EDITORIAL

DEATH NO LAUGHING MATTER

Online Editor Paris Burris says some people need to think twice about what they post online about those who die. Read her thoughts inside.

OPINION, p. 2

CAMPUS LIFE

VOTERS SPEAK OUT ABOUT CANDIDATES

Some students plan to rock the vote Tuesday, Nov. 6. See how they plan to vote and why. Also, find out where you can go to vote plus what the laws are.

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SPORTS

Dodgeball Tourney

NOV. 16

OCCC’s Recreation and Fitness Department will host a first-time dodgeball tournament. Signups run through Nov. 15. Find out how to get involved.

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CAMPUS LIFE

GREATER GRADS PROGRAM

Find out how to be a part of the Greater Grads program. Internships are available. Read more inside.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

Grants and donations assist OCCC with goals

President Paul Sechrist says money from outside sources helps OCCC meet needs

SARAH HUSSAIN

Editor
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During a time when most colleges are looking at ways to make ends meet, President Paul Sechrist said OCCC relies partly on grants and donations to help keep things running smoothly.

"Given the forecast of continuing tight state budgets, grants and donations will play an increasing role in assisting OCCC achieve its mission," Sechrist said.

Institutional Advancement Executive Director Lealon Taylor said that money goes toward such things as student scholarships, certain building costs and making sure students have what they need to learn.

Reports show grants for the current fiscal year — which began July 1 and will end June 30 — total $3,373,705.

The average amount of donations over the last five years has been $555,905 with fiscal year 2011-’12 bringing in the most money.

That fiscal year, the college solicited $835,628 in donations to help fund the new theater currently under construction.

"Grants are pots of money out there from the state or federal government or some foundation," Taylor said. "The new theater will allow us to fulfill the college’s mission of access and affordability."

Last dates to withdraw from fall classes near

BRANDON WILLIS

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

As the last dates to withdraw from fall semester classes near, Assistant Registrar Megan Hornbeek cautions students to seek professional advice before doing so.

"Students drop classes for multiple reasons — personal and family emergencies, medical conditions, or not passing a class," Hornbeek said. "Due to the new Financial Aid policies, I would recommend students get guidance from the Office of Financial Aid before dropping classes."

See MONEY page 9

Time for music

Time for Three, Zach De Pue (violin), Ranaan Meyer (double bass), and Nick Kendall (violin) performed Oct. 23 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

See WITHDRAW page 9

Chris James/Pioneer

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Chris James/Pioneer
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Put downs toward the deceased are inconsiderate to families

Untimely deaths treated callously

Lately I have been examining the reactions to the recent suicide of 15-year-old Amanda Todd, and it has raised this question in my mind: Where do we draw the line on what we say about those who are deceased?

Death is a very touchy subject and should be taken seriously, but in this case, snide comments have been made online, questioning Todd’s past.

When I hear about a suicide like this, it breaks my heart. This was a very young girl who was intensively bullied. That, combined with other issues, led to the devastating loss of her life.

Yet, despite this tragedy, many people are saying inconsiderate and hurtful things about the victim, mostly on social networking sites.

Why must we focus on something that in no way, shape or form affects any of us at all? It is best in these situations to just keep rude thoughts to ourselves in part, out of consideration for the victim’s family.

We need to consider how we would feel if one of our loved ones died unexpectedly and the news was announced to you.

There are many other cases where we see inconsiderate actions toward the deceased. I think one of the reasons we are seeing more of this is because of growing apathy toward death in our society. We see death every day in the news, in movies and video-games, and the more we are exposed to it, the less shocking it becomes.

Another influence is social media. Take memes — items of pop culture propagated via word of mouth, usually used to be funny, as described by urbandomicrony.com. As much as I love them, they also can be used inappropriately, such as in the Todd case where a posted meme read, “Thirsty? Drink bleach,” with Todd’s image in the background. Many people look at these memes as harmless jokes, but in reality, they can be inappropriate and hurtful to the families involved. Often, people don’t think about this.

I just hope more people can learn to bite their tongue, reconsider what they are saying and how it affects others, and realize that social media is a tool used to spread messages and create conversations, not to harm someone’s family.

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. 73119, 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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Writer says students not required to use their card

Higher One rep says company has no hidden fees

To the Editor:

I am your campus relations specialist at Higher One, the company your school partners with to electronically distribute financial aid refunds to students.

