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PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

DON'T HATE THE MESSENGER

Editor Sarah Hussain says journalists are the same as anyone else — except they deliver the news. Read her thoughts inside.

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Thousands will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. Turn inside to find out the latest news.

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Although flag football play has started, teams may still sign up through Oct. 26 at the website www.imleagues.com. For more information, turn to page 8.

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OCT. 12, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Duel, anyone?



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Kevin Mann (Sir Andrew Aguecheek) shows off his dueling moves while Tia Lasiter (Maria) and Lindsay Fritts (Fool) listen to Sebastian Rojas (Sir Toby Belch) read Sir Andrew's letter challenging Viola — disguised as Cesario — to a duel. This is a scene from William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" performed by OCCC theater students Oct. 4 in the Bruce Owen Theater. "Twelfth Night" is a humorous play about mistaken identity and blurred gender lines.

LGBT month celebrates achievements

Just a few decades ago, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered were outcasts

JEREMY CLOUD

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

As the country celebrates the achievements of a number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender icons during LGBT History Month, OCCC's Gay Straight Alliance President Christopher Reece said he is reflective of the past and how much things have changed in recent years for those communities.

Reece said he has seen a big difference in tolerance and ac-

ceptance in the past few decades.

"You would think that a lot of people who are out or are trying to come out would be either bullied or just given crap for what they are," Reece said.

"But in high school, I had no real issues."

Reece said the only difficulties he had were with his parents.

"They didn't accept it, and it came to where I had to move out of my parents' and live with a friend. Then I lived independently, [through] a program offered at my high school.

"For the last two years of high school, I was on my own."

Reece said he wouldn't change those experiences,

because they made him who he is today.

"I was fortunate to have people in my corner that wanted to see me graduate, who wanted a future for me. And my parents

acknowledge it now. They're OK with it now. It came with time."

Reece said he believes LGBT equal rights movements also are supported by the media and the

See LGBT page 9

Returning students can enroll now for spring

MITCHELL RICHARDS

Special Assignments
staffwriter4@occc.edu

Philosophy major Lauren Warr is anxiously awaiting her chance to enroll for the spring semester.

"I didn't get some of the classes I

wanted to this semester because I waited too long last semester and they were full," Warr said.

For returning students looking to enroll in the spring semester, early registration is currently open.

See ENROLL page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Reporter wonders why readers get upset at the truth

Journalists only bearer of news

Journalism is defined as the collection and editing of news for presentation through the media. Without journalism, humankind would not have access to what is considered extremely valuable information.



SARAH HUSSAIN

This being said, it boggles my mind that anyone would be against journalists reporting the news.

If newsmakers don't want the public to know what it is they are doing or are a part of, don't do it to begin with or don't be a part of it. It really is as simple as that.

As journalists, it is our job to collect information and report on it as objectively as possible. From day one I have been taught to write without bias when it comes to news stories. Journalists don't make the news. They merely report the news.

Journalists are not here to tell people what to believe. It is our job to gather information and present it to the public in an organized manner, and let people make up their own minds.

It's difficult to do that job when newsmakers or sources do not want to talk to us — or will talk to

us but don't disclose the entire truth, or put a spin on the truth.

What you are reading right now is a student newspaper, created by students for students and the whole OCCC community, and what we hope is beyond our community.

We do not write stories to shed unneeded light on topics that are not relevant to students. We find potential story ideas that we wholeheartedly believe the student body has the right to know about.

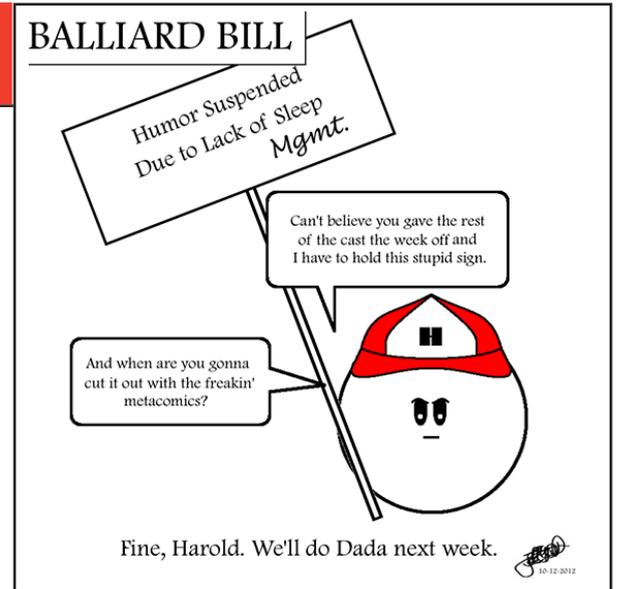
The idea for this editorial — the rare time a journalist can inject opinion — was sparked from many of my fellow staff writers' dissatisfaction with information gathering at OCCC.

Certain groups or individuals at our school do not want to talk to us about the subjects we write about each week, making it more difficult to do our jobs. Sometimes we are left only being able to tell one side of the story when we prefer to give all sides.

So, the next time a student journalist calls you for an interview, keep in mind before you say no, that journalists are humans too. We are here for you. We are not against any of you.

The career paths we have chosen of writing about what you do or what you stand for is just sometimes, unfortunately, frowned upon.

However, our goal is to provide the truth and inform



JEREMY CLOUD

the public, nothing more, nothing less.

I have had the greatest privilege of writing some phenomenal stories during my two years of being a student journalist.

For the most part, sources have been friendly and welcoming and it gives me great pride to be able to write about their successes.

Sometimes, I also have to expose their downfalls. That is my job as a watchdog for the public and one I'm proud of.

It is my goal to shed a new light on the word journalist.

I will fight for the rest of my writing life to prove to people that we are people too — just doing our jobs.

—SARAH HUSSAIN
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Show respect to those who need handicapped services

Letter writer applauds editorial, says it was needed

To the Editor:

Regarding the editorial in the Sept. 28 issue, titled "Able-bodied should stop being lazy" by Mitchell Richards:

I would like to thank you for your article regarding the misuse of the blue button!

Way too often I see perfectly able people use the service doors for no reason. Yes, perhaps when your hands are over full, but more often than not, it is just abuse.

