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PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

PREP CLASSES SHOULD BE A CHOICE

Editor Paris Burris says testing methods for determining who should take prep classes are full of inaccuracies. Read her thoughts inside.

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The OCCC Library has recently added some useful features to its list of Films on Demand. Look inside to see what those are and how to access the films.

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The Wellness Center has added a Precor brand elliptical, treadmill and recumbent bike as well as dumbbells and medicine balls for students to use.

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Students can earn credit and help those less fortunate — all in one day. Find out how to volunteer for the next service day.

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MARCH 29, 2013

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Roll it up

Carson's chef David Brantner prepares a sushi roll in the OCCC College Union. Carson's offers a new sushi menu on Thursdays featuring Alaska, Boston, California and spicy tuna rolls as well as shrimp and vegetable sushi.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER



Bill to lower college aid passes House

HB 1721 would lower income cap for OHLAP to \$60,000

PARIS BURRIS

Editor
editor@occc.edu

If one state representative has her way, fewer Oklahoma students will be able to afford college.

HB 1721, a bill proposed by Rep. Leslie Osborn, R-Mustang, would cut the qualifying income cap for the Oklahoma Promise college program from \$100,000 to \$60,000 for college student families.

The bill recently passed 56 to 37 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives and is now waiting for a vote in the Oklahoma

Senate according to a press release.

Statewide, about 20,000 students are currently enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP), said Ben Hardcastle, a spokesperson for the Regents for Higher Education, in a press release.

Financial Aid Assistant Director Meghan Morgan said of those students, about 804 are currently OCCC students.

Morgan said OHLAP pays for tuition while OCCC provides funding for additional fees for those students.

For the spring semester, she said, OHLAP has disbursed \$597,603.55 in tuition aid and \$189,716.95 in fees to OCCC students, a total of \$787,320.50.

In Fall 2012, 931 OCCC

students participated in the program with a total of \$921,955.80 being disbursed.

Morgan said high school students who are set to graduate in 2013 would not be affected. However, she said, seniors who will graduate in 2014 would be.

“When students initially enroll in eighth, ninth or tenth grade, they do a household income check and at that time it must be no higher than \$50,000,” Morgan said.

See **OHLAP** page 9

Lost-and-found wants owners to claim items

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN

Police Reporter
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Missing something? Students who have lost or misplaced anything on campus may find it at the college

lost-and-found area located in the Campus Police office on the first floor of the Main Building, said Police Chief James Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick said items ranging from backpacks and DVDs to a baby stroller and inhaler have

See **LOST** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | College students want choices when it comes to education

Prep classes should be optional

As a college student in my sophomore year, I have been able to complete most of my basic courses plus some major courses for my degree with one exception — college math.



PARIS BURRIS

While I strongly encourage the option of taking preparatory courses to prepare for college-level math, I don't feel those classes should be required for all students, especially those who don't test high in standardized tests. While prep courses may help many students, they can hold other students back and be quite costly.

In my experience, the courses are brief and most professors just rush through the material in the eight weeks each is taught. The courses don't provide enough of a breakdown of the material that many students need. And the professors expect students to have a larger knowledge of the subject than what they actually have.

In one of my college prep math classes, students were required to complete in-class lessons on the

first day, prior to any instruction. How can students expected to complete assignments — which are taken for credit — on material they haven't been taught in class yet? This is unfair, and results in stress and discouragement.

Students are initially placed in prep courses because of low placement ACT or placement test scores which show the student isn't ready for college-level courses in that subject.

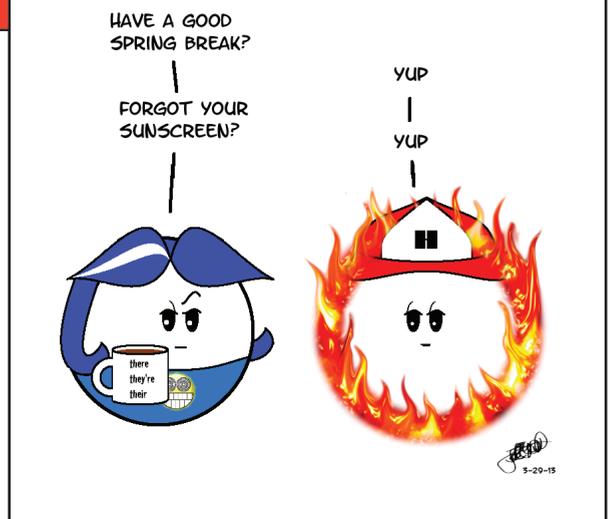
However, those indicators are weak. Some students may actually understand the material well enough to enter a college-level course but their standardized testing scores don't accurately reflect that.

Poor test scores may be a result of many factors. www.fairtest.org states standardized tests are inaccurate. "No test is good enough to serve as the sole or primary basis for important educational decisions."

The website shows there are other options in determining if a student or program is doing well, such as observational checklists and assessments.

Professors and schools should put more effort into making sure students are able to understand the material they are being taught. If they are having trouble, they should be given assistance. However, in reality, many professors are negligent about this.

BALLIARD BILL



Thus, students are passing courses when they don't fully understand the material or are failing courses when they could have benefited from assistance.

And, to begin with, students should have the choice as to whether they want to take preparatory classes.

If a student knows that he or she needs a better understanding of the subject before taking a college level course, taking a preparatory class could be a good option for them if they choose to do so.

For students who know they could pass a college-level course without prior preparation, they should have the choice to do so.

—PARIS BURRIS
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Toy animals a safer alternative for holiday gifts

Cute, fuzzy Easter pets can carry life-threatening risk

To the Editor:

Easter and the spring season is the time of year when baby poultry, including chicks, ducklings, goslings, and baby turkeys are given as gifts or put on display in stores for children to touch and hold. Unfortunately, these popular pets often carry Salmonella, a bacteria that causes diarrheal illness. To avoid the risk of illness, the Oklahoma State Department of Health urges caution in handling baby poultry.

Live baby poultry can carry Salmonella and not appear sick but the bacteria can still spread to people.

People are exposed to Salmonella by holding, cuddling, or kissing the birds or by touching items where the birds live, such as cages or feed and water

bowls. The bacteria can contaminate the hands, shoes, and clothing of those who handle the birds.

People are infected with Salmonella when they put their hands (or other items that have been contaminated with bird droppings) in or around their mouth or when they prepare food without first washing their hands. Children are especially at risk since they are less likely to wash their hands and have more frequent hand-to-mouth contact.