I read your recent article “Federal investigation finds fault with Higher One” and was disappointed by some of the misunderstandings I saw in the article.

Schools partner with Higher One so students can receive their financial aid dollars faster and more conveniently by allowing them to choose online how they want to receive their money.

Higher One will always give students a choice in how they receive their money and all of the options are cost-free. This is a standard set by the Department of Education.

That said, students should know that they are not required to have a checking account with Higher One. Students are able to choose how they want to receive their money and are encouraged to select the option that works best for them.

Not all banks are very upfront about their account and fee structures, but Higher One is. If you choose to open a checking account with Higher One, there is no fine print and there are no hidden fees.

We let you know about everything directly before you open the account, so be sure to read and understand your options carefully.

Moreover, Higher One does not offer any instruments of credit because it’s not our goal to increase student debt. Rather, we work toward giving students the tools necessary to make responsible money management choices.

We believe that students are smart and have the ability to be financially responsible when given the tools to do so.

The bottom line is to read the disclosures and do your homework before choosing an account.

More information, including a 101 toolkit that can help you save and spend wisely, can be found online at http://bit.ly/useforfree.

Now you know the facts and we aim for your experience with Higher One to be positive. Good luck inside and outside of the classroom this year.

—Lauren Perry
Higher One, Inc. Campus Relations Specialist

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.

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REO delvers old hits with style

REO Speedwagon rocked the stage Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Firelake Grand Casino in Shawnee.

The band entered the stage a little after 7 p.m. and began their show with “Don’t Let Him Go.”

Lead singer Kevin Cronin got the crowd going with his high energy and guitar playing. Hit song “Take It On the Run” followed and Cronin got the audience even more pumped by getting them to sing the chorus.

The band then pumped up the tempo with upbeat songs such as “Golden Country” which Cronin said some considered a song of rebellion in the ’70s. Cronin said he considered the song to simply be a song of patriotism. “It’s easy to love your country during the good times but true patriotism comes when you love your country through the hard times as well,” he said.

Other highlights of the concert were when Cronin slowed things down with an acoustic performance of “Keep the Fire Burning” a song from a previous album he had re-written.

“This is how it should have sounded on the album,” Cronin said.

Perhaps the best part of the concert was when Cronin recounted their May visit to the Zoo Amphitheater in Oklahoma City where they performed with Styx and Ted Nugent. Cronin told the audience: “I usually agree with everything Ted says but how dare he get up in front of a bunch of REO fans and claim he wrote the greatest love song of all time. Friends, when you go home tonight with that special someone and are trying to set the mood, are you going to be playing ‘Cat Scratch Fever?’ I don’t think so.”

He then followed this statement with what he said he considers to be the greatest love song, “I Can’t Fight This Feeling.”

The concert ended with hit song “Keep On Loving You” which Cronin played the piano to, then “Riding the Storm Out” followed as the encore song which got the whole crowd dancing.

Even though the band played only their old songs, the energy of the band and the crowd made for a fun party atmosphere.

The thing I enjoyed most was watching Cronin literally change guitars after every song and then throw his guitar picks out into the audience. I also was impressed at the level of energy they gave out and the interaction with the audience.

Overall, it was a fun experience for my first 21-and-up concert. I would definitely go see them again.

Rating: A

—ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

REO delivers old hits with style

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BOOK REVIEW | Comedy writer Bill Simmons turns author

‘Book of Basketball’ full of laughs

I would be lying if I categorized myself as a book reader but recently I finished a book that I still cannot get off my mind. Bill Simmons’s “Book of Basketball” is a great read that combines comedy, blatant bias and witty basketball IQ. Simmons is a huge Boston Celtics fan and he is not ashamed to add that to his research for this project which I can truly respect.

He provides great questions people should ask themselves while voting. “If you replaced each MVP candidate with a decent player at his position for the entire season, what would be the hypothetical effect on his team’s record,” Simmons said. “Ten years from now, who will be the first player from that season who pops into my head?”

Simmons’ great appreciation for the history of the NBA is refreshing in this “what have you done for me lately” society. Simmons’ immense effort and passion for the game pours out of this book. You can tell he really took his time and did his proper research for this project which I can truly respect being a journalist myself.

