’ll be providing coupon organizers, personal journals and a book on building a basic budget when you don’t have a disposable income of $100,000.”

—ERIN LOGAN
STUDENT LIFE DIRECTOR

Hispanic Heritage Day approaching quickly

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The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education is partnering with Student Life to plan events for a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Day, on Sept. 14, said Student Life Director Erin Logan.

“Right now, we don’t know exactly what we’re doing for Hispanic Heritage Day,” Logan said.

She said HOPE participated in the Student Organization Fair last week and is waiting on membership numbers.

“Once they have some numbers and an idea of what their members want, we’re going to sit down and get it all planned out.”

Hispanic Heritage Day is in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month which runs from September through October, according to hispanicheritage-month.gov.

Keep checking back with the Pioneer online at www.occc.edu/pioneer for updates.

To contact Jeremy Cloud, email communitywriter@occc.edu, or stop by 1F2 in the Arts and Humanities building.

—hispanicheritagemonth.gov
Organization Fair attracts good turnout

ERIN PEDEN
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With nearly 40 clubs and organizations on campus, it can sometimes be difficult for students to figure out what exactly they are interested in. This is why Student Life hosts OCCC’s Student Organization Fair twice a year at the beginning of each fall and spring semester.

Among these clubs are a wide range of interests including religious, academic and simply recreational organizations.

Joseph Lee, president of the Gamer’s Guild, said the fair attracted more than an average amount of interested students to the table.

Although the first year of the club seemed to be a success, Lee feels this year will be likely to bring in even more student activity.

“I was surprised how much of a turnout we had in just a few short hours; roughly 80 signatures,” Lee said.

The Gamer’s Guild meets both on and off campus and even online throughout the semester.

“As unoriginal as it sounds, we honestly just play games,” Lee said.

Another participant in the fair was the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Vice President of Student Scholarships Shelby Cree said she spent the day telling students about the benefits being in the honor society can have before transferring to a four-year university.

“Phi Theta Kappa is a great organization. It gives you a chance to meet new people,” Cree said. “The fair is a great way to get our organization out there because it gives students the opportunity to learn more about clubs on their way to class.”

Sociology major Aileen Perez says she likes the fair because of the variety of options that fit anyone’s interests as well as its convenience.

It is a good way for students to feel connected to the campus and each other, Perez said.

“The location of the fair was helpful to me because it was on my way out before rushing to my job.”

Stuart Braud, who said he has been a member of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries for a couple semesters, said joining a club is a good way to relieve the stress of school.

“We have pizza and Bible study about twice a week,” Braud said. “A bunch of my friends are in the club so I enjoy getting to hang with them for awhile.”

To learn more about clubs and organizations offered on campus, stop by Student Life located on the first floor of the Main Building, or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife/clubs. You can also call them at 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.

Elementary education major Christine Cataldo speaks with Oklahoma Study Abroad representative Christian Alyea about programs available to OCCC students at the Organization Fair on Aug. 29. Upcoming trips include a fall break to London, May intersession to Costa Rica, and a summer break tour through a few different Eastern European countries.
Students, professors, and other Oklahomans turned out in droves for Arts Festival Oklahoma on the OCCC campus over Labor Day weekend.

Visual artists had booths set up inside and outside of four large tents, along with a tent set up for children to try their hand at creating arts and crafts. The artists had works displayed from a variety of mediums including oil and watercolor paintings, ceramics and pottery, sculptures, and photography.

Performing artists took the stage set up by OKC Backup throughout all three days of the event and played into the night. The first act was the OCCC Student Jazz Ensemble.

The climax of Sunday night was the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra, followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

At the volunteer gathering the night before the festival began, Director of Cultural Programs Lemuel Bardeguez said, "We are looking forward to the 34th rendition of Arts Festival Oklahoma on the campus of Oklahoma City Community College. We’ve been here for many, many years. "Every year the festival gets better, and this year we are featuring over 150 visual artists, 15 food vendors, and over 200 performing artists, all in the weekend. It’s going to be another great one.”
Runners needed for Life Saver event

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The 4th annual Life Saver 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run will be taking place Saturday, Oct. 6, on campus.