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

The OSDH offers the following simple steps when handling baby poultry:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching baby poultry. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers if soap and water are not readily available. Parents should supervise hand washing for small children.
- Supervise children when handling baby birds.
- Consider giving soft toy animals for Easter gifts as a safer alternative.
- If baby birds are purchased, avoid keeping them in a household with children younger than 5 years of age.
- Keep baby birds in a designated area away from family living spaces. Do not allow them to roam freely in the house, especially in areas where food or drinks

are prepared or served.

- Do not allow children to handle baby birds in settings such as childcare centers, farm stores or schools. If they do so, ensure they wash their hands with soap and water after touching baby birds or anything in their environment.
- Pacifiers, toys, or other objects should not come in contact with baby birds or their enclosures. Wash objects that come in contact thoroughly with soap and water.
- Avoid eating or drinking around baby birds, especially when handling them.

For more information, visit www.health.ok.gov or www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellababybirds.

—STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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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

FOOD REVIEW | Topping lovers will appreciate selection

Hideaway Pizza more than pies

Pizza, pizza, pizza — who doesn't love a good slice?

When I'm feeling the need to satisfy the craving for Italian, the only place I'll go is Hideaway Pizza. With five convenient locations across the OKC metro, it's guaranteed one of my favorite places is always nearby.

My problem with pizza from chain restaurants like Pizza Hut, Dominos and Old Chicago is their pizzas are basically drowning in sauce that completely ruins the flavor of the food because it's all you can taste. That's never a problem at Hideaway, where the marinara sauce used on the pizza is tangy and tasty but is applied sparingly, and doesn't overwhelm the crust and the toppings.

Speaking of toppings — Hideaway offers a ton. There are well over a dozen meat, vegetable and cheese selections and you can customize your pizza to fit your taste. I'm a fan of red peppers, red onions and jalapenos, all of which are always fresh and delicious on a Hideaway Pizza.

I went to lunch at Hideaway one day last week as the need for pizza had overtaken me. The location that I frequent, on MacArthur and Memorial, was having an hour of down time so I got to sit down and start looking over the menu immediately. One of my favorite things about Hideaway is the selection of appetizers but I opted out for the afternoon and chose to go straight into ordering pizza.

Within half an hour, the pizza was sitting piping hot on the table and as always, it didn't disappoint.

Hideaway boasts a more extensive menu than most pizza places I've seen, with a full selection of sandwiches and pasta in addition to the pizza. I've tried the pasta on a few occasions, and it's just as delicious as the pizza. The price range is moderate — about what you'd expect to pay to sit down and experience some good service and even better food. The atmosphere in every Hideaway I've been in is relaxed and comfortable, and perfect for an outing with family or friends.



If you're planning to go to a Hideaway on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, you might want to avoid the peak times of business; it can get extremely crowded between 5 and 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, and the lunch rush on Sunday is usually pretty crazy. But as long as you know and you plan ahead, you should be good to go.

For more information on a Hideaway location close to you or to see the full menu, visit www.hideawaypizza.com.

Rating: A

—KATIE THURMAN
STAFF WRITER

PRODUCT REVIEW | Canon EF 35mm f/1.4L USM worth the \$1,500 price tag

Lens both efficient, challenging

When shopping for a camera lens perfect for low light situations, I decided to go with the Canon EF 35mm f/1.4L USM. It's a solid, sexy, and spectacularly fast piece of glass made for digital single lens reflex (DSLR) cameras. It's also my favorite lens — the one I now take everywhere.

I bought the lens for its extremely fast aperture setting of f/1.4, but was unexpectedly impressed by the sharpness of the images captured with the EF 35mm f/1.4L as compared to other lenses in my bag.

Unsurpassed image quality is delivered by the L-series lens' floating system, and a ground and polished aspherical lens element, while the rear-focusing Ultrasonic Motor (USM) keeps autofocus fast and stealthy.

The only possible drawback is the lens has a fixed focal length — no zoom — but this has actually been a good thing for me. It's forced me to get more creative and concentrate more closely on the angle and framing of shots.

Despite the lack of a zoom, I've been able to use it when shooting sports, portraits, plays, bands and even wildlife. In fact, it's been my go-to lens for almost everything I've shot the past year at the Pioneer.



The wide aperture setting has been invaluable in low-light situations. It also allows for an extremely shallow depth of field. Depth of field is the area that is sharp or in focus in an image. Emphasis on the subject can be created by having a depth of field just big enough to have the subject sharp with everything else out of focus.

It's a great all-around lens, but really shines when shooting portraits and headshots with the Canon 7D DSLR.

Its crop ratio of 1.6 makes the focal length of 35mm

JOB & CAREER POWER

Military Career Fair April 3

The OCCC Military Career Fair is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, in the College Union.

This event is designed to provide current students an opportunity to learn about educational benefits through military service. It also provides veterans with information about campus programs designed to assist their higher education journey.

Military groups currently registered to participate include:

- Air Force
- Air Force Reserve
- Air National Guard
- Army
- Marines
- Navy
- Oklahoma National Guard
- Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

• UCO/ROTC-Army

Additional groups are being added daily.

OCCC campus office representation will include:

• Student Employment & Career Services, MB, Room 1G7, 405-682-7519: Provides opportunities for current students and alumni to conduct professional job search and career/college major goals.

• Transitional Leadership Academy, MB, Room 3L8, 405-682-7896: Funded by the Department of Labor to address the employment needs of veterans.

• Veterans Services, MB, Room 1F3B, 405-682-1611, Ext. 7527: Provides assistance to students who are eligible to receive Educational Benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Contact Student Employment & Career Services at 405-682-7519 for additional information.

—DEBRA VAUGHN, DIRECTOR
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT &
CAREER SERVICES

more like 56mm. That combined with the shallow depth of field made possible by a wide aperture setting have allowed me to capture some great photos of people.

The lens retails for \$1,479, and is well worth the price if you can afford it.