Rating: A+

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—BRANDON WILLIS
SPORTS WRITER
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

CONCERT REVIEW | Reviewer shows with ears pleasantly ringing

The legendary Melvins just get better with age

The crowd was screaming as Buzz Osborne, lead singer and guitarist for the legendary Melvins, made his way to stage. Normam’s Opolis was packed to maximum capacity as the Seattle band rocked the stage Saturday, Oct. 20, leaving no ears unringing. If Kurt Cobain was alive he would have been as happy as ever. The grunge band that influenced Nirvana and a plethora of other Seattle bands were more than happy to show why they have had a successful career in rock music for the past 29 years.

Osborne may have gotten a bit older and his signature afro might have gotten a bit grayer, but he definitely did not let that stop him from playing some of the heaviest tunes I have ever heard live.

After starting with a song from their new album “Freak Puke,” the crowd went wild. The song was not fast, but it was furious. Osborne was continuously rocking in place, hitting the same distorted chord over and over as drummer Dale Crover brought the drums in faster and faster. And, much to my surprise, the heaviest, most distorted bass I ever heard turned out to be an upright bass.

I loved it. Bassist Trevor Dunn is a recent addition to the band, adding a sense of youthfulness to the line up. Dunn, who is at least 44 according to his profile on Wikipedia, acted and played like an 18 year old. Dunn previously played for the legendary Mr. Bungle in the ’80s and ’90s. He brought a silly intensity to the music that included holding the gigantic bass over his head, lying on the ground with it and straddling it, all while playing with the best accuracy.

Each song intensified throughout the show, as the crowd got more and more aggressive. Even though the Opolis is a small establishment, there were quite a few slam pits going on upfront where I stood but they were not bothersome enough to worry about. Fans took their place on stage one after the other during a chance to stage dive into the crowd and the band just laughed on.

Before the show ended, Crover played a drum solo that intensified and lasted at least 15 minutes. Normally I would be a bit upset to have to hear a drum solo that lasted that long, but coming from a legendary drummer that has played with bands like Nirvana, Mudhoney, Hank 3 and Fecal Matter, I was more than happy to listen. And it rocked.

The Melvins are well known for their deafening volume and slow heavy music, and they did not disappoint. The small club could barely contain the sheer power being produced by the sound system.

After an hour and a half of listening, I left the show with my ears ringing for the rest of the night.

Even though I saw the Melvins during their youth once in the ’90s, I was still impressed.

However, I wish they would have played some of their bigger hits like “Night Goat” or even “Sky Pup,” which Kurt Cobain himself played drums for on the album “Houdini.”

But I would say it was worth every bit of the $15 cover.

Rating: A-

—SHAWN STAWICKI
Contributing Writer

REVIEWER REVIEW | All the classic food plus — pie

Jim’s Diner serves up great service

Oklahoma City has a lot of good food and a lot of cheap food. Finding a place that offers both, however, can be a bit like pulling a rabbit out of a hat — occasionally, while the rabbit is wielding an AK-47. But such a restaurant has come to my attention, and I have visited and enjoyed.

Jim’s Diner, located at 7950 NW 39th Expressway in Bethany, offers classic diner food at prices that won’t break your wallet.

The menu is extensive, featuring about a dozen takes on the classic hamburger, several dinner options, varied appetizers, and a fair drink selection.

Actually, the menu is more extensive than Denny’s, with comparable choices in most areas.

Prices are excellent. Off the top of my head, I don’t think anything on the menu is more than $11. My husband, myself, and our boyfriend can all get an entree and endless refills for under $30, and sometimes under $25, depending on what we order.

And the food is delicious. From catfish fry to chili burgers, okra to French fries, I’ve consistently enjoyed crisp crusts on fried food, well-grilled meat, and piping hot deep-fried sides that make my mouth water and tempt me to stuff myself until I can’t move.

Dessert is a paragraph unto itself, because they like pie at Jim’s so much so, they generally have at least six kinds of pie on hand at any given time. Pineapple, meringue, apple, cherry, chocolate, pumpkin, pecan are just a few that I’ve seen. There’s always a variety, and the choices differ from day to day based on what they got at the bakery. I know people who go there just for a slice of pie.

The service is really good. The only time I’ve ever run out of drink and not had a server standing there with a refill in under a minute, they were in the middle of a massive rush.

Food arrives promptly, usually within 20 minutes. I have allergies, so I’m not a good test case, but they’ve only messed up my order twice in the two or three dozen times I’ve been. And trust me, that’s incredible. I usually have a one-in-three miss rate at places like McDonald’s and Burger King.

For quality food, good service, and an open and relaxed diner atmosphere, Jim’s is the place to eat. Even if it’s a bit out of the way, it’s still worth the trip to enjoy the food. And, of course, the pie.