One should instead be thankful they do not need the automatic door service, or special handicapped stalls in the restrooms.

Count your blessings that you have two working arms and legs that allow you to assist someone that needs the door held open.

I have never understood why people feel the need to push the button and then wait. It sure does not save you time, and to

some people, it appears you are lazy and are abusing a service you do not need.

Take a minute and consider someone else that needs the service that is taken for granted; and when the door is out of order from overuse, what will you do? What will the handicapped person do?

Let us show some respect to those that need these services.

And for the record, I am not in a wheelchair, nor do I have

any disability that hinders me from opening a door. Do you?

—MARCY ROLL
STUDENT LIFE ASSISTANT

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

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

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

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the **PIONEER** office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER ONLINE** also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Letter writer says never judge a book by its cover

Disabilities not always apparent

To the Editor:

In regards to the article that was written in the Sept. 28 issue of the Pioneer concerning “lazy” people who have been observed using the buttons to open doors or who use the handicapped stalls in the restrooms, but aren’t relying on crutches, canes or wheelchairs, allow me to share some information. This article, if left untouched, can create a hostile environment for students that is unnecessary and unwarranted.

The simple task of opening a door that is pressurized, such as the ones we have at OCCC, is extremely difficult if you are in acute pain or if you have difficulty maintaining your balance. Some students are suffering from non-physical, but equally debilitating illnesses such as [Obsessive Compulsive Disorder] and leaving home is a struggle every day. They may have no problem bumping the button with a fist, but touching a door handle could be unmanageable.

According to USA Today, a study completed with Stanford University noted that “as many as 40 million people” suffer from chronic (and sometimes debilitating) pain, 44 percent of those are “acute or short term.” According to the UOCD, about 3.3 million adults have OCD.

I suffer from a disorder called fibromyalgia. I also have arthritis, hypothyroidism and a severe neurological disorder from an accident with a semi (among other things). The joints in my thumbs have been removed and ligaments are threaded through bone to allow some use of them. I’ve had surgeries on my knee, feet, and both hands. It is difficult to get up and go to school each day. No, I don’t use a cane, crutch, or wheelchair. That doesn’t mean I’m not disabled.

I push the button to open the door. My hands have problems pulling it open and it causes pain in my joints as well. I use the handicapped access stalls because I am disabled and the higher seat and rails help in ways a healthy person could never understand. You may see me walking, but may notice I have to sit down every so often because the pain is too bad.

You can’t judge a person by their outward appear-

“ No, I don’t use a cane, crutch or wheelchair. That doesn’t mean I’m not disabled.

—NANCY MARTINEZ
OCCC STUDENT

ance. You never know what they are feeling or experiencing unless you take the time to get to know them.

The person who seems grouchy may have just lost a loved one; the student who is behind on homework may have been in the emergency room during the last week and is now receiving care from a cardiologist (as in the situation with my daughter, also a disabled student at OCCC). The healthy looking guy sporting a six pack may be diabetic and require dialysis.

The first day I visited this campus, the woman who gave the tour ranted endlessly of how a disabled person in her class took advantage because she was allowed to use a special pen to write with. Since then I’ve heard other negative remarks and judgments about the disabled.

(Many times) I enter a classroom to find the disabled chair has been moved, and I have to [move] it and the chair that was put in its place. Sometimes it’s missing, behind a professor’s desk or has a student sitting in it. What about the people who park in the handicapped spaces to “just run in for a minute” so that I can’t find a space? There are more examples, but you get the point.

It’s time OCCC began educating students and faculty about what a disability is and isn’t, and why accommodations are necessary. If someone says they are disabled, don’t judge or assume that you understand what [that person] can and cannot do. Let Student Services take care of the verifications.

Remember the adage of “You can’t judge a book by its cover?” Well, at least in this situation it is true.

—NANCY MARTINEZ
OCCC STUDENT

PLAY REVIEW | Carpenter Square Theatre sets the stage for ‘God of Carnage’

Two-act play full of true characters

The comedy “God of Carnage” recently finished a run at Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City.

The two-act play revolves around a meeting of two sets of parents after their sons are involved in an altercation at a park. The entire play takes place inside the Brooklyn apartment of the Novak family, whose boy has lost a couple of teeth in the incident.

There are only four cast members in the play and the setting never changes. Most of the characters are on stage with each other at all times during the play, except for brief moments where one will step out.

The drama in the play is sparked by

the awkward silence in the early stages, as neither family really knows what to do — should the Raleighs leave or be courteous with small talk? Small talk leads to backhanded comments about the bully’s actions, and backhanded comments lead to hell breaking loose on stage.

The play is simple, easy to follow and made for a great laugh. The conflict between the boys at times takes a backseat to arguments about abandoned hamsters, Africa, cell phones and the recipe to a cake.

The actors did a wonderful job of controlling the stage and playing their roles.

The contrast of the characters was perfect; from a smug lawyer (Alan Raleigh played by Chad Alan Baker) to the wholesaler of doorknobs (Michael Novak played by Mike Waugh) contrasted on the other side.

The wife of the lawyer (Annette Raleigh played by Mona Campbell) is a well-to-do and flashy woman, with a more homely wife on the opposition (Veronica Novak played by Lilli Bassett) who eventually takes a few too many pulls from the rum bottle to add to the comedy.

The characters share the stage space

ADVISER'S 411

Enroll early to avoid lines

Enrollment for the spring semester is now open. As always, students can avoid long lines during the heavy enrollment periods the first few weeks before classes start by choosing classes and enrolling early.

Students should enroll as soon as possible. Students who set their goals early and have an action plan are more successful in their academic careers.

If you are working, have a family, or other priorities that you must plan your coursework around, meeting with an adviser in advance can make enrollment a much smoother process.

Classes will fill up quickly and optimal times and days for those on a restricted schedule will become difficult to find.

Therefore, planning ahead and meeting with an academic adviser now may ensure optimal course placement and course availability.

Enrolling early also allows you to ask important questions and get informed responses. Students often want to know: What classes do I have left to take? Can I take an intersession course? Can I enroll online? Do I need to test for course placement? When do I apply for graduation? These are all questions the Office of Academic Advising can help you get the answers to.

The Office of Academic Advising can also: confirm or change program/majors; request faculty advisers; run degree checks; write diversified studies contracts; help with course selection; evaluate test scores; and establish personalized education plans.

We encourage students to meet with an adviser now to enroll for spring.

To set up an appointment to meet with an academic adviser call 405-682-7535.

—LINDA KAY LITTLE
TRANSFER AND ACADEMIC ADVISING
COORDINATOR

so well and you can visually see as sides are taken, as the men eventually gang up on the women and as Mrs. Raleigh gets a little too close to Mr. Novak.

I thought the actors did a great job defining their characters, from people who seem to have it together at the beginning to people showing their true selves by the final scene: completely unraveled and broken people.

Rating: B

—MITCHELL RICHARDS
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

TELEVISION REVIEW | Reviewer suggests finding a better way to spend two hours a week

‘Dancing with the Stars’ a waste of viewing

“Dancing with the Stars” returned for its 15th season, Monday, Sept. 24, on ABC. Dubbed as “all-star season,” the cast contains celebrities who have all previously competed on the show.

The 12 celebrities are paired with professional dancers, both new and old to the show, and together, each couple will dance their way to a chance in the finals and hopefully win the coveted mirror ball trophy.

Being this is an all-star season, naturally the stakes have been raised; not only are the three judges critiquing harder, they also have been given scoring paddles which contain half points in

between each number rather than the usual one through 10 paddles.

Just because the season is called all-stars, however, does not mean all competitors are up to par for the competition. While celebrities such as Drew Lachey, Emmitt Smith, Apolo Anton Ohno, and several others all won while competing in their original season, picks such as Bristol Palin, Kirtstie Alley and Pamela Anderson leave viewers wondering how they made it on the show in the first place, much less the second.

While it was good to see old favorites get back on the dance floor during the

first week, it also was interesting to see how much technique many of the celebrities had to re-learn, considering some had not been on the dance floor in several years.

Overall, not much has caught my eye this season. The judges are still their normal selves, bickering with each other and over-exaggerating their critiques. Perhaps the most annoying thing, however, is the fact that the show is not really a dance competition but rather a popularity contest. Although the judge’s scores do have some effect on who stays or goes home, it is ultimately up to viewer votes to decide.

Being a fan of the show since it first aired, I finally stopped watching a few seasons ago simply because the show became predictable and uninteresting.

I thought this season might be different and decided to watch since some of my favorite dancers were returning. However it proved to be a poor decision. Unless you enjoy watching two hours of mediocre celebrity dancers twice a week, I would suggest spending your time doing something much more useful.

Rating: C-

—ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

HAUNTED HOUSE REVIEW | ‘Terror on 10th Street’ anything but

Halloween and Jesus not a great mix

The wonderful season of Halloween — a time of masks and costumes, candy and children’s laughter, spooky decorations and haunted houses. There’s plenty of fun to be had, for the money, during this delightfully macabre season, especially in visiting haunted houses. At least, that’s the idea.

My husband and I visited a little venue that promised thrills and scares, billing itself as “Terror On 10th Street.”

After watching a video on NewsOK for this particular haunted house tour, hopes were not high, however. But in a sense of fairness, my husband and I went anyway. Even if it was as corny as it looked in the video, it might be fun, right?

Nope. We were greeted by an older woman dressed in pink from head to toe. Pink wig, pink shirt, pink skirt. Despite her bubblegum appearance, she purported to be some kind of creepy caretaker for the “old woman in the house.” She asked if we’d ever visited the house before, then immediately broke character to make a bid to sell us Day-Glo orange shirts with the attraction’s logo and information. Well, all right. Merchandising is perfectly acceptable, though I might have suggested staying in character as more important than hawking the goods.

Back in character, we were led up the steps to a porch covered in every kind of Halloween kitsch known to mankind. In one of only two startling moments in the entire attraction, she let out a sudden banshee scream to “warn” the “old lady” that she had visitors coming. After a few lame jokes, the door opened, and we were ushered inside to sit and talk to the old lady.

And talk we did. This woman, who apparently found fear in the idea of slathered face cream and a geriatrics cane, gave us a running commentary on nothing much for about five minutes. On the one hand, she did an excellent job of mimicking the stereotypes associated with senility induced dementia. On the other hand, she led with an “I killed Santa” crack. And at least a third of her “speech” was blatant advertising for the various businesses on N.W.

10th Street.

After thoroughly convincing us that she was either deeply unhinged or on a terrible script (hint: it’s the second one) she led us through the rest of the house. What followed was a continuing ramble as we walked through the house, with pathetic moments of attempted creepy sprinkled throughout. The “scares” consisted of small children jumping out of unconcealed boltholes to scream “boo.” Literally, “boo.” One of the few non-child actors gave me the only other startle at some point on this tour, which barely amounted to a shiver.

At last, we approached the end of the tour. So far, nothing special, but the patter was starting to get a little unnerving, the strobes and various spooks were beginning to build up a modicum of tension. A big finish was obviously waiting in the wings for a cue. With a bit of timing, it could have been great.

This was the point the “old lady” chose to drop her character almost completely to tell us about Jesus. A 30-second sermon in a can, complete with platitudes and the lame Halloween-themed humor that had characterized the tour up to that point. Don’t get me wrong, a good hell house or a demon-themed haunted house would have segued into this great and I would have been impressed with the honesty or ingenuity respectively.

But it broke the whole thing, especially when before going on, she did completely drop her character to ask if her makeup was OK. The finale was, needless to say, utterly lost without a mood to back it up.

For anyone who doesn’t mind more product placement than a Michael Bay film, a script a third grade class would revolt rather than perform, scares that don’t, and a Jesus break before a pitiful finale, this is the place to take the kids. Cause the adults sure as heck aren’t going to get more than an eye roll out of the whole thing.

Rating: D-

—JEREMY CLOUD
COMMUNITY WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Sept. 21 through 23
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Taken 2*
2. *Hotel Transylvania*
3. *Pitch Perfect*
4. *Looper*
5. *Frankenweenie*
6. *End of Watch*
7. *Trouble with the Curve*
8. *House at the End of the Street*
9. *The Master*
10. *Finding Nemo*
11. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*
12. *Resident Evil: Retribution*
13. *Won't Back Down*
14. *English Vinglish*
15. *The Dark Knight Rises*
16. *Dredd 3D*
17. *Arbitrage*
18. *The Possession*
19. *The Bourne Legacy*
20. *Lawless*

PAMELA SIMONDS SAYS HOODIES HAVE GROSSED THE MOST SALES

OCCC logo-wear reaches popularity on campus

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
News Writing Student

Hoodies are the most popular logo-wear at the OCCC bookstore, Senior Sales Associate Pamela Simonds said.

“Women buy zip-ups so they don’t mess up their hair, and men buy the pullovers,” she said. “We sell hoodies every day.”

There are many different styles, colors, and logos of OCCC clothing in the bookstore: purple and pink hoodies with animal print letters, T-shirts in a rainbow of colors, flip-flops, full-length or capri sweatpants, and much more.

There is a banquet to choose from whether you are a fashionista or a comfortista.

The most popular T-shirt sports the phrase “Undeclared since 1972.” Simonds called this “a fun shirt that gets a lot of comments.” There have been three different designs of the “Undeclared” tee.

In the past 30 years that she has been working at the OCCC bookstore, Simonds has been generally happy with the designs, which come from their several vendors.

“I love all of them,” she said. She sometimes helps select the styles they stock.

She said she has disliked maybe one or two over the years. In fact, Simonds admits she’s a big fan of the college logo-wear.

“If Stacy and Clinton from ‘What Not to Wear’ ever came to my house, they would throw all of my clothes away because 90 percent of them have OCCC on them,” she said.

She pulled up a photo on her computer desktop from her recent camping trip. In the picture with her husband, she is wearing an OCCC T-shirt.

Student Kelly Parish said she too has a collection of OCCC clothing.

She doesn’t have a particularly favorite logo, but she does prefer the T-shirts to the hoodies.

“I have four or five T-shirts, one hoodie, and a pair of sweatpants,” she said. Her favorite T-shirt is lime green.

During the interview Parish was wearing the popular “Undeclared” T-shirt in bright pink. When asked how she likes it she said, “It’s OK.”

She buys her OCCC logo-wear based on the colors, not the designs.

Like Simonds, Parish also wears her OCCC clothing off campus. The T-shirt she notices other students wearing the most is the “Oklahoma City Community College Est. 1972.”

The OCCC bookstore is located on the first floor of the Main building by the center stairwell. The hours of operation are 7:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and closed Saturday and Sunday.

Students who have some free time between classes can take a few minutes to browse the bookstore clothing. There is something for everyone’s taste.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

News Writing student Buffie Brown models an OCCC pullover hoodie on Oct. 10 in the Main Building atrium. OCCC attire is available for purchase in the campus bookstore.

PROFESSOR RUTH CHARNAY TAKES STUDENTS BEHIND THE SCENES

Arts Alive offers students fun humanities credit

LATRESE GILDON
News Writing Student

Those students fortunate enough to get a seat in the humanities course called OKC Arts Alive will have the opportunity to explore the arts first-hand, said Professor Ruth Charnay, who teaches the class.

The course has been closed for weeks, but Charnay is trying to learn if there are enough interested students to add a section for spring.

The eight-week humanities course is offered through the Oklahoma City Downtown College.

The class meets at the Civic Center Music Hall on Friday nights from Oct. 21 through Dec. 16.

This fall’s course will include “Frankenstein” produced by the Oklahoma City Theater Company, “The Normal Heart” by CityRep, “Mary Poppins” by Celebrity Attractions, “Nutcracker” by OKC Ballet and more.

During class students attend these various arts events and

talk to performers and business people about the performing arts.

Charnay said she would be willing to teach the class during the spring semester.

“If we thought there was enough interest, we would offer it in the spring as well,” she said. “Since it’s full, I have a feeling that if we offered it in the spring, it would do well too.”

Charnay, who is the director of Communication and Arts on campus, said she began teaching the course about seven years ago.

At first, the class would just barely attract enough students to be taught.

Those in the class will explore the arts from a local perspective. Gus Pekara, director of the Downtown College Consortium, said the Arts Alive course is very special.

“It offers an exclusive opportunity to be where the action is,” he said.

Pekara said students not only gain an appreciation for the performing arts but also specifically experience the arts in

Oklahoma City by actually being there and learning about the behind-the-scenes activities.

Charnay said she especially enjoys teaching the class because the students come from such different backgrounds.

“Maybe somebody was actually a ballet dancer when they were in school, or maybe somebody was in the orchestra when they were in the sixth grade or high school,” Charnay said.

“Other students maybe have season tickets and they’ve been going for 20 years.

“There are many different reasons why people have interest in the arts and this is definitely a unique contributing factor to the class discussions and it can enhance one’s appreciation of the arts as a whole.”

Students will attend a variety of art venues and visit with a variety of talented artists.

“We go see plays, we go see the Broadway series, we go see things that are done by community theater,” Charnay said.

“We get the whole range of experience from professional arts organizations and then

community arts organizations.

“We talk a lot about what the arts bring to a community and what our expectations are as audience members when we go see these different kinds of arts events.

“It’s really cool.”

She admits that sometimes people enroll just because they need three hours of humanities credit, which most degree programs require, but some students enroll for many other reasons.

“Many people are here because they really enjoy the arts but maybe they don’t have anybody to go with, or maybe they’re married to someone who

doesn’t enjoy the arts the same way they do,” Charnay said. “The class is definitely a fun way to be able to have someone to talk to about the arts.”

She emphasized that bringing these different types of people together makes the classroom discussion interesting.

“Those conversations are just fabulous,” Charnay said.

Students interested in enrolling in an Arts Alive class this spring should contact Charnay at rcharnay@occc.edu.

For information about Arts Alive and other classes offered through the OKC Downtown College, contact Pekara at 405-232-3382.

OCCC 

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

OPTIMAL RESUME

www.occc.optimalresume.com

Students’ access ID is their OCCC email address
example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu

Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS TO REACH GOAL

United Way seeks campus contributions

PARIS BURRIS

Online Editor

onlineeditor@occc.edu

October brings an entire month filled with activities and events on campus in association with the United Way Campaign in hopes of student, faculty and staff participation to raise money for the United Way fund.

“There is a whole series of events that are coming up that will augment the drive so that students can participate if they’d like,” Campaign Chairman Joe Swalwell said.

“Our goal is 100 percent employee contribution to further engage the community in the spirit of giving.”

All of the proceeds raised from the campaign will be donated to the United Way, Swalwell said.

“We don’t necessarily have a dollar amount that we’re trying to raise but we do have a goal of 100 percent employee contribution,” he said.

“We’re not asking for huge donations, we’re asking for lots of small donations.

“Although there’s nothing wrong with huge donations!”

Oct. 15 will be one of the United Way campaign’s



United Way

restaurant days, from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Boomerang Grille, located at 10500 South Pennsylvania Ave.

The fundraiser allows for a small portion of the participants meal cost to be donated to United Way by simply mentioning OCCC.

Swalwell said there was a similar fundraiser held Oct. 2 and Oct. 10 at Genghis Grill in Moore.

The big book sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 25. Swalwell said

“The book sale on October 25th will feature paperback books for \$1 each and hardback books for \$2 each,” he said.

“

Our goal is 100 percent employee contribution to further engage the community in the spirit of giving.”

—JOE SWALWELL

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS DIRECTOR

Big Truck Tacos will be on campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 25, and will donate a portion of taco sales to the United Way.

Blue Jeans Mondays will be held every Monday in October.

“For just \$2, each Monday you can purchase a sticker that proudly shows you are willing to make the noble sacrifice of wearing comfortable jeans for the truly worthy cause of supporting our OCCC United Way drive,” Swalwell said.

Popcorn Tuesdays will be held every Tuesday and allow participants to simply give a small donation in exchange for some popcorn, he said.

Silent auctions, starting at 9 a.m. Oct 29, will run through Oct. 31 at the bookstore windows.

For more information on the United Way Campaign or to participate in events, contact Joe Swalwell, director of Grants and Contracts, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7317.

October United Way fundraisers

Blue Jean Mondays

Oct. 15, 22 and 29

Contribute \$2 per Monday and wear your nice blue jeans to work.

Popcorn Tuesdays

Oct. 16, 23 and 30

Spend some change and get some yummy popcorn in return.

Restaurant Day

Oct. 15

11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Boomerang Grill, 10500 South Pennsylvania Ave. Mention OCCC and a portion of what you pay will go to the United Way.

United Way Detention

Oct. 8-16

Pay to keep your favorite faculty or staff member out of detention.

United Way Recess

Oct. 17

Contribute \$2 and enjoy lunch, games and fun in the campus courtyard.

The Big Book Sale

Oct. 25

Paperback and hard cover books will be for sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the General Dining area.

Big Truck Tacos

Oct. 25

Have a Big Truck Taco for lunch and a portion of what you pay will go toward the United Way Campaign. Tacos will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Silent Auction

Oct. 29-31

Bid on silent auction items outside the bookstore from 9 a.m. on Oct. 29 until 3 p.m. on Oct. 31.

Back to the Future

Oct. 31

Contribute \$2 and dress up as you did in high school – or like the OCCC class of 1972.

More than 75 percent of United Way’s funding to the community is raised by individuals who pledge at their work. Supporting United Way makes a powerful statement about OCCC’s commitment to the community.

Help the college make a difference. Join us as we build a stronger, healthier, more compassionate community together.

For more information, contact Joe Swalwell at ext. 7317 or by email at jswalwell@occc.edu.

— www.occc.edu/employee/united-way

MONTH DEDICATED TO TREATMENT OPTIONS AND ANNUAL CHECKUPS

October brings breast cancer awareness

ERIN PEDEN

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Many will be showing off pink ribbons during the month of October. Since 1985, October has been designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in order to show support for those affected and to raise awareness.

According to womenshealth.gov, breast cancer affects one-in-eight women, making it the second-leading cancer killer of women in the U.S.

Most everyone has known someone with breast cancer. Although there is currently no cure, there are many ways to create awareness about treatment options and getting yearly checkups.

Just last month, OCCC's Student Emergency Medical Sciences Association hosted a bake sale outside the Communications Lab to help raise awareness.

The sale was in support of OCCC student Debbie Martinez, a cancer patient who is well-loved among medical students. The group raised nearly \$2000 in her honor.

Public relations major Justin Knight, who attended the bake sale, said breast cancer awareness is something very personal to him.

"My mom had breast cancer," Knight said. "Anytime I have a chance to give back, I do."

Bake sales are not the only way to get involved. The annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure will take place in the Bricktown Ballpark in Oklaho-

ma City on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Business major Rachel Manyen, who has participated in the walk for a few years now, says breast cancer has been prominent in her family and she believes research towards a cure is important.

"It's a disease that can plague your life and the treatments are hard and don't always work," Manyen said.

"Even if we cannot find a cure or preventive measure, a new means of treatment that would not be so harsh on the body would be a blessing to thousands of women and their family."

Local people aren't the only ones getting involved. Several celebrities have stepped up to help fight the battle. Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is among those raising awareness.

DeGeneres, whose mother is a breast cancer survivor, has for the past several years, invited guests during the month of October to be placed in a dunk tank on her show in order to raise money for the cure.

Celebrity guests who have entered the tank include actor Jack Black, major league baseball player Matt Kemp, and more recently, actor Liam Ne-

son, who even wore a pink speedo into the tank.

Other celebrity breast cancer activists include Sheryl Crow, Olivia Newton-John, Kylie Minogue and Suzanne Somers, all of whom have overcome their own breast cancer diagnoses.

Other notable companies in support of the month include Estee Lauder, New Balance, Panera Bread and Ticketmaster.com, which has agreed to turn all tickets sold during the month of October pink.

In addition, a portion of the money made from NFL tickets sold during October will be given to organizations such as the American Cancer Society.



“The more you give to the cause now, the better our fight will be down the road.”

—HOLLI DAVIS
OCCC STUDENT

Undecided major Holli Davis says more people should care when it comes to this cause.

"Breast cancer is growing in abundance," Davis said. "Before you know it, it may directly affect you,

"The more you give to the cause now, the better our fight will be down the road."

To register for the Oklahoma City Race for the Cure Walk or to learn more about breast cancer visit <http://komencentralwesternok.org>.

CORRECTION:

PTA student reaches out-of-court settlement

A headline in the Sept. 21 Pioneer incorrectly stated: "Student loses lawsuit against professor." Student Kaylee Horsch said she did not lose the lawsuit which she filed in U.S. District Court on April 5. In the lawsuit, Horsch claimed she had been improperly expelled from the college's Physical Therapy Assistant program.

Pioneer reporter Mitchell Richards reached his conclusion from a statement made by OCCC spokesman Cordell Jordan in which he said: "For whatever reason, the judge dismissed the case with prejudice, meaning we cannot be found at fault for what she was alleging."

Richards thought Jordan's statement meant college officials did not know why the judge dismissed the case. In fact, college officials and Horsch had settled the case out of court, said Lori Gray, who serves as court deputy to U.S. District Judge Stephen P. Friot. After that OCCC asked Friot to dismiss the case, which he did Aug. 23.

Gray said the court was advised on Aug. 2 that the case had been settled.

Horsch herself confirmed in a voice mail message on Oct. 3 that the lawsuit

was settled out of court.

Sources, who declined to speak on the record, said Horsch won reinstatement to the PTA program and would be given the opportunity to complete it. College records show Horsch is not enrolled this semester.

PTA Program Director Jennifer Ball was asked to confirm that Horsch had been readmitted to the program.

Ball said she was not allowed to comment and referred the Pioneer to the college's attorney.

Attorney Nancy Gerrity, the college's general counsel, said in an Oct. 5 email: "I have no comment on that matter."

In her lawsuit, Horsch said she suffers from Attention Deficit Disorder and was not provided "reasonable accommodations" when taking her final skills test, which she failed.

OCCC officials offered no additional information in the case, saying the statements they made earlier were factual.

SPORTS

SPORTS | Team sign up still ongoing

Intramural Flag Football underway



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Business major Cody Zornes completes a passing play as pre med major Devin Bond closes in for the flag pull in an OCCC Intramural Flag Football game on Oct. 5, in the athletic field outside of the Aquatic Center. The next scheduled intramural event will be Oct. 12.

BRANDON WILLIS

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC Intramural Flag Football was full of dominating performance that reflected the score. Team Nike defeated the OCCC Recreation and Fitness Staff 46-18 and the Legends pulled away from the Yard Dogs 41-18.

The OCCC Intramural Flag Football season kicked off on Oct. 5 and was full of blowouts. Team Nike had everything clicking on all cylinders as they displayed an impressive aerial assault on the OCCC Recreational and Fitness Staff.

As a result of the Thirsty Camels not showing up for the 1 p.m. game, the OCCC recreation and fitness staff had to fill in and their lack of chem-

istry showed on the field.

The stars of the game were the quarterback for Team Nike Jimmy McDay and receiver/cornerback Dalton Newsome.

McDay walked onto the field confident his team could get it done.

"I think my team is the best," McDay said.

McDay seemed to hit all of his targets on short, medium and long routes without turning the ball over.

"I will take only two incompletions and zero picks any day," McDay said.

Newsome was a reliable target and was stout on defense with two interceptions.

The Legends, formally know as

“Most of us have played together since junior high and we are all good friends, so we might go out to the park and throw it around for fun.”

—BENJAMIN DUNN
LEGENDS RECEIVER

“That Team Over There,” have played together for a while now and showed it while defeating the Yard Dogs 41-18.

“Most of us have played together since junior high and we are all good friends, so we might go out to the park and throw it around for fun,” Legends Receiver Benjamin Dunn said.

The Yard Dogs tried to put up a fight but could not get their passing game in sync.

Yard Dogs receiver Antoine New-

UPCOMING
INTRAMURALS
EVENTS

Oct. 13: OK Senior Games Swim Meet. The pool will be open to the public during the meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Oct. 26 through Oct. 28: Chesapeake Halloween Invitational Swim Meet. The pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Nov. 2: OCCC Intramural Basketball is back. For more information or to register, visit www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Nov. 3 through Nov. 5: Oklahoma Baptist University Swim Meet. The pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**All event news is due
Monday by 5 p.m. for
inclusion in the next issue.
Email your news to
sportswriter@occc.edu.**

**Have sports news you want
to share?**

**Email Brandon at:
sportswriter@occc.edu, or
call 405-682-1611,
ext. 7676**

son tried to get the offense going but was frustrated with the lack of a consistent quarterback for him to connect with.

“We just need to stop switching quarterbacks,” Newson said.

Registration for the league remains open until Oct. 26. Anyone who wishes to play must register on imleagues.com.

For more information on the OCCC Intramural Flag Football league or any other Recreational and Fitness activity, contact the Wellness Center desk at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Three campus thefts occur over a two-day period

MITCHELL RICHARDS

Special Assignments Reporter
staffwriter4@occc.edu

Three thefts were recently reported on campus Sept. 19 and 20.

Food from the college cafeteria, a backpack from the Testing Center and two cans of Red Bull energy drink were reported stolen in the three separate OCCC incident reports.

At approximately 8:15 a.m. on Sept. 19, surveillance camera footage showed a male student, whose identity is withheld from the police report, getting food in a styrofoam container at Carson's and hiding the

container under notebooks and attempting to walk out without paying for it.

According to police reports, the student was reported to have been stealing food from Carson's by Facilities Management Assistant Natalie Tobin.

Reporting officer Gordon Nelson said Carson's manager Lisa Robertson declined to press charges.

The report shows Nelson planned to file a student misconduct against the student who was released after he paid for his food.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 19, student April Aulner reported her backpack missing from the college Testing Center.

Video evidence showed the backpack was stolen

by an unidentified white male wearing a blue shirt, jeans and a hat worn backwards.

The suspect, according to the report, was accompanied by a white female wearing a pink tank top who appeared to be pregnant.

On Sept. 20, Political Science Professor Dana Glencross reported her office mini refrigerator was open upon her arrival to work. Two Red Bull energy drinks were missing which she valued at \$3.50 a can according to the report.

Glencross said there seemed to be no other items missing from her office.

Campus police can be reached at 405-682-1611, ext. 7691.

LGBT: Stonewall riots changed history for communities

Continued from page 1

current president.

"Media affects us a lot," he said. "Celebrities coming out, and being supportive of each other. Even the 'It Gets Better' project — just everyone wanting people to coincide with each other, in that it does get better.

"I think we're pretty fortunate to have that now. I think if we'd had that during Stonewall, the riots wouldn't have happened."

The Stonewall riots, Reece said, was one of the events that triggered the birth of the modern LGBT equal rights movement. According to Encyclopedia Britannica Online,

the riots were the result of homosexual relations being illegal in most urban centers, and police policies of targeting establishments that catered to LGBT individuals.

"In the early morning hours of Saturday, June 28, 1969, nine policemen entered the Stonewall Inn, arrested the employees for selling liquor without a license, roughed up many of its patrons, cleared the bar, and — in accordance with a New York criminal statute authorizing the arrest of anyone not wearing at least three articles of gender-appropriate clothing — took several transvestites into custody. It was the third such raid on Greenwich Village gay bars in a short pe-

riod," the article states.

The article also said while docility was the normal response, the individuals inside and outside the inn grew angry, and attacked the arresting officers.

"Accustomed to more passive behavior, even from larger gay groups, the policemen called for reinforcements and barricaded themselves inside the bar while some 400 people rioted. The police barricade was repeatedly breached and the bar was set on fire," Britannica states.

The riots lasted five days, according to the article, and marked the first time the groups under the LGBT umbrella allied together for a common cause.

Reece said he's excited about how far the movement has come, and the direction it's headed for the future.

"I know the LGBT community wants equal marriage, the repeal of [the Defense of Marriage Act.] And that's a monster in itself.

"That's going to take the LGBT community and the allies who are for the LGBT community, educating everyone, educating the people.

"It's baby steps," Reece said. "You can't force it. We have to do this in a non-aggressive way. If someone comes at us, we can't come back at them. We need to tread lightly, because these are people's beliefs, and beliefs don't change overnight.

We have to be patient and know that it will come in time."

Reece said while he sees a day when equal rights for LGBT individuals won't be an issue, he does have a word of caution to those fighting for equal rights.

"I think we'll always have some group of people that will be oppressed. Native Americans, women, African-Americans, and now, the LGBT people. You have to wonder, if we get to a point of acceptance, what's the next group?"

"It's sad to think that way, but history does repeat itself."

For more information on OCCC's Gay Straight Alliance club, visit <http://occc.campus-groups.com/gsa>.

Enroll: New students can begin enrolling Oct. 15

Continued from page 1

New students can begin enrolling Oct. 15. The Spring 2013 semester begins Jan. 22.

Warr said it's wise to enroll early, not wait like she did.

She said she ended up taking early morning classes as a result of enrolling late, something she wasn't too excited about.

Stu Harvey, executive director of Planning and Research, said enrollment is expected to be down in Spring 2013 in comparison to Spring 2012.

"Most of the time there are fewer students in the spring than in the fall," Harvey said.

Warr said she likes the expected decrease for the spring semester because it gives her a better chance at getting into the classes she wants.

Harvey said there are approximately 11,000 students enrolled this fall semester.

There are a number of ways to enroll, including online through a student's MineOnline account.

There, students are able to search and register for classes, as well as go through a piloted course to plan their upcoming semesters with the classes needed for their major.

Warr said when she first

started at the college, she enrolled through a school-provided adviser, but now — into her third semester — she prefers MineOnline and its

search features.

According to the 2012-2013 OCCC Catalog, the Admissions Office, located in the Main Building, will begin hav-

ing extended hours on Jan. 8.

For more information on enrollment, call the Admissions Office at 405-682-7580 or visit www.occc.edu.



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CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Get a job



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Newly enrolled OCCC student Gregory Cobbs gets information from Sergeant Waldon of the Oklahoma City Police Department on Oct. 3, at the Fall Job Fair and Health Job Fair in the College Union. The fair featured a variety of career choices and occupation opportunities for individuals seeking employment from around the state.

Bible Study

Christians on Campus will be holding a Monday Bible Study from noon until 12:50 p.m. Monday Oct. 15, in room 1x3. For more information contact kgrayson@occc.edu.

Cell phone photo contest

The OCCC art department is looking for cellphone photographs for a 2013 exhibition. Entrants must be current students or employees, and may only submit one photo. Photos must be original file size, submitted as an attachment using OCCC email. They should include title, cellphone type, software used to manipulate the image and photographer's name. The deadline is Oct. 15. For more information, email dblake@occc.edu.

Theater production auditions

The OCCC Theater Department will be holding auditions for the upcoming production "Improv-ing Your Life," an interactive theater experience that will deal with social and interpersonal relationships in an improvisational form. Auditions will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 22, and Tuesday, Oct. 23, in AH room 1C5.

The department is looking for a diverse cast of 6 to 10 actors of any race, age, gender, sexual orientation or political affiliation. No experience is necessary. Come prepared to be creative. Production dates are Nov. 29 through Dec. 1.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue.

**Email your event to
communitywriter@occc.edu**

COMMUNITY | Cyber Security Awareness Month aids in educating public

Responsibility for online safety stressed

ANDREW MCDONALD
News Writing Student

When most people think of October, certain traditions immediately spring to mind, but there's one particular topic students might have omitted from their calendars: online security.

This October marks the ninth annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month. During this month the Department of Homeland Security aims to educate the public on ways to stay safe in an ever-growing, interconnected world.

OCCC Cyber Security professor Al Heitkamper, said he wants to be part of the solution. He said he sees online safety as a shared responsibility.

"Emerging cyber threats require engagement from the entire American community," Heitkamper said.

Each week in October will highlight a different, fundamental aspect of online safety, including law enforcement and

industry efforts in cyber security, among others.

But what does this mean for college students and staff? What can they do, right now, to stay safe in the cyber realm?

"Get a watch," said Heitkamper, who teaches courses in cyber security on campus.

Every time you take out your phone to check the time, Heitkamper said, you're leaving yourself vulnerable to theft.

Before you shrug off the suggestion with a "what are the odds of that" mentality, just imagine for a second that someone did happen to run by and take your phone.

Do you have a pass lock on it? Is your Facebook account one thumb-tap away? What about your bank accounts? Online stores, personal notes, contacts, photos?

Everything people use to connect with those they love can just as easily be turned against them, Heitkamper said.

But it's not all gloom and doom, Heit-

kamper said. There are plenty of other ways people can protect themselves, and most of them are based on common sense.

Don't open an email from someone you don't know. See? Common sense at its finest.

But there's something else to consider. When you're sending an email, whether it's to a friend, coworker or professor, always include something in the subject line, so the recipient knows what's inside.

As for those with smart phones, remember they're computers. Just because it's easy to forget that doesn't change the fact that a smart phone is essentially a handheld computer.

Like all computers, smart phones can get viruses, and Heitkamper suggests downloading some kind of anti-virus app. Norton and Kaspersky, arguably the two giants of anti-virus software, both have

“ Emerging cyber threats require engagement from the entire American community.”

—AL HEITKAMPER
CYBER SECURITY PROFESSOR

mobile security options available.

These are but a few of the many ways people can protect themselves online. To learn more, visit www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam or www.csrc.nist.gov/nice.

Changing leaves and cooler weather. Haunted houses. Trick-or-treating. Another "Paranormal Activity." These are things people already associate with the month of October.

But since students walk around with their entire lives in their pockets, it couldn't hurt to recognize the need to protect it. What better time than during National Cyber Security Awareness Month?

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. 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.

ANIMALS

FOR SALE: Three young husky/German Shepherd mixes. Two males, one female. Already vaccinated. Nine months old. Call/text: 405-517-4117.

AUTOMOTIVE

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.

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

FOR SALE: 1965 Chevy truck. \$4,000 OBO. Rebuilt motor. Runs. Needs painting. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

FOR SALE: 1962 Chevy car. \$2,000 OBO. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

FOR RENT

ROOM FOR RENT: \$450/mo. Bills included. 3-bedroom located near OCCC. Males only. One friendly dog already, no more pets. No smoking preferred. Call/text Reginald at 405-249-4550.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

LOOKING FOR motivated, energetic people to join the #1 fastest growing home-based business in North America. Achieve your Health and Fitness goals while building a residual income. Work full or part time and be your own boss. Call Shannon 405-503-8809 or Troy 405-819-8523.

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HAUNTED BARN AND FOREST OPEN EVERY FRI. AND SAT. IN OCT. FROM 8 TO 11 P.M. LOCATED AT 10101 144TH ST. LEXINGTON, OK 73051. CALL 405-651-5268 FOR INFO. ADULTS \$12, \$6 10 AND UNDER.

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.

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

FOR SALE: Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged: \$100; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, \$100. 405-818-0083.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Would split rent/utilities. Looking to rent apartment in SW OKC. Either gender, pets and smokers welcome. Call: 405-651-3421.

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: American Realities Vol. 1 history textbook. Slightly used. \$50. Text/call Robert at 405-248-8849 for more info.

ROOMMATES WANTED: Looking for 2-3 students to rent in SW OKC. Would share rent/ other bills. Call: 405-651-3421.

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Students trek to Lawton for ESL field trip

YEHODA ASHONG-LAMPTEY
News Writing Student

The rolling prairie of southern Oklahoma, punctuated by the Wichita Mountains near Lawton, set the scene for a class of international students who had been reading "Little House on the Prairie" for an assignment. Professor Abra Figueroa organized the field trip in late September for students in OCCC's English as a Second Language Bridge Program.

"This is beautiful," said Celida Vannaman, from Mexico, as they neared the mountains. Vannaman said the mountains and the terrain of the wildlife refuge brought her more understanding of Laura Ingalls Wilder's story.

Figueroa said she has organized the trip twice a year for 15 years.

"I never get tired of it," she said. Figueroa said she takes her international students on the trip so they will learn about the state they live in.

As soon as they got to the peak of Mount Scott, students reached for their cameras and took pictures of the mountain and the Quanah Parker Lake below.

The students got to see the Quanah Parker Nature and Visitor Center where they watched a video about the history of the refuge and how it came about.

"This is so small," said Trung Le, a student from Vietnam, referring to the buffalo models at the visitors center. He had just seen the large shaggy beasts roaming on the range at the wildlife refuge.

Another student, also from from Vietnam, Nien Nguyen said she had never seen buffalo.

The group also went to the Fort Sill Museum where Curator Mark McGehee told the group the base was first set up to promote peace among the whites and the Indians in the area.

Over time, he said, this initiative helped bring a lot of Native Americans into the U.S. Army. He said it helped the Army tremendously in World War I and World War II because of the Indian code-talkers.

The Indians spoke in their own language over the airwaves which helped the Army communicate in codes that could not be broken by the enemy during the war.

Yadid Villalba, from Colombia, said she

considers the Lawton attractions a must-see for everyone who comes to Oklahoma.

Figueroa said international students interested in going on the same trip next semester can reach her at afigueroa@occc.edu.

The students who went on the trip and their countries are: Ninett Aguilar de Campos, Nicaragua; Fatemeh Ahadzadeh, Iran; Nasser Alqahtani, Saudi Arabia; Rosa F. Dennison, Perú; Graciela Lopez-Hernandez, Alberto Ruiz Nava and Pedro Grijalva, México; Huong L. Le, Trung D. Le, Vy T. Le, Lam X. Ngo, Hien T. Nguyen, Lam T. Nguyen, Trang T. Nguyen, Hung P. Tran, Nhien Q. Tran, Thanh H. Vo and Huong T. Mach, from Vietnam.

Jongchul Lee, Shin Boram and Kwang Won Lee, Korea; Pome H. Mang, Burma; Gaelle Ekovone Ndong and Jean Mbo Meye, Gabón; Arezou Motamedi Fakhr, Iran; Yapan Zhang, China; and Yadid Villalba and Celida Vannaman, from Colombia.



PHOTO COURTESY ABRA FIGUEROA

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Pay off your highest interest debt first and pay the minimum on the rest. When the first debt is clear, use the extra money to pay off the next, then the next, and so on.

Find more tips on being free of debt at **BucktheNorm.com/empowerment**