Rating: A+

—CHRIS JAMES
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

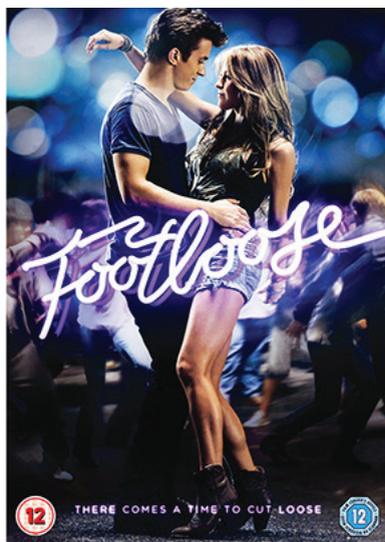
FROM THE VAULT MOVIE REVIEW | '80s movie still a complete letdown in 2011

'Footloose' remake lacks more than originality

As a child of the '70s and '80s, I have a certain appreciation for movies and music primarily made in the '80s. It is for this reason I finally broke down and watched the 2011 remake of the 1984 classic "Footloose," starring Kenny Wormald, Julianne Hough and Dennis Quaid. I was extremely disappointed.

For those too young to know, the original movie starred Kevin Bacon as Ren McCormack, a teenager from a big city who moves to a rural town in Oklahoma that has outlawed music and dancing, as well as alcohol and other means of fun. This premise was still the same for the remake but the movie seemed almost exactly the same. I did not understand why this movie was remade instead of just remastered.

I realized almost immediately this movie was going to suck. As soon as I saw the MTV movies logo, I knew it was a goner. MTV has done a great job of



original.

In the remake, Ren, who has major difficulties conforming to the no-dancing rules, is right at home. The entire senior class seems to love dancing as they are

quickly going from top music network to a musicless reality TV station, and it is obvious they have lost the ideals of spreading music to the masses.

The movie started the same way as the original, with images of boots and tennis shoes dancing to the Kenny Loggins musical hit "Footloose." They didn't even bother updating the title music to something a little more modern.

On the other hand, they did use a much mellower remake of the Bonnie Tyler classic "I Need a Hero," which was probably even lamer than the

quickly breaking the law in parking lots, backyards and even abandoned buildings. And amazingly, the whole town seems to know the same dances. I found this pretty unbelievable.

This is a bit different from the original, in which Ren seems to be the only one obsessed with dancing and the only one who really knows how to dance.

Lastly, there was the gymnastic dance scene that Kevin Bacon became well known for, even though it was not really him. In the remake, it was almost exactly the same as the original as was Ren's speech to the city about how God wants people to dance in celebration.

All in all, the 2011 remake of "Footloose" was lacking originality. The director should have gone for a modern reality instead of just sticking to the same old unbelievable story line.

Rating: D-

—SHAWN STAWICKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

CONCERT REVIEW | Crowd brought to its feet throughout show

Maroon 5 starts, finishes strong

Maroon 5 was on fire March 22, as they took the stage at the BOK Center in Tulsa. Following opening acts Owl City and Neon Trees, the band appeared silhouetted behind a screen as the words "Maroon 5" were displayed in bright, neon lights across the top. Telephone rings were heard before the curtain finally rose to reveal the band. Frontman Adam Levine opened the show with "Payphone," a hit off their newest album "Overexposed."

A few songs in, Levine took time to welcome the audience and explain the reason for the band's all-white attire. "You may notice we are all wearing white tonight," he said. "I like to call it Friday night whites."

The concert continued at a fast-pace, the band segueing to each song without pause. "Makes Me Wonder" got the crowd dancing as giant disco balls dropped from the ceiling and spun throughout the song. Levine then slowed it down with "Won't Go Home Without You," a song off the band's second album, which Levine joked some of the audience might be too young to remember.

The next few songs were a mix of new and classic M5 songs. The background throughout the show ranged from virtual flames and fireworks, a live feed of each band member being displayed in panels, to laser and strobe lights being projected into the audience. The band's stage was shaped as an M outlined in lights.

One of the highlights of the show was when Levine introduced each member of the band. Taking a camera that was being used to film the show, Levine walked up to each member, filming them as they each took turns playing a solo while the footage being recorded projected on screen to the audience.

Guitarist James Valentine stole the show as he killed his introduction with mad guitar riffs, then proceeded to throw his picks into the audience. He held the first pick up to the camera Levine was holding, and

displaying "Jimmy V" written on it.

After singing hit song "This Love," the band exited the stage as a screaming crowd begged for more.

The band presented a pleasant surprise during its four-song encore when a bridge was lowered from the ceiling allowing Levine to walk even further into audience. The audience was surprised as the band opened their encore with, "Stereo Hearts," a song released in 2011 by Gym Class Heroes featuring Levine.

"Daylight," the newest song off the band's current album, came next followed by an acoustic version of "She Will Be Loved." Levine got the audience involved by splitting them into two parts to sing the chorus. Levine stood directing the audience for several seconds before wrapping up the end of the song.

Following the end of "She Will Be Loved," Levine took time to sign a pregnant woman's belly, laying on stage as he did so. After finding out the woman was having a boy, Levine replied with "Adam's a good name," which automatically got the crowd chuckling.

The grand finale began with the recognizable opening whistling from the hit song "Moves Like Jagger." A giant Maroon 5 logo appeared once again, displayed against an American flag background. A few seconds later, the flag changed to a British flag, an obvious tribute to Mick Jagger, and silver confetti came falling down. If the entire arena wasn't already on its feet, they were now. The party-like atmosphere of the show was fantastic. I was very happy at the production of the hour-and-a-half show, a giant improvement from when I saw them at the Zoo Amphitheater in 2011.

Overall, it was the perfect way to end my Spring Break with a bang, but most importantly, I got to share it with people I care about.

Rating: A

—ERIN PEDEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of March 22 through March 24
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *The Croods*
2. *Olympus Has Fallen*
3. *Oz the Great and Powerful*
4. *The Call*
5. *Admission*
6. *Spring Breakers*
7. *The Incredible Burt Wonderstone*
8. *Jack the Giant Slayer*
9. *Identity Thief*
10. *Snitch*
11. *Silver Linings Playbook*
12. *Safe Haven*
13. *21 and Over*
14. *Life of Pi*
15. *Quartet*
16. *Escape from Planet Earth*
17. *Stoker*
18. *The Last Exorcism 2*
19. *A Good Day to Die Hard*
20. *Dead Man Down*

RECORDS AND GRADUATION OFFICE OFFERS OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL RECORDS

Students have access to copies of transcripts

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Many students are wondering how to get a digital or paper copy of their transcript at OCCC. Students can get an official sealed or unsealed copy, or a unofficial copy of their transcript at the Records and Graduation Services.

“The sealed transcript looks more formal and is often used for students who are transferring, while the unsealed or unofficial copies are less formal. The unofficial transcript is printed on different paper,” Peer Adviser Haley Clary said.

Many students don’t know how

or where to request a copy of their transcript.

Freshmen Ashlan Slupe and Gisselle Ramirez think the campus should educate new students on the services offered, so they can be aware.

“You have to ask a friend where to go and then they ask a friend, and then it goes on from he-said-she-said and you never know what is right,” Ramirez said.

All students need to request a transcript is their student ID, Clary said.

The Records and Graduation Desk is located in the Main Building Lobby northeast of the main stairwell.

“Students can request five transcripts a day as long as there is not a hold on their account,” said Peer Adviser Nhi

Nguyen.

Nguyen said it is good for students to have a copy of their transcripts to see their GPA, and to see if they are on probation or suspension, because a lot of students don’t pay attention to that.

“Students who need a digital copy of their transcript will have to request a paper copy and then scan it themselves,” Nguyen said. “We don’t do emails.”

Some students think the records office should offer scanning services for students who need a digital copy.

“That is a lot of work, they should make a way to do it there,” said Slupe.

The OCCC Libraray offers a digital

“ Students can request five transcripts a day as long as there is not a hold on their account.”

—NHI NGUYEN
OCCC PEER ADVISER

scanner free of charge to students with proper ID.

The hours for the Records and Graduation desk are: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

For more information, contact Records and Graduation Services 405-682-7512.

Severe weather drill announced

PRESS RELEASE

OCCC will conduct an emergency severe weather warning drill on Wednesday April 3, provided there are no severe weather conditions existing for the OKC area. The drill will simulate the college’s response to a tornado warning issued by the National Weather Service with indications the storm is expected to track across or close to the OCCC campus.

There will be a daytime and evening drill conducted.

Severe weather potential is a reality for this campus. Combined with advanced warnings and individuals finding and utilizing the safest areas possible has reduced the numbers of injured and killed by violent storms in the U.S.

The Campus Police Department urges all patrons and staff on campus to participate and cooperate to the best of their ability during the drill.

The drill is utilized to train and to re-evaluate shelter plans. This is about keeping you safe.

The daytime drill will occur at 10:40 a.m. and last until 10:50 a.m.

Routine day classes will resume as scheduled at 11 a.m.

The evening drill will occur at 7:45 p.m. and last until 7:55 p.m.

Routine evening classes will resume as scheduled at 8:05 p.m.

An “All Clear” will be given at the conclusion of the drill.



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MILITARY CAREER FAIR

Wednesday, April 3, 2013
College Union
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

“Learn about educational benefits through military service!”

For more information contact: Student Employment & Career Services located in the Main Building, First Floor, Room 1G7 at (405) 682-1611, Ext. 7362 or email employmentservices@occc.edu.

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CHRISTAL WELLS HELPS STUDENTS DEAL WITH BAD EXPERIENCES

Effects of bullying captured on campus

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Photographer Christal Wells did her shoot for her photo story on bullying which took place on campus.

The shoot was held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 7 in the Main Building lobby by the coffee shop. Wells had students who had been bullied before, write down a situation in which they were bullied, how they overcame it and the phrase “I am me!” with their name, on a poster board.

Wells asked a group of students at a table to be “bullies” in the background, then photographed the students in front of the table while the “bullies” laughed and jeered at the main subjects.

The main subjects were elementary education major Rachel Young, game design major Riley Flynn and Spanish major Antonio Guardado.

Young said she hopes that through sharing her experience with bullying she can encourage others.

Bullying can be physical or emotional, not just peer pressure, Young said.

“My bullying started in elementary school. I hope to be relatable,” she said. “I want to encourage kids who feel down about being bullied, so they can talk to other people about it.”

Flynn thinks that everyone can be a bully at sometime.

“Bullies are bullies to certain people and then they are good friends to certain people,” Flynn said. “It is a bit of a moral gray area.”

Guardado laughed as he said he was actually peer pressured into doing the photo story.

“I actually saw the photographer with a poster and was curious so I walked up and asked her what was going on,” Guardado said. “She explained about the photo story and asked me if I had been bullied. I said yes and she gave me a marker.”

Nursing major Nayyer Ahrabi, and psychology major Dennis Tram-Vu were



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC student Christal Wells takes one of a series of photos, making statements about bullying, March 7 by the OCCC Cafe. Wells had other students write down their personal experiences of being bullied on posterboard and hold it up while she took photos.

part of the background “bullies”.

Ahrabi said she was also bullied.

Wells said she was pleased with the turnout and will be posting the photo story to her website www.christalwellsphotography.com.

CLOSED CAPTIONING AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT

Films on Demand service receives upgrade

KATIE THURMAN

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

The OCCC Keith Leftwich Memorial Library recently saw some major updates to the Films On Demand services offered to students and faculty. In the overhaul, all of the movies and clips available in Films on Demand were updated with closed captioning and complete transcripts, Reference Librarian Rachel Butler said.

Butler said there are 7000 to 8000 titles on Films on Demand and the database is constantly being updated with more and more films.

“Documentaries, educational type stuff,” Butler said, explaining most of the collection is supplemental learning materials offered through Films on Demand. The database is completely free to OCCC students.

“It’s a subscription paid for by the library,” Butler said. “So students don’t have to pay for anything.”

Accessing Films on Demand is easy, Butler said. Students can go to the library website, located at www.occc.edu/library, where a link to the film site is listed in the lower right hand corner of the screen under “other resources”.

If students are looking for a specific kind of film,

they can browse Films on Demand titles by using the OCCC Library catalogue located on the library’s website as well, Butler said.

“You can use it without even creating an account,” Butler said. “Creating an account and signing in might be useful for those looking to build a set of videos for people to look at.”

“But if you’re just looking for something to watch or looking for something to embed in a PowerPoint for a class, you don’t have to sign in at all.”

Butler said there are many benefits to offering a service like Films on Demand to students.

“First of all, indirectly we’re giving faculty the chance to assign something for everyone to watch.”

“It could be an entire video, from 20 minutes to one hour, or one segment.”

Butler said the clips on the site could be used to generate discussions in a classroom and noted the films are very easy to embed in PowerPoint presentations.

Butler said the search feature on the website is also extremely functional.

“If I typed in ‘global warming,’ it would show not only full films but also clips from any films that happen to mention global warming.”

Students can also search for films by topic or title on the website, according to their needs.

Butler said the popular collections offered on the website include material from the History Channel, National Geographic, BBC and TEDx Talks.

Students might be interested in using Films on Demand for research, and the new transcript feature makes citing sources in MLA or APA format very easy to do.

Butler said that faculty have been keen on taking advantage of the service and material offered by Films on Demand. She said she knows of an English professor at OCCC who uses Films on Demand frequently and said that according to statistics of usage for the website, the psychology department is using it often as well.

“A lot of the films were already closed captioned, but a lot weren’t and we kept saying that we had to have captions on them and I’m sure we weren’t the only school saying that,” Butler said.

Films on Demand is a global service used in schools around the world, she said.

While the most recently added films may not have the transcript or closed captions feature yet, they will be updated accordingly and the features will soon be available on the complete video library.

For more information on the Films on Demand service, contact Butler at 405-682-1611, ext 7643.

TRAFFIC, PARKING CITATIONS TOP TICKET LIST

Police chief says traffic tickets real deal

KATIE THURMAN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu



James Fitzpatrick

Traffic infractions and improper parking and driving infractions lead to most of the tickets issued to students by the police officers who patrol the OCCC campus said Police Chief James Fitzpatrick.

“There’s a kind of internal judicial system within the college for parking regulations and how you operate your vehicle while you’re on campus property,” Fitzpatrick said. “Students have always been able to receive citations for not yielding, not stopping at stop signs and parking inappropriately.

“Now that we’re a campus police department, we patrol and we have a jurisdiction. Any traffic law that applies anywhere else in the city essentially applies here on the campus.”

Fitzpatrick said if a student is ticketed for parking in a handicap spot or in a fire lane, the issue could be taken to the county court as it’s no longer breaking just a campus rule but a state law as well.

“You get a ticket, you pay the fine in the Bursar’s Office, the receipt is sent here and we know the ticket

has been taken care of.

“Or a student can appeal if they don’t feel that they were improperly parked. That’s how we deal with students.”

He said if a student wants to appeal a citation, there are instructions for how to do so on the ticket issued to the student.

Visitors to campus can be issued a ticket for parking infractions or other incorrect driving habits, Fitzpatrick said. However, he said, there is no way to compel visitors to pay tickets because of limitations of the campus police jurisdiction.

“Essentially, we just try to use warnings or encouragement to get people to park properly,” he said.

“When it comes to driving around campus, [everyone is] expected to follow the law.”

Tickets can be issued for dollar amounts that range from \$3 for minor parking violations or improper parking to \$100 for parking in a disabled space or a fire lane.

Parking in a faculty spot is \$15, double parking on a roadway where traffic may be impeded is \$5, going the wrong way on a one-way street, failing to stop at a stop sign or reckless/unsafe driving is \$25.

“The vast majority of the tickets we write are anywhere between \$3 and

\$25,” Fitzpatrick said.

“Our goals and objectives are not to write a bunch of tickets.

“We just want everyone on campus to do what they need to do and we try to make traffic flow and parking accessible to everybody To do that, we take the most reasonable action we can.”

Those who are ticketed are expected to file an appeal or pay the fine within 15 days of being issued the citation.

The penalty for not paying a fine?

“When the student wants their transcript to apply for graduation, they can’t do it until the bursar collects the money,” Fitzpatrick said.

“The fact that all of that can happen doesn’t mean that we’re out there bombarding people.

“Our interest is the safety of the students and we’ll use whatever part of that process we feel is most likely to encourage using their vehicles in a safe manner.”

College cops wear many hats

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Police Reporter
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Regents voted to upgrade to an actual police department with police officers in August 2010. Prior to that, OCCC had a campus security department staffed with security officers.

Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said, since then, each armed security officer who resigns is replaced with a police officer and the former security position is converted to a police officer classification.

Students like the change.

“They’re actually police, not security,” said art major Amanda Bridgford. “I think it is good.”

In addition to patrolling the campus inside and out, Campus Police offer a number of services for the college.

Fitzpatrick said his officers will provide safety escorts, jump a dead battery, air up a flat tire (but they do not change tires), and help those who lock their keys in their vehicles.

“I didn’t know they would do that,” said visual arts major Emily Van Duzor. “Yeah, I would definitely go to them if I locked my keys in the car.”

Nursing major Melissa Lavalley said she wasn’t aware of the services offered.

“I think they should inform students of [them] when they are admitted,” Lavalley said.

“They could send out an email also or put it in the class syllabi.”

Fitzpatrick said there are several ways to contact the Campus Police:

- Call from a campus phone or cell phone.
- Call from a blue call box located in the parking lots.
- Press the emergency button on any campus telephone.
- Come by the police department located on the first floor of the Main Building near the coffee shop.

He said, his staff can be contacted at all times. “We are here 24 hours. Somebody is here all the time.”

Fitzpatrick said those who dial 911 will get the Oklahoma City Police, not the Campus Police. Students also can go to the campus police with an issue out of their jurisdiction, Fitzpatrick said. In those cases, his officers can refer them or, if needed, can call the Oklahoma City Police.

To contact campus police by phone, call 405-682-7872.

OCCC’s finest

			
Sgt. Kevin Hammond		Sgt. David Shriver	
			
Chad Clingman	Gordon Nelson	Jimmie Watts Jr.	Gary Moore
			
Van Ninh	Tim Harris	Patrick Martino	William Hall
			
Donald Rowe	Jeremy Bohannon	Cliff Evans	Jeff Edwards

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

SPORTS

SPORTS | Precor brand among machinery purchased

Wellness Center scores new equipment

CAITLYN STRIDER
Newswriting Student

The arrival of new equipment in the workout room is just one more reason to exercise on campus. Intramural Assistant Matt Wright said the Wellness Center purchased a new treadmill and even more recently purchased new medicine balls and dumbbells.

In addition, the cardio and weight room also offers helpful equipment like Precor Elliptical Cross-Trainers, Precor recumbent bikes, and heavy weights useable by workout machines or a press bench, just to name a few.

Michael Coat, a worker at the Recreation desk, said they also repaired machines that had been broken.

OCCC student Vernon Miller said he enjoys working out with the new equipment.

"It's better than the old stuff," he said. "The medicine balls have better grip, give you a better workout. They got a new fan too which feels really good."

It is free for OCCC students to use the cardio and weight room as well as the other Wellness Center facilities. All students have to do is present their student identification to the workers at the Recreation desk.

The Wellness Center is open to the public as well. If non-students want to use the facilities, they can pay \$6.50 a day, buy a one year membership for \$178, a six-month membership for \$89, or a four-month punch card for \$50, said Coat.

The cardio and weight room is open from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

In addition to the workout area, there are also volleyball and basketball courts, a swimming pool, an aerobics room and a newly added pingpong table.

Also, there are opportunities to sign up for different classes, or even get a personal trainer. Having a Wellness Center at school is a convenience more students should take advantage of.

If you're not the workout type, but you like sports, there are other opportunities as well. The flag football league is

Kicking it



OCCC student and soccer team member Miguel Mandujano moves the ball down the field on March 24 in a game against OKC United at South Lakes Park. The next game will be against Sevilla at 5 p.m. on April 7.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

“It’s better than the old stuff. The medicine balls have better grip and give you a better workout. They got a new fan too which feels really good.”

—VERNON MILLER
OCCC STUDENT

starting in April. There are other sports leagues, including volleyball. There are even camps for children.

To sign up for an intramural sport activity, go online to www.imleagues.com/Default.aspx and register, or go to the Recreation desk in the Wellness Center and sign up in person.

Find more information about upcoming events, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness.html or stop by the Recreation desk.

To view more news stories, blogs and multimedia from News Writing students or Pioneer staff, visit www.occc.edu/pioneer.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

March 29: 3-on-3 outdoor soccer. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

March 18 through April 8: March Madness Pick'em Challenge. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

April 2 through April 18: Coed Intramural volleyball. A captains meeting is scheduled for noon April 1, in the OCCC gym. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

April 12, 13: Disc golf tournament. Registration will last until 5 p.m. April 11. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

April 20: Hershey's Track and Field Meet. The Hershey's Youth Track and Field local meet and competition is a national track meet program for boys and girls ages 9 to 14. The local event will be at 9 a.m. April 20, at the West Moore High School Track and Field facility, 12613 S. Western. Volunteers are needed for the local meet. To volunteer, please email ewatson@occc.edu.

April 3 through 24: Flag Football Tournaments. 4v4 and Powderpuff flag football are being offered. Registration will last until 5 p.m. April 16. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

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
sportswriter@occc.edu, or
call 405-682-1611,
ext. 7676

Auto accident, disorderly conduct reported

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN

Police Reporter
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Thefts, an auto accident and a disturbance at the swimming pool have kept the campus police busy.

Around 1:58 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, student Robert Beauchamp reported a missing calculator. Beauchamp said his calculator had been either lost or stolen while he was in the Math Lab. Campus Police reviewed camera footage of the area but were unable to identify any suspects.

The next day at 2:10 p.m., William Brooks Braun-

nagel reported that someone had cut the catalytic converter out of his vehicle. Braunagel's white 2009 Toyota 4Runner was parked in the east side of South lot A. Braunagel said the theft happened minutes after he left his parked SUV to go to class. Using video surveillance of the area, campus police were able to identify a silver Jeep Liberty as the vehicle used in the crime.

Around 7:26 p.m. Monday, March 4, Officer Kevin Hammond was notified of a disturbance at the pool deck. According to a filed report, an individual was in the pool ignoring the lifeguards' commands. After speaking with the man, Hammond said he issued

He Ma, 24, a citation for trespassing then escorted him from the college. Ma is not a student at OCCC.

A wrong-way driver caused a collision on campus 8:10 p.m. the same day. Cameron Rian Shores, 20, excited lot G in his 2004 Ford Explorer going the wrong direction on Faculty Circle. Shores was struck by a 1999 Toyota Corolla driven by Catherine Wilson, 61, who was traveling east. Neither Shores nor Wilson was injured in the accident. Both vehicles were able to be driven from the scene of the accident.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-7872. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

OHLAP: Financial assistance bill awaits Senate vote

Continued from page 1

"(If HB 1721 becomes law), when [the senior class of 2014 is] getting ready to graduate, they would do that second income check. At that time the household income cannot be any higher than what they're getting ready to make it which is \$60,000."

At this time, the household limit is \$100,000 when students graduate high school.

OSRHE Representative Bryce Fair said if HB 1721 is passed by the Senate, about 10 percent of each freshman

class currently brought into the program would no longer qualify.

Osborn told NewsOk.com she is trying to bring the program back to what it was originally intended for.

"The intent of my legislation is to redirect the tuition assistance to families who truly need it," she said.

"Oklahoma's Promise, or the Oklahoma Higher Access to Learning Program, was originally created to help the children of poor, working families to qualify for tuition assistance.

"With several changes made to the program since its creation, it has grown into a program that could potentially make 81 percent of the families off four in the state eligible. This was not the original intent of the program."

Rep. Joe Dorman voted against the bill. The Democrat from Rush Springs outlined his reasons for opposing HB 1721 in a guest column for www.chickasawnews.com.

"I voted against this bill as this changes the income cap for many families who were about to qualify for the program and

makes it harder for those kids to get a college degree," Dorman said. "OHLAP replaced grant programs in the past and provides tuition assistance for low-income college-age students from Oklahoma families to offset the ... rising cost of tuition.

"The income levels would have increased to \$100,000 to take in double earning middle income families, but if this bill should become law, that level will instead be lowered to \$60,000 based on family income rates.

"Parents who are school

teachers with no other income would not qualify, to use an example."

A poll posted at www.kfor.com shows Oklahomans are in favor of keeping the caps as they are by a vote of 55.83 with 40.4 percent in favor of the proposed changes.

For more information about OHLAP, contact Morgan at 405-682-1611, ext. 7188, or Theresa Shaklee at 405-682-1611, ext. 7152.

To see a full version of the bill, visit <http://openstates.org/ok/bills/2013-2014/HB1721/documents/OKD00016214>.

Lost: Campus police department stores misplaced items

Continued from page 1

been turned in.

Many items that are turned in are never claimed, he said.

"The more expensive the item, the greater effort we make to try and find the owner, and the greater the percentage of items returned," Fitzpatrick said.

He said inexpensive items are disposed of after six months if they have not been claimed. Items such as watches, laptops and iPhones are kept until the owner shows up to claim the item.

"Some people don't know where the lost and found is located," Fitzpatrick said, explaining why some items aren't claimed.

"In other situations, the items are so inexpensive they don't want to take the time to come and claim them."

Nursing major Melissa Lavalley said she thinks the policy is a good one.

"If [the item] is ... inexpensive, then people have probably already replaced it."

Fitzpatrick said to claim an item a person must be able to describe the item and show a valid ID. "We want to have a record of who we gave the property to," he said.

When possible, the office will contact a person about a lost item, Fitzpatrick said.

Administrative Office major Shazell Dozier said she was called about her lost flash drive.

"They called me when they

found my flash drive," she said. "I forgot I even lost it. I just had to show my ID and describe the flash drive."

Fitzpatrick said when an item is found, it can either be given to an officer or brought by the office.

He said the following items are currently in the lost-and-found area, waiting to be claimed by their owners:

- DVDs
- sunglasses and cases
- knee bands
- cell phone chargers
- inhaler
- iPhone
- CDs
- thumb drives
- keys
- a computer mouse
- bookbags and backpacks

- baby carriage
- umbrellas
- clothes
- hats
- blankets
- towels
- jewelry

- keychains
- notebooks
- scarves
- pencil cases
- books

To contact campus police, call 405-682-7872.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon delight



OCCC alumna Lori Colbart plays lunchtime piano music March 14 in the General Dining Area as part of Celebrate Students Week at OCCC.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

COMMUNITY | Habitat for Humanity offers volunteer opportunities

Build a home for needy

REYNA OTERO

Community Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

Students have attended various types of service learning trips through the Office of Student Life. Students and faculty have volunteered at the Regional Food Bank, Adopt-a-Street and Christmas Connection among others. Habitat for Humanity offers students another way to be of service, Coordinator of Student Life Brittany Carradine said.

Student Life will be taking students to Habitat for Humanity, for a service learning trip, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 6, Carradine said.

She said volunteers will work with Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity, located at 5005 S. I-35 Service Road. Habitat for Humanity provides limited income families the opportunity of home ownership, according to their website at www.cohfh.org.

Carradine said students who like to interact with others or are skilled with building, might be a perfect fit for the trip. She said attending the service trip will show students different ways they can impact their community. Students, student workers, faculty and staff are invited to attend the service trip she said.

"[The Office of Student Life] believes that if students see faculty and staff participating in things such as the service trips and events, then they understand the importance of [volunteering] but also, it gives faculty and staff an opportunity to model some of the things that we want students to be doing," Carradine said.

Carradine said she wants students to bring a positive attitude to the service trip.

Lisa Lasater, student employee at the Office of Student Life, said she has attended service learning trips before at the Regional Food Bank. Lasater said she will be volunteering for the first time at Habitat for Humanity.

"I am hoping to gain personal fulfillment knowing that I have done service for others. I am hoping to gain appreciation for what others go through and see how people can come together as a community when others are in need.

"I am at a place in my life where I currently have the opportunity with health, strength, and the time available to give back to the community. If I am ever in need at one point in my life, I would be grateful for those who would be generous enough to volunteer their service," Lasater said.

The volunteers are provided transportation to and from the event. Volunteers first meet at Student Life and depart as a group. They are also provided lunch. There are 25 students currently registered, but registration is still open for those who would like to volunteer.

Carradine said the Habitat for Humanity service trip is not held as often as other service learning trips.

"With our other service trips, we try to touch different types of services so we may or may not do Habitat each semester. If we do have students say they really want to do Habitat for Humanity, then they might see it again the next semester," Carradine said. "So it just kind of depends."

Carradine said she hopes the service trip leaves students with the idea that there are different ways to be of service.

Open Registration for Summer and Fall

April 1 begins open registration for classes in Summer and Fall 2013 semesters

Tuition Fee Waiver

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the Summer 2013 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted by 5 p.m., April 20. A current transcript must be attached. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 682-7525.

Loan disbursements for April

Loan disbursement dates for April are Wednesday, April 3, Friday, April 5, Wednesday, April 10, Friday, April 12, Wednesday, April 17, Friday, April 19 and Wednesday, April 24.

OCCC Military Career Fair on campus

There will be a Military Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, in the College Union. Learn about educational benefits through military service. For more information, contact Debra Vaughn 405-682-1611, ext. 7362, or email at dvaughn@occc.edu.

Brown Bag: Dress For Success

There will be a Brown Bag luncheon from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, in room CU1. Guest presenters John Clayborn and Makenna Green will discuss how to dress in professional settings. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

'A Thousand Cranes' to visit theater

OCCC will present the award-winning children's theater production "A Thousand Cranes." There will be two showings, one at 10:30 a.m. and another at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Cost of admission is \$5 for students. Cash only walk-ups are welcomed, based on seating availability. For more information, contact 405-682-7579.

Tour the University of Oklahoma April 5

A tour of OU is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 5. Students will meet at the Academic Advising office, and need to bring a copy of their transcripts in order to meet with a university adviser. Lunch will be provided. Wear comfortable shoes. For more information, contact Linda Little at 405-682-7535 or email linda.k.little@occc.edu.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu

"I want [students] to take away some sort of positive or good feeling about their contributions that they have made to their community," Carradine said.

For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1965 Chevy truck. \$3,000 OBO. Rebuilt motor. Runs. Needs painting. 1962 Chevy car. \$1,500 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

TELEVISIONS FOR SALE: Both are 40" CRT. One is a Sony and the other is a Magnavox. They both were recently repaired and are in excellent condition. \$35 each. Call or text 405-667-0101.

LOOKING FOR A ROOM/HOME TO RENT: Will share all bills. Call Quinton at 443-812-0917 or email qmmountain@yahoo.com.

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 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.

COLLEGE ALGEBRA TUTOR WANTED: Will pay up to \$10 an hour. Anyone interested PLEASE message or text 405-496-1920.

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

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: English Comp, \$35; TI-83 Plus, \$30. Call 405-209-0308.

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

Personal classified ads are free to students and employees. adman@occc.edu.

Share your thoughts with us: Email Paris at editor@occc.edu

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

90's Songs 2

Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.

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L M E V E I L E B A R B I E G I R L O
L O E V O L S S E L D N E L I N G E R
O T E M O T I O N S S I D E T S I W T
V O Y U A P P N B G B A B Y B A B Y G
E W E Y N L O U W E I V G N O L M W Y
I N N D U D R B M Y E S L C D Y S E D
S P O S A C E A Y D S L E L I T R A O
L H H E S P J R I N A A R H R P N K B
R I L O F O A R S W N O T O T G E B O
I L N T T U S C R T W I N N E I T O N
G L R T H T N E S Y A G K R A O S O P
R Y E U E I D K R E E N O S O F P M O
E G C L N N S A D N V U D F N M O B T
M Y R Y O A N K O A S O U I O U O A S
M A U W A I W U I L F N L U N G N S T
U D S I D W G A A S K I T L I G M T N
S O H R O H Y M Y Y S H E M A N A I A
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N D O W N T O W N T R A I N A I R I S
    
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- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| AGAIN | EPIC | MOUTH | STAY |
| BABY, BABY | ESCAPADE | MY WAY | STRONG ENOUGH |
| BAILAMOS | FANTASY | NAME | SUMMER GIRLS |
| BARBIE GIRL | FUNKDAFIED | NO SCRUBS | THE SIGN |
| BELIEVE | GETTO JAM | NOBODY | THIS KISS |
| BOOMBASTIC | HONEY | ORDINARY WORLD | TODAY |
| CAN'T STOP | IRIS | PLUSH | TOO FUNKY |
| CRUSH | LET'S RIDE | REAL LOVE | TWISTED |
| DANGEROUS | LINGER | RUNAWAY | UNDERSTANDING |
| DOWNTOWN TRAIN | LONGVIEW | SLAM | UNSKINNY BOP |
| EMOTIONS | LOVE IS | SMOOTH | WEAK |
| ENDLESS LOVE | MOTOWNPHILLY | SPOONMAN | WONDERWALL |




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President presents potential theater events

PARIS BURRIS
Editor
editor@occc.edu

The first events in the college's new theater will include a black-tie event with the Philharmonic Orchestra, an annual national speaker and potentially the Oklahoma City Community Symphonic Band, along with other events, President Paul Sechrist said.

"Students can expect a variety of artists, and many of them will conduct master classes for students," Sechrist said. "In addition to performances by outside groups, the theater will serve as the venue for our OCCC choral concerts, pinning ceremonies and the student awards ceremony."

Once a year, the college plans to feature a national speaker at the theater, Sechrist said.

"It is envisioned that a speaker would provide one presentation reserved just for students at no charge to students and then another presentation open to the community with an admission or ticket fee," Sechrist said.

"The goal is to rotate the speakers around subjects or majors offered at the college. For example, given that we have a Film and Video program, one speaker could be someone from the commercial film industry.

"The plan is to include students and others in the selection of the speaker each year."

The theater's new Steinway grand piano will be showcased during the theater's black-tie event, where a yet-to-be-named pianist will play the concert grand piano for students.

The anticipated opening event will be a holiday performance by OCCC's

Choir, directed by Music professor Ron Staton.

A sculpture in honor of OCCC's letters is set to be unveiled in November, Cultural Programs Director Lemuel Bardeguez said. The Trans-Siberian Orchestra provided part of the funding for the sculpture.

"Now that we will have a much larger theater to work with, we will be able to feature more recognized groups, larger performances and potentially contemporary dance and taiko drums," Bardeguez said.

The theater, which will seat 1,100 people, will feature an opening show in the new art gallery with featured artist Desmond Mason, Bardeguez said.

The Oklahoma City Community Orchestra has booked a show for Feb-



The plan is to include students and others in the selection of the speaker each year."

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

ruary 2014.

Most events will be free for OCCC students and open to the public, according to a document.

Short vignette performances and backstage tours are among other events to be held in the new theater.

The theater will be an active venue in the Cultural Arts Series and featured artists of the next series are scheduled to be released shortly.

For more information on the Cultural Arts Series, contact Lemuel Bardeguez at 405-682-7576, or by email at lbardeguez@occc.edu.

Big XII leadership event draws OCCC students

SABLE SANER
News Writing Student

Students said they learned valuable life lessons on the importance of knowing history and striving for excellence at the Big XII Conference on Black Student Government.

"My experience at the conference was truly life-changing, especially from all the phenomenal keynote speakers encouraging me to the utmost," nursing major Simone Mathenia said. "I went to Manhattan, Kan., one way and left a better me."

Speakers at the event shared their life

experiences with students.

One of the speakers, Dr. Myra Gordon, is chief of the Nigerian village of Alayi, in Africa. She stated in her speech: "Caution, I know my history," said Bruce Thompson, diversified studies major.

Thompson said this was a quote that stuck out to him.

"To me that means if you know where you came from and you know the struggles behind it, then you are not going to repeat your history."

Ten students and two advisers from OCCC's Black Student Association attended the conference at Kansas State

University in Manhattan during the first week in March.

Club sponsor Carlos Robinson, Extended Services and Outreach adviser, said his group worked all year to save up for this trip.

"We do various fundraisers throughout the year, as well as accept donations."

The group was also sponsored by Student Life and OCCC Foundation. In return, the students are expected to hold workshops on campus to communicate what they learned during the three-day event.

Robinson said BSA has been in existence for about 15 years. It is open to

any student of any race or religion but mainly focuses on black students. He said the mission of the organization is to build support, unity, friendship, and a sense of belonging to all African American students at OCCC.

"The goals are to be better leaders on campus, focus on academics, and strive to be the best you can be," Robinson said.

Robinson, who attended the conference when he was an OCCC student, said it provides many benefits, such as in relationships, spirituality, business, as well as making things easier when transferring to a four-year college.

Subject of women in combat sparks controversy

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New Department of Defense policies are opening the door for women to pursue combat roles in the U.S. armed forces.

Military women now will be allowed to pursue careers in infantry, possibly being a part of the elite Navy SEALs and positions in special operations forces. The move that was recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff negates a Pentagon policy that was created in 1994 that excludes women from certain military careers, restricting women from artillery, armor, infantry and other such combat roles, according to

the Associated Press.

Views on the decision are mixed among OCCC students and staff.

John Mansera, office clerk in the OCCC Veterans Affairs office, said he has doubts about the policy change. Mansera served two tours in Vietnam for the U.S. Marine Corps.

He believes the change could put soldiers in more danger.

"Men are courteous," Mansera said. "Yet they are always looking for the weaker part of an individual, whether it's a man or a woman."

"If an individual is limited on their ability to perform the job, that means you'll constantly be watching them, which puts you at a greater risk."

For this reason, he believes placing women in combat roles will diminish the military's effectiveness.

Linda Steele, a specialist in the Army National Guard, and a current physiology major at OCCC, said the question of women meeting the standards for combat readiness is crucial.

"I would honestly want to see a woman excel past the minimum standard that it takes for a man to get in," Steele said.

Like many others, she worries that if women are allowed in certain jobs for which most women can't meet the physical fitness standards that the military will lower the standards for women, thus jeopardizing the readiness

of the military.

Speech major Alex Torres said she supports the change -- to a degree.

"I think women have fought for a long time for equal opportunities in a male-driven world," she said. "Yet men still do not see us as equals."

"It's not that they look down on us but rather they look out for us."

"If women were to fight side by side with men, I think it could be a bad idea, until they can view us as equals," Torres said.

Each armed service branch will have until January 2016 to finalize the policies for women and to make a case that some positions should remain closed to women.