Rating: A

—JEREMY CLOUD
Community Writer
THE OCCC BOARD OF REGENTS HONORS COUPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN $165,000 SINCE 2006

Gamels recognized for contributions

ERIN PEDEN
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

OCCC supporters Ralph and Connie Gamel were recognized for their contributions to the college at the Oct. 15 Board of Regents meeting. Since 2006, the Gamels have donated a total of $165,000 toward student scholarships.

Speech Communications Professor Julie Corff, who has known Ralph Gamel since she was 8 years old, said the recognition means a lot.

“They got a standing ovation. They were very wowed,” Corff said. “But we are wowed they choose to bless us with all they do here.”

President Paul Sechrist said he supports recognition.

“Given the significant commitment the Gamels have made to OCCC and our students, we felt like we needed to honor them,” Sechrist said in a recent email.

“Recognizing the Gamels at a board meeting provided an opportunity to publicly thank them for their generosity.”

The Gamels were presented with an engraved glass vase and roses at the meeting as a token of gratitude.

To date, 165 students have received the Ralph and Connie Gamel Scholarship which is awarded twice a year to students who meet the qualifications.

Students must have financial need to attend OCCC, have a minimum 2.0 GPA, be committed to completing a degree at OCCC and plan on seeking a four-year degree to apply.

Eligible students also must complete a 500-word essay stating their educational goals, future employment career goals, and how an education at OCCC will help achieve those goals.

Those selected for the scholarship are awarded from $200 to $1,000 based on need. The deadline for spring 2013 is Dec. 9.

Corff said the scholarships have truly made a huge impact on not only the school but also students and their success.

“I know students personally who have gone on to get their four-year degree [who] wouldn’t have because they wouldn’t have had the stability to stay in school financially,” she said.

“I’m grateful for [the Gamels], I’m grateful for their hearts and I’m grateful for their contribution,” she said.

Ralph and Connie Gamel are presented with an engraved vase at the Oct. 15 Board of Regents meeting in recognition of their contributions to OCCC.

The Gamels have donated $165,000 toward student scholarships since 2006. About 165 students have received the Ralph and Connie Gamel Scholarship.

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFERS SOUP TOO

Silent auction to raise scholarship funds

VERONICA WISNIEWSKI
News Writing Student

If you’re a fan of homemade soup, then come be a part of the third annual Soup Sale and Silent Auction.

The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee will hold its silent auction from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a soup sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, in the Main Building near the Coffee Shop.

All the money raised goes toward student scholarships, said History Professor Jeff Carlisle, scholarship committee member.

The Soup Sale will consist of eight to 10 different recipes, including a vegetable-based soup and a famous crab chowder made by Physics Professor Tad Thurston, said Michael Machiorlatti, Scholarship Committee chairman. A bowl of soup will go for $2.

“When the silent auction ends at 2 p.m., winners will be able to collect their goods that afternoon,” Carlisle said.

For fans who like auctions, this year’s will include handmade jewelry from the OCCC staff, a set of blue-and-white porcelain china made by Sorelle, and art inspired by Vincent Van Gogh, Carlisle said. Faculty Association members donate all of the items in the auction.

“Getting the Gamels at a board meeting provided an opportunity to publicly thank them for their generosity,” Carlisle said students must be recommended for a scholarship by a faculty member. Then both the student and the professor must complete their portion of the application. Faculty Association members seek out students who need financial assistance. They are chosen based on their professor’s references and GPA.

For more information, contact Machiorlatti at mmachiorlatti@occc.edu or by phone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7454.

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• ARCHIVES DATING BACK TO 1998
• ONLINE EXCLUSIVES
www.occc.edu/pioneer

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

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www.occc.optimalresume.com

Students’ access ID is their OCCC email address example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu
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With the Nov. 6 election day drawing near, many U.S. citizens are trying to determine who is more deserving of their vote for president. Others are wondering where to cast that vote.

Oklahoma offers multiple voting poll locations, which can cause many citizens to be confused on where to go to vote. www.mytimetovote.com has come to the rescue with a complete list of state and county contacts to aid voters in locating their polling place.

While the website will not narrow your search down to an actual location, it will give you contact information on who can tell you. Users can go to www.polls.mytimetovote.com, and select their state and county to receive a listing of their local election offices. Cleveland County, for example, offers not only an address and phone number but email and fax contact information, as well as the hours of office operations.