Nursing Program Director Deborah Myers, who created the 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run, said she is glad the event has become what it is today.

"I am a runner," Myers said. "It is a great way to increase scholarships. Last year we had around 400 participants and this year we are hoping for 500."

This will be the fourth year for the Life Saver 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run which was created not only to help with fitness in the community but it also benefits student scholarships for the OCCC Nursing and Physical Therapy Assistant program.

Registration and packet pick-up will begin at 6:45 a.m. in the lobby of the Health Professions building.

The 1-Mile Fun Run will begin promptly at 8 a.m. and the 5K will begin at 8:30 a.m.

There will be many other activities going on while the event takes place including a photo booth, entertainment, drawing for prizes, face painting by a professional artist, pre- and post-run massages, and much more, Myers said.

The Life Saver 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run will help produce scholarships for nursing and physical therapist assistant students, she said.

Myers said both the nursing and physical therapy assistant programs have had success over the years.

According to occc.edu 88 percent of students admitted to the program have graduated with an associate degree.

Physical therapy assistant major Tom Cychnier dunks a basketball while playing in the OCCC gym between classes Aug. 30. The gym is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

I am a runner and it is a great way to increase scholarships. Last year we had around 400 participants and this year we are hoping for 500.”

—DEBORAH MYERS
NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Physical therapy assistant major Tom Cychnier dunks a basketball while playing in the OCCC gym between classes Aug. 30. The gym is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Recycle: Kiosks located around campus offer rewards

Continued from page 1

Then, users can begin scanning recyclables, depositing them and earning points. To keep up with points they have earned, users can print a receipt at the end of their transaction or log in with their email and password at the greenopolis website.

Besides earning points and coupons, Teel said, the Machines also have additional benefits other than just supporting the environment. "The Dream Machine recycling initiative also provides funding to the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities, a national program offering free, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans with disabilities," she said.

"The more people recycle bottles and cans in a Dream Machine kiosk, the more support PepsiCo can provide EBV for career training, education and job creation."

Plastic bottles will generally reward users with about five points each, making it easy to come up with 100 points in no time.

To sign up, visit one of the Dream Machine kiosks located in the College Union by Carson's or the Main Building by the OCCC Coffee Shop.

E-books: Electronic book versions great for traveling

Continued from page 1

• Ebsco e-books, which Lemon said, are more supplemental type materials for classes.

To access these books, Lemon said, go to the school’s library page at www.occc.edu/library and select e-books.

"For the Overdrive one, you just click in there and do a title search on the left side," she said.

"If you click advanced, it will let you search by author or publisher house. If you have a Kindle, you can click Kindle book and hit search, and it will show you all the available Kindle e-books."

Lemon said before users can check out books on devices such as the iPhone, iPad, and Android, they much first download an Overdrive app.

Although it may seem confusing at first, Lemon said, help is provided on the homepage.

"If you click where it says library help guide, there's an Overdrive and audio e-books guide and it will give you the step by step directions as well as how to download it to your phone," she said.

Once downloaded, users can check out up to three books by signing in with the same information used with MineOnline and student email, and the book will be added to their device. Users can check out books for either seven or 14 days. When time is up, the file will automatically disappear.

Lemon said e-books are especially good for those who are always on the go.

"If you are going to get your tires rotated or oil changed, you can read it while you wait," Lemon said.

"It's also convenient when you go on trips if you are someone who usually takes a lot of books with you."

Although the service has been offered for more than a year now, Lemon said it is mainly faculty who currently use the service.

“We try really hard to push it that we have [e-books],” Lemon said. “I think if students knew more about it, they would be more excited.”

Business major Brian Reynolds said he has heard about the e-books before but wasn’t sure what they were.

“I remember someone talking about them in my English class once but wasn’t sure how they worked,” Reynolds said.

“I think it would be a great way to kill some time before class during my long breaks.”
Meditation time encouraged

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Students now have a dedicated space on campus where they can pray, meditate, reflect, or simply be quiet and center themselves, said Student Life Director Erin Logan.

The new facility, the Student Meditation Room, opened Aug. 30 in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library, Room 101.

Logan said she was approached by several students over the summer to put in place a facility where they could pray or go to reflect on the day.

“We discovered a need for some of our students who pray a certain number of times a day, or need a space to go where they can do some personal reflections.

“And we didn't have a place dedicated to that,” Logan said.

“Afier research, and looking to find what space would be the best we made a proposal.”

Logan says the space is designed to be as multifunctional as possible, and should be able to accommodate all types and styles of prayer and meditation for both individuals and small groups.

“We'll have a place to keep bags, eight to ten chairs that can be moved around, a dry erase board, a small table that’s movable, floor lamps instead of overhead lighting; so it can be from the most relaxed to the most conservative safe space.”

Logan said the Meditation Room will be available during library hours, and will be open to use at all times during those hours.

“It’s not a reservable space. When you go in, you flip the sign on the door to say ‘occupied’ and then when you leave, you flip it back again so it’s open for whoever wants to use it.”

And no extra funding was needed to create the meditation room, Logan said. Although some of the religious clubs on campus offered to help with funding the project, Student Life was able to reallocate the necessary resources.

“We had furniture already in surplus. We had stuff left over from other events that we could put towards the room, instead of going out and spending money. It’s all just taking what we have to make it work.”

Logan said she hopes the open nature of the room will not produce any negative responses.

“We’re hoping the accepting nature of the students who are asking for this resource will rub off on those that may be a little judgmental.”

Logan said the students who have requested the Meditation Room are working towards a policy of acceptance.

“They want it to be for everybody. They want to get to know more about other religions and other cultures and ethnicities on our campus.”

“The purpose of this room is not just for religion. It’s not to put religion above anything else. We want all students to have a safe place to go and reflect.”

Logan said she’s working to incorporate cultural education into the events her department hosts this semester, to “get the dialogue going, so some of the tensions can be released.”

“People [should] understand, we’re not asking for tolerance, we’re asking for acceptance. We want everybody to feel safe. We want this to be a home, for people to be themselves.”

For more information, stop by Student Life’s offices in the Main Building, or visit the Meditation Room in Library Room 101.

For more information about cultural programs, go to www.occc.edu/studentlife.
Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

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FOR SALE: 2010 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup. 14,000 miles, city miles only. Silver color. Tinted rear window. Clean. Like new. Tags current. Email claudette-robertson@occc.edu.

TEXTBOOKS


BABY ITEMS FOR SALE:
Fisher Price infant to toddler blue baby rocker w/activity bar, barely used: $20. Slightly used clean Jumperoo with accessories: $50. Bright Starts baby activity gym, new: $15. wickitiwack@yahoo.com.


MUST SELL: 1995 Vulcan 750 motorcycle. (needs carb repair and more) $1,000. (Includes parts bikes.) Text 405-532-6262 for more information.

ROOMMATE WANTED:
Would split rent. Looking to rent in OKC area. Must be at least 21. Call: 405-474-8454.

LOOKING FOR RIDE:
Need ride from Norman to OCCC. Legally blind student. Will pay for gasoline. Classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call: 405-598-5052 or 405-395-2779.

FOR SALE:
2006 Honda Civic EX sedan, 168,000 miles, silver, $2,500. For details and pictures, please visit: http://twc.com/occsان

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M-F, 8–5 in MB 117 (by the Bursar’s Office) www.occc.edu/trio

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Digital students: Distractions or untapped assets?

Scott McLeod, J.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, University of Kentucky
Director of Innovation for Prairie Lakes Education Agency 8, Iowa

September 10, 2:30 p.m.

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September 11
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