TIME TO SALUTE POLICE OFFICERS

Editor Paris Burris says citizens should step back and look at all the good most police officers do to keep everyone safe.

Read more.

EDITORIAL, p. 2

DOES A COLLEGE DEGREE PAY?

What can graduates expect in terms of pay after receiving that degree? Turn inside to see what you can expect to earn by getting an associate degree.

NEWS, p. 7

FREE FITNESS CLASSES OFFERED

Current students can participate in five group fitness classes free of charge as a way to relieve stress during finals week, May 13 through 18. Find out how.

SPORTS, p. 8

SOME CLUBS ACTIVE IN SUMMER

Many campus clubs remain active during the summer session. Find out what you can do to be a part of a college club.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

Five percent tuition increase possible

Student leaders follow VP’s lead, endorse proposal 16-3

GUILFORD KRAUS
News Writing Student

Students on campus endorsed a possible tuition increase of up to 5 percent for next fall at The Leadership Council meeting April 11.

The vote was 16-3. The Leadership Council is a group of student club officers and other student leaders who vote on issues that affect the entire student body.

TLC Chair Angela Gutierrez told members the state funding outlook is grim. She believes an increase in state funding for higher education and OCCC will be minimal if there is an increase at all.

Gutierrez said it’s difficult for the college to manage its expenses on a standstill budget.

If the college Board of Regents and the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education approve it, this would be the second tuition increase in two years.

Marion Paden, vice president for Enrollment and Student Services, encouraged student leaders to support the resolution for an increase.

“S t is not something we want to do, but have to,” Paden said.

In an earlier TLC meeting on March 28, President Paul Sechrist spoke briefly of the possibility of such an increase.

“At that time, Sechrist said he hoped it wouldn't be necessary. However, given the college’s current resources, the tuition increase could be necessary for the college to continue to provide quality services and programs.

In a May 8 email, Sechrist said it’s something we’ll use again.

The bookstore has a list of textbooks that will be reused on campus and those are the ones they want to purchase.

Reinke said the books don’t have to be in pristine condition.

“We try to get everything we can if it’s something we’ll use again.”

See INCREASE page 9

Get cash for books beginning May 13

BRITTAN ALLEN
News Writing Student

Now is the time for students to think about turning books into bucks.

OCCC’s book buyback starts May 13 and runs through May 20 at the campus bookstore.

“We typically buy books back for 50 percent of the price you paid,” said Brenda Reinke, bookstore director.

See BOOKS page 9
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Not all police officers are bad cops

Show respect for law enforcement

In a world where so much chaos and crime are happening all at once, I’m disappointed at the comments and negative viewpoints about the ones who are often fighting to contain it — the police.

While there may be a few bad cops, it seems that many people pile them all into the bad group.

There are several reasons this might happen.

Younger people may feel picked on because of their age.

Some people feel cops should have better things to do than punish speed violators or drug abusers.

Many are blinded by the bad image of some police and forget about the good side.

It’s somewhat understandable though.

With movies like “A Place Beyond the Pines,” the television show “Reno 911” and other bad portrayals of police, we are often exposed to only bad images.

Personal experiences also influence these feelings.

While I know not all cops are good, there are many who are genuinely concerned with doing the right thing and want safety for citizens.

The truth is, despite what someone may think of law enforcement, they’re the ones who are willing to sacrifice their own lives to save yours.

Since 2003, about 1,540 law enforcement officers have died, according to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund website.

Of these, the leading cause of death is from gunshots, with 564 on record.

About 457 are from auto crashes — 138 from being struck by a vehicle.

Other causes of death include bomb-related deaths, being strangled, beaten and stabbed.

It’s clear to see that law enforcement is a dangerous job. A lot of the reason for that is because they are put in dangerous situations for really no other reason than to protect citizens from harm and dangerous individuals.

Many in law enforcement work long hours, often 16 hour days, and are deprived of sleep and family life.

Often, they have to deal with belligerence, violence and dangerous situations.

The fact that most of us are able to walk out of our house with safety and confidence is due to a variety of factors and one is the presence of law enforcement.

They protect us from theft, physical and sexual harm and other bad things.

It’s important for people not to take law enforcement for granted and give respect to the individuals who deserve it.

—Paris Burris

EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Women’s Health Week celebrated May 12 through 18

Text4Baby offers free helpful text tips to new parents

To the Editor:

A woman’s health before, during, and between pregnancy can impact the health of both mother and baby. That is why the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and more than 20 partners in the “Preparing for a Lifetime, It’s Everyone’s Responsibility” initiative are promoting Text4Baby to help improve maternal and infant health and reduce infant mortality. The initiative members are asking pregnant women and new mothers to enroll in this free program during the month of May, especially during Women’s Health Week, May 12 through 18.

Text4Baby is a free service for expectant and new mothers providing text messages on prenatal care, baby health, parenting, and more. Other caregivers of infants are also encouraged to participate. To sign up for the Text4Baby program, just text the word “BABY” (“BEBE” for Spanish) to 511411 from a cell phone or you can register online at www.text4baby.org. Participants will receive FREE text messages until the baby is 1 year old. Individuals will not be charged for receiving text messages through this program. You can find more information about the service at www.text4baby.org.

The National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition partnered with CTIA – The Wireless Foundation to provide free health-related text messages about topics such as prenatal care, oral health, safe sleep, and nutrition.

There is a need to focus on the health of women at all ages and, in particular, during the child bearing years. Almost half of the pregnancies in Oklahoma are unintended.

Health conditions and risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, alcohol use, and tobacco use all have the potential to complicate pregnancy and harm the developing baby.

To help promote a healthy pregnancy and birth, women are encouraged to be active, eat healthy, and avoid unhealthy behaviors such as smoking.

The focus of Women’s Health Week this year in Oklahoma is to empower women to make their health a priority and encourage them to take the following steps to improve their physical and mental health, and lower their risks of certain diseases:

- Visit a health care professional to receive regular checkups and preventive screenings.
- Get active.
- Eat healthy.
- Pay attention to mental health, including getting enough sleep and managing stress.
- Avoid unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking, not wearing a seatbelt or bicycle helmet and texting while driving.

For more information about Text4Baby, please visit www.text4baby.org or http://iio.health.ok.gov or call 405-271-4480.

—OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CONCERT REVIEW | ’70s band adds new songs to set list

Concert confirms Mac is back

Pressed against the very front of the stage May 1 at the BOK Center in Tulsa, I couldn’t help but stare in awe as one by one, the members of Fleetwood Mac, one of my favorite bands, entered the stage.

Energy was high and harmony was tight as the band opened with “Second Hand News” and “The Chain.”

It took me several minutes to digest the fact that lead center Stevie Nicks was standing directly in front of me, dressed in her usual mystical, flowing, black chiffon along with platform boots, and singing into her microphone covered in layers of scarves.

Following the opening, the band then slowed it down with “Dreams,” Fleetwood Mac’s biggest hit to date.

While the band has not written a new album in 10 years, they recently released an EP (Extended Play) featuring four new songs, two of which were performed at the concert.

Lead singer Lindsey Buckingham said in response to the new EP: “We’ve discovered that there are still a few new chapters left for this band.”

“Sad Angel” was the first track played followed by “Without You,” a Buckingham /Nicks song that Nicks claimed had been lost but then rediscovered after all these years.

Following hit song “Rhiannon,” Buckingham took a few minutes to talk to the audience.

“When you find something that works, you run it into the ground and don’t question it. Of course I am referring to “Tusk,”” he said. “I would have loved to be a fly on the wall the first time Warner Brothers listened to this record.”

The band then proceeded to play three songs off of “Tusk” including “Sisters of the Moon,” a song which Nicks said hasn’t been on the setlist in almost 30 years.

Perhaps the most emotional moment of the show was when Buckingham and Nicks came out to perform an acoustic version of “Landslide,” a song Nicks wrote in the ’70s when she was trying to decide if her failing relationship with Buckingham was worth staying in to keep their music alive. The crowd swayed silently as Nicks’ voice, strong as ever, filled the entire arena.

The two embraced and interlocked hands following the conclusion of the song.

After a few more hits such as “Gold Dust Woman” and “Gypsy,” things sped up when Nicks came out to perform “Stand Back,” a hit song off her solo album “The Wild Heart.” Nicks wore a black shawl with gold dots on it for this performance, the same shawl worn in the music video for the song. The crowd cheered as Nicks spun in circles across the stage during the instrumental break.

“Go Your Own Way” was the last song before the first encore in which Nicks featured her signature black top hat.

Overall, the night was truly magical. While it was apparent Nicks did not quite have the vocal range she used to, the band still gave a high-energy two and a half hour performance including 23 songs and two encores.

Watching the emotions and intensity Nicks put into her performance was truly outstanding and listening to her harmony with Buckingham was like taking a step back in time.

The tour coincided with the 35th anniversary release of the band’s classic album “Rumours,” from which a good part of the concert’s setlist originated. Although the absence of keyboardist and singer Christine McVie (ex-wife of the band’s bassist John McVie) who retired in 1998 was disappointing, the band proved they could carry on just fine.

Founding member Mick Fleetwood made one final statement before exiting the stage. “Fleetwood Mac wants you to do two things: be safe and be kind to one another,” he said. “And remember… the Mac is back!”

Rating: A+

—Erin Peden
Contributing Writer

MUSIC REVIEW | Daughter should stick to what they do best

Indie group steers way off course with latest project

English indie threesome Daughter released their first full-length album April 16. “If You Leave” marks the band’s first LP after a slew of EPs and mixtapes that have been gaining popularity over the past couple of years after heavy circulation in many indie circuits.

I’ve been waiting for the album to come out for quite some time and after having sat down for a few initial listens, I think I’ve decided that while “If You Leave” is certainly a strong showing for a rookie band, it isn’t quite the album I had hoped for. When the band falters on the album, they do so in a big way.

I think the main problems with “If You Leave” wind up being gaffes made in editing and production.

The band did something I really wasn’t expecting by breaking away from the traditional acoustic sound that had made them so appealing. The entirety of “If You Leave” has a much more electric, plugged-in sound than anything the band had released prior to signing with the label that allowed them to create their latest work. There was something very effective about Daughter’s music being almost entirely acoustic; it was haunting and mellow in a way that suited vocalist Elena Tonra’s voice.

There’s also something about the album that simply just doesn’t flow — while the songs are good out of order, it’s hard to sit and listen to the album as an experience. This is something that could’ve been detected, perhaps, and corrected by more careful editing.

“If You Leave” has its peaks and perks; Tonra’s songwriting is as beautiful as ever — it reads like stunning prose — and her voice has a quality that keeps the listener engaged and in awe. At its very best, some of the songs have the capability to be moving, transfixing and overall, very hypnotic.

It makes me wish that the people putting the album together had taken into consideration the placement of the songs so they would flow better. A good album should be like a story, with a clearly defined beginning, middle, and end. There is no real beginning, no climax, and no resolution for “If You Leave.” It leaves a lot to be desired.

Your best bet? Get the album and listen to it shuffled by the media player of your choice; the tracks “Touch,” “HUMAN,” and “Smother” are all stunners, and should be recognized for their ability to stand out on an album that is otherwise very humdrum.

“If You Leave” is available on iTunes and at music stores.

Rating: C+

—Katie Thurman
Staff Writer
Dress for success to land the job you want

JUDE FLOYD  
News Writing Student

If your ultimate goal is to land the job, dressing for success is very important, said Christopher Shelley, OCCC Student Life assistant director, during a presentation April 3.

From jobs in healthcare to warehouses, employers pay attention to what applicants wear to a job interview, Shelley said.

Among other things, it shows how much effort the job seeker has put into preparing for the interview.

For instance, he said, if someone applies for a warehouse job and shows up to the interview with a suit on, the employer would probably think that person didn’t do too much homework.

He said a warehouse job is a labor type of job so the employer would expect to see appropriate attire for that position.

Shelley said it’s always a good idea to check out the employer’s website to get an insight into how the workers dress on the job.

If there are photos of employees there, the clothes they are wearing can steer you in the right direction as to what you should wear if hired.

Shelley also showed a video where young job seekers went to Joseph. A. Bank, a men’s clothing store, and went through the process of dressing for an interview for a professional position.

Job seekers can never go wrong with the traditional black suit, according to the video. However, a charcoal gray or dark navy suit is OK as well.

Shelley suggested choosing a conservative tie as well as a conservative shirt with black shoes. He said employers would likely prefer a tailored suit.

In addition, take a black binder along to the interview. It should contain a few résumés, pens, and up-to-date references.

Shelley said Student Employment and Career Services can help students write or update their résumés, as well as give the student a black binder to take with them to the interview.

He said résumés are just as important as the interview. The résumé is what usually gets you in the door.

A second video focused on students who may not have the money for a new or tailored suit.

The moderator showed how students can go to thrift shops and Goodwill stores. In shops like this, he said, most people can find shirts and slacks for affordable prices.

Shelley said he had a human resources background before he got in career services.

As a result, he said, he has done a lot of hiring.

One of the key things he said he wanted students to take away from the presentation is that employers are interviewing many people, so establish a positive tone in the first minute or two of the introduction.

It is very important to not let nerves get in the way, and to walk into the interview and talk with confidence, he said.

Make sure to introduce yourself, Shelley added.

Above all, have fun be relaxed and you will usually be fine, Shelley said.

For more information, email cshelley@occc.edu.

Shoppers at local clothing store help those less fortunate

MAKENZIE MCCLEARY  
News Writing Student

Ladies, do retail clothing prices have you down?

Do you consider yourself green or like knowing your money is going to charities?

Our Sister’s Closet is a resale boutique that meets all of these criteria — and it’s convenient, located just north of Interstate-240 and Pennsylvania Ave. in the Walnut Square shopping center.

Boutique manager Cindy Reynolds is proud of the store.

“Our Sister’s Closet has fashionable clothing for every woman and certainly beats the retail price for good quality apparel,” she said.

Reynolds said the store’s inventory comes solely from donated clothes, making the store environmentally friendly.

She said Our Sister’s Closet keeps the trendiest clothes and donates the rest to other outlets.

To date, our Sister’s Closet has donated 122 tons of clothing to professional recyclers to keep clothes out of landfills, Reynolds said.

She said shoppers will find no stains, no wear and tear, and no holes in the merchandise.

The YWCA funds this non-profit agency, Reynolds said.

After overhead and maintenance costs are subtracted, 100 percent of the funds go straight to the YWCA and its Women’s Resource Center, she said.

Not only does Our Sister’s Closet help college students afford nice clothes on a Ramen Noodle budget, but also it helps the battered women and children staying at the YWCA’s shelters.

“Abused women often escape their homes with nothing but their children and the clothes on their backs,” Reynolds said.

“The YWCA allows them to get clothes and household items free of charge from the boutique.

The YWCA also sponsors the women at the shelters to attend economic empowerment programs to help them get a start in a business career, Reynolds said.

One section of the store, the “Not Your Mom’s Closet” area is also now up and running, Reynolds said.

Shopper Maddisen McCleary said it’s a great area.

“This area sports the new neon look, which is totally in right now,” McCleary said.

“It showcases some gorgeous clothes,”

My Sister’s Closet is located at 2209 SW 74th St.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For more information, call 405-631-7171.

The store also has an eBay site located at http://myworld.ebay.com/oursisterscloset.
Former student awarded $30,000 scholarship

Rebecca Morales
News Writing Student

A high school dropout, Kenneth worked for a few years and then decided he had to change his life ... .”

—Dr. Melanie Wright
Truman Faculty Representative

OCCC passes external audit for FY 2012

Buffie Richardson
Brown
Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC has received an “unqualified opinion” also known as a “clean opinion” on an external audit conducted for fiscal year 2012. These terms mean that there were no negative findings, said Business and Finance Vice President John Boyd.

He said Hinkle and Company did the audit. The firm was hired by the college’s regents.

Boyd said firms are hired for a five-year period. This is the second year Hinkle and Company has done the audit.

Statutes require that all state entities and agencies change their external auditors every five years, he said.

Boyd said the auditors don’t work for the college. They audit a number of things within the college. “We are regulated to have all financial aid, grants and contracts audited,” he said. “We always get clean opinions on those things.” The college also has an internal audit done each fiscal year. Boyd said the primary difference is the scope of the audit. He said a different firm conducts that audit and also is hired by the college regents. “The auditors actually come on site,” he said. “We set them up in a conference room and they will do their work here on campus.

“They review, put information in their computers and do different audit type testing,” Boyd said. “After the audit is done they will give us the opportunity to do a management response, discussion and analysis which my office does. “Each year the external auditor will send us an engagement letter that will be signed by the Board of Regents that sets forth their scope and plan of work for the audit.

“They then work with our internal staff in Finance and other areas of the college, and we provide them with the various information and allow them to do the type of work they are required to do.”

For more information, call the Office of Business and Finance at 405-682-7501.
College adds new librarian to line-up

ANDREA DEKKER
News Writing Student

Librarian Tricia Sweany said she recently left Santa Fe to return home to the Midwest to be near her family, and ended up getting her dream job in Oklahoma.

As of April 1, Sweany is the new Electronic Services and Reference Librarian at OCCC.

Sweany said she found her interest in the library system as a young child.

“My mom was a librarian so I grew up always being around the library,” Sweany said. “As a little girl, I learned to shelve books — in the right order, of course.”

Sweany is enthusiastic about working at OCCC.