Most U.S. states require voters to register before an election, including Oklahoma. Although it is too late to register in Oklahoma for the current presidential election, it is not too late to register for the next election.

Early voting is allowed for those citizens who are not able to vote Nov. 6. Early voting in Oklahoma begins Nov. 2 and ends Nov. 5.

A complete list of early voting locations is available at www.ok.gov/elections/documents/cebinfo.pdf. Voters who work all day need not worry about missing out on casting their ballot. According to Okla. Statute Annotation § 26-7-101, some employees are entitled to time off for voting.

“Employees who begin their work day less than three hours after polls open and finish less than three hours before polls close are entitled to two hours leave to vote. The employee must give notice the day before election day and cannot have pay reduced if proof of voting is provided. The employer can set the time for leave to vote,” the annotation reads.

Oklahoma also requires that proper identification be presented in order to vote in an election, so voters must be prepared to comply. Proper ID would be any government-issued picture ID, according to www.ok.gov.

For more information on Oklahoma election laws and dates, visit www.ok.gov/elections.

Your thoughts: Who are you voting for in the 2012 election?

“Barack Obama. Unless Romney’s a wizard and can produce magic, I don’t really see him fulfilling all the promises he’s making. And I am not down with any party that suggests that we medically rape our women. I have big issues with that.”

—Kevin Stout
OCCC Student

“Mitt Romney. I’ve been a Republican all my life so I agree with a lot of his views and his points. I feel like he’ll cut our deficit down pretty well. I don’t want my kids to be paying for it. That’s a big thing.”

—Shelby DuVall
OCCC Student

“Mitt Romney. I consider him to be the lesser of two evils. He’s the better of the two. I’m not really happy with either.”

—April King
OCCC Student

“Barack Obama. After watching the debates and really watching the campaign, Obama definitely has more details. He has a plan. Really I think he’s looking more towards our future than Mitt Romney is.”

—Beau Baker
OCCC Student
Jazz vocal ensemble to perform live

KATIE THURMAN
News Writing Student

A jazz rendition of English superstar Adele's "Chasing Pavements" is one of the pieces jazz vocalists will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

The concert will feature students from an OCCC jazz vocal ensemble accompanied by a jazz band.

The set list includes a great range of songs, from reworked versions of the Rodgers and Hart classic "The Lady is a Tramp" to songs with a Latin-American influenced rhythm and feel, Taylor said.

Six performers from Taylor's jazz vocal course will take the stage, accompanied by a three-piece student band. Music Professor Michael Boyle will play the double bass.

The jazz vocal course is a new addition to the selection of classes offered at OCCC, Taylor said. In fact, she said, this is the first semester the class has been taught.

Taylor said the class was born out of the already active instrumental jazz ensembles. "This is a place where students can experiment," she said, noting that students are focusing heavily on learning how to experiment with the composition of the music they work with.

"We're not just covering these songs," performer Nicole Pearce said.

She said much of what the musicians are being taught has to do with incorporating their own personality and style into the songs they are rehearsing for the concert.

The OCCC Jazz Ensemble Ryan Smith, Carla Pierce, Stefanie Cox, Nicole Pearce, Victoria Hazboun and Chris Davis. The ensemble performed twice last month with the OCCC Jazz Band playing "The Jazz of Gatsby" during The Big Read and in celebration of late Oklahoma native musician Woody Guthrie.

"This is a place where students can experiment," Taylor said her goal is to foster innovation rather than imitation.

"I want these kids [who are] wanting to go out and be teachers or be in a band to know how to make something new and different, to have input in the arrangements and changing the styles." Stefanie Cox, a music major and performer who has been singing since she was a child, cites the jazz vocal course for helping her become a better musician.

She cited her newfound knowledge of sight-reading music and vocal control as positive and essential influences in her experience as a vocalist.

"With this style, we can change almost any song to a jazz song," Cox said.

Although the concert is the first of its kind on campus, the students believe many more will follow and relish the chance to let their peers in on one of the music department's best-kept secrets.

"I think this is a great opportunity to show the rest of the school what the music department is capable of," Pearce said.

For questions about the jazz vocal ensemble or how to get involved in the class, contact Taylor at cheryl.l.taylor@occc.edu.

CELEBRATION TO HONOR THOSE WHO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE

Veterans Day ceremony on campus Nov. 8

JUSTIN KNIGHT
News Writing Student

Current student Sgt. Richard Huckaby will be the keynote speaker at the Veterans Day Recognition Program from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, in CU 2 and 3. He will talk about his experience while serving the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan in his speech titled "Into the Valleys With the Shadow of Death, We Walked."

Huckaby served in the Army National Guard as a 12 Bravo Combat Engineer.

Janis Armstrong, Veterans Services coordinator, said every presenter in the Veterans Day program is going to be a veteran.

Veterans Day traditionally is celebrated on Nov. 11, but that day falls on a Sunday this year, so Armstrong said her office decided Nov. 8 would be a better option. Monday, Nov. 12, is considered the federal holiday.

Lyrics from Johnny Cash's "Our Rugged Old Flag" will be read by Ronald Wiskup II. He served as an Aerospace Propulsion Technician for the 552nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City.

"It is important for the school to recognize our veterans," said Lorenzo Rubio, who is a work-study student in the veterans services office. "Serving in the military is a choice, and for individuals to put their lives on the line means a lot," Rubio said.

Throughout the program, musical selections will be performed by Akia Calaway-Jefferson. She is an Air Force veteran who served from May 2000 to February 2008 as a pharmacy technician at Lackland AFB. Color Guard will be presented by the students of Capitol Hill High School.

Any employees or students who have served or have family members who have served in the military can bring pictures to be viewed in an honorary slideshow.

"It's amazing how many employees are actually veterans," Armstrong said.

Pictures for the slideshow can be taken to the Veterans Services office to be scanned. Students and faculty are encouraged to attend, and to invite any former or current military service members to attend the program.

The master of ceremonies for the program will be OCCC Bursar Cynthia Gary.

The service of all U.S. military veterans is celebrated on Veterans Day. This day represents the anniversary of the signing of the armistice which ended the World War I hostilities between the allied nations and Germany in 1918.

"This event is for everyone and we hope everyone comes," —LORENZO RUBIO
Veterans Services Workstudy Student

Refreshments will be served at the program. To contact Armstrong, call 405-682-7527 or email jamstrong@occc.edu.
Double vision

Mathematics major Tavin Deloney curls 125 pounds Oct. 26 in the OCCC Wellness Center weight room. The weight room’s hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. They are closed on Sundays. The weight room offers a variety of machine and free weights to students, faculty and staff for free with current OCCC ID, as well as offering both memberships and daily passes to the community for $6 for adults, $4 for children under 15, and $2.75 for seniors and active military, police or fire department officers. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rcs.

Dodgeball tourney players wanted

BRANDON WILLIS
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Wanting to relive your old P.E. class experiences? Here’s your chance. The OCCC Dodgeball Tournament will take place Nov. 16 in the Wellness Center with registration going on now through Nov. 15.

The tournament is free, but players may only register if they are current students and have a current OCCC ID, said Intramural Sports Specialist Matthew Wright.

The OCCC Recreation and Fitness department has switched things up this semester, adding a dodgeball tournament to the semester events.

Business major and frequent guest of the Wellness Center Jerrell Gill said he believes the added activity is a good way to draw participants to the area.

“I think adding dodgeball is a cool activity [that] we all remember playing … as a kid,” Gill said.

Gill said he usually only plays basketball in the Wellness Center but said he will likely sign up for the dodgeball tournament.

The tournament will be 6-on-6 players with a minimum of four players, Wright said. He said the tournament will either be double elimination or pool play, depending on the numbers of teams.

The format of each match will be the best out of five. The maximum amount of players per team is nine and the minimum is four, Wright said.

The tournament begins Nov. 16 Wright said, but a couple of warm-up sessions also will be held prior to that date.

“I’m setting up some pick-up dodgeball games in the gym on Nov. 7 and 9 from 12:30 to 3 p.m.”

“The pick-up games will be open for all students,” he said.

“This will will give students the opportunity to find out about the game of dodgeball and hopefully decide that they want to play in the tournament.”

—MATTHEW WRIGHT
Intramural Sports Specialist

The pick-up games will be open for all students. This will give students the opportunity to find out about the game of dodgeball and hopefully decide that they want to play in the tournament.

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 to share?
Email Brandon
sportswriter@occc.edu, or
call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676

for teams to come out and meet other players.”

Players and teams can sign up on www.imleagues.com by selecting OCCC under schools, then selecting the dodgeball tournament.

For more information on the tournament or other intramural activities, contact the Recreation and Fitness department at 405-682-7860, or stop by their office on the first floor of the Wellness Center.
Money: Official encourages more to apply for grants

Continued from page 1

that … says, 'We have $10 million available for this project to teach math in a different way to college students,’ and then we write an application for that,” Taylor said.

“Donations [are] … kind of the opposite. We approach individuals and say, ‘These are the needs of the college, these are the scholarship needs of our students, and would you make a donation from your company or from your personal account?’”

Taylor said his department works with the OCCC Foundation Board to raise funds for the needs of the college.

“We have several established scholarships for students and that’s our main focus,” he said.

“We probably have 50 different scholarships available each year. It’s our job to promote those scholarships and to say, ‘These scholarships help these types of students achieve these kinds of goals in their lives.’ We try to find people that would be interested in giving to those kinds of scholarships.”

Along with student scholarships, donations are used toward capital needs, such as the Visual and Performing Arts Center and theater, Taylor said.

“We’re starting a new campaign by the end of the year for the Capitol Hill Center,” Taylor said.

“Our Capitol Hill Center building is not sufficient, so we have purchased a building in the Capitol Hill area, but it needs to be renovated. Our goal is to raise $5 million to renovate it to help bring educational programs to mainly that area of the city and to anyone who wants to participate.”

Taylor said scholarships and capital needs are the main focus of the foundation. However, he said, occasionally other needs arise.

“We approached a possible donor and said, ‘We have a need for a grand piano for our students to be housed in the VPAC.”

Taylor said the donor was very receptive, donating $100,000 to OCCC.

“With that we were able to buy a Steinway (Concert) Grand piano that’s for the use to our students,” he said.

Taylor said donations are very important to college students needing scholarships.

“We have an online application process for all of our scholarships so it’s paperless, … on the web. We encourage everyone to apply.”

Grants are equally as important, said Grants and Contracts Director Joe Swalwell.

“With tightening state budgets and federal budgets as well, we’re looking for more external or alternative funding, but we’re not the only ones,” Swalwell said.

“With it getting more imperative, it is also getting more competitive.”

The projects Swalwell’s department oversees are for services and programs OCCC offers.

“The Student Support Services grant — which I believe is about $1.6 million over five years — that’s part of the TRIO programs,” Swalwell said.

“We also have Upward Bound which I believe is $1.6 million over five years.

“Student Life just got a $2,000 grant to support the instruction of financial literacy to students.

“It’s in the same drawer as our $2.7 million grant from the Department of Labor, but I always say to the few students who receive the benefit of that $2,000 grant, that grant is just as important as the hundreds [who] receive services or support from the $2.7 million.

“Just because they’re small doesn’t mean they’re not impactful or meaningful to the people they do impact.”

He said there are currently 34 different grant programs in their portfolio.

Those programs range anywhere from a $2,000 grant to an almost $3 million grant and several $2 million grants.

He said he believes one way to increase how many grants OCCC receives is to get more people to apply for grants.

“It’s an expression of a professional philosophy of working with other people and trying to use as many tools in the old communications tool belt as possible to make people comfortable with the process,” Swalwell said.

“A lot of people are really intimidated by the process even if it’s kind of small.

“There’s a lot of variability in grant applications. Federal applications can be tons of pages and others are like fill-in-the-blank.

“Medium and large projects, for people who have not done them before, can be pretty intimidating because there’s just so much detail and a lot of times so many documents.

“Grant proposals are a creative process and also a process of discovery.”

Withdraw: Students who miss deadlines to receive letter grades

Continued from page 1

recommend that students speak with Academic Advising and Financial Aid when considering withdrawing from classes.”

The last day to drop a Fall 2012 16-week class without a refund is Nov. 9, while the last day to drop a Fall 2012 late 8-week class without a refund is Nov. 30.

Psychology major Austin Conway said Hornbeek is offering sound advice which he has used.

“It was a crazy semester for me at the time and I thought about dropping a class. Then I spoke with an adviser and she was really helpful and non-judgmental,” Conway said.

“I went ahead and dropped the class but I received some informative ideas that would help me in the future regarding withdrawing … or not.”

Hornbeek said students should also keep in mind that any classes they withdraw from don’t just disappear.

“When a student withdraws during the withdrawal period, a W is posted on a student’s transcript. So, yes, a withdrawal does show up on a transcript,” Hornbeek said.

Conway said she believes in some situations, a W on a transcript is worth it.

“I would rather have the W then a D or an F says, ‘We have $10 million available for this project to teach math in a different way to college students,’ and then we write an application for that,” Taylor said.

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Conway said she believes in some situations, a W on a transcript is worth it.

“I would rather have the W then a D or an F [that would] drop my GPA,” Conway said.

For more information about withdrawing, visit Academic Advising, located on the first floor of the Main Building, or call 405-682-7535.
Valuable internships available

JEREMY CLOUD
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Internships can be the best way to get a foot in the door, said Student Employment and Career Services Director Debra Vaughn.

And one of the best ways to network and find those valuable internships, she said, is through the Greater Grads of Oklahoma program, offered through the Education Division of the Greater Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce.

The program exists to help students find opportunities, Vaughn said.

"Their goal is to keep our great Oklahoma students here in Oklahoma if at all possible. And they feel if they can communicate to our students the opportunities available here in Oklahoma, then they will not have that brain drain."

Vaughn said the brain drain concern shows up in a number of ways.

The fact is that one of the University of Oklahoma’s largest alumni groups is in Dallas, she said. "And they’d like to change that."

A large part of that effort is in showing students where to find opportunities, Vaughn said.

The website for the program has been vetted and approved.

"Employers have to fill out documentation, and the listing will tell you everything about the position — what you’d need to bring to an interview, what would be expected."

"It’s all there," she said.

Vaughn said another part of the program is helping students connect with business leaders through a summer program of luncheons called InternOKC.

"You definitely need networking when you start your career."

—Caleb Shultz
NURSING MAJOR

One InternOKC participant, nursing major Caleb Shultz said he took part in five of the luncheons and thinks it’s a good program.

"It might motivate people to stay in Oklahoma because of all the things they present to you," Shultz said.

"They had speakers come in and present to us about all the different and new things happening in Oklahoma, and the opportunities they had available."

Shultz said his reason for participating in the program was the chance to network that it offered.

"You definitely need networking when you start your career," he said.

And as a student employee for the Student Career and Employment Services office, Shultz said he sees the program helping students often.

"The website is one of the first we refer to when we’re helping students look for internships," he said.

"We use it quite a bit." Vaughn said students who want to participate in the InternOKC program should go to their office of Student Employment and Career Services in the Main Building.

"You definitely need networking when you start your career."

—Caleb Shultz
NURSING MAJOR
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.


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


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.


PAID CLASSIFIEDS START AT $8/WEEK
Call: 405-682-1611, ext. 7674
Email: adman@occc.edu

Election Day

M R O F T A L P S I D S B O
J Y R W D X J N P N H E O V E
F F V K H V E E D Q G B P V T
N D I W M D E E Z P A A R W A
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G M I T D L O N B R Q Q S E T
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P Z R S J H P E R L Y K P V

BALLOT CAMPAIGN CANDIDATE
CAUCUS DEBATE DEMOCRATIC
INCUMBENT INDEPENDENT OBAMA
PLATFORM POLITICS PRECINCT
PRESIDENT PRIMARY REPUBLICAN
ROMNEY SPEECH VOTE

It’s a connected world. Do your share.

For 30 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share, 3400 International Drive, NW, Suite 2K (AD4), Washington, DC 20008.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

JOBS BOARD
www.collegecentral.com/occc

Students register with their 7-digit student ID number
Alumni enter AL-4+last 5 digits of Social Security number
Find Jobs Post Your Resume Apply for Positions
Theater students in zombie theater makeup attack the Arts and Humanities office on Oct. 25. The zombie apocalypse was the grand finale to a stage makeup class on how to recreate gory wounds. The group of students went throughout the college, staying in character the entire time. For more on the zombie apocalypse, including videos, visit the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer or use your smartphone to scan to QR code.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Noon Nov. 2: Fall 2012 Pell Disbursement
- All Day Nov. 2, 7 and 9: Fall 2012 Loan Disbursement
- 3 to 4 p.m. Nov. 3: Regional Food Bank
- 7 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 6: Vocal Jazz Concert
- Nov. 6: ELECTION DAY
- Noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 7: Tinker Internship Program
- Noon to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 9: Last day to withdraw from 16-week classes (no refund)

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Don’t be left in the dark. Follow us for instant news and updates!

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www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer

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Get the tools to create your budget at BucktheNorm.com/empowerment

Bucky’s Tip: Hands Off the Merch
Control your debt by sticking to a budget. Avoid credit cards and impulse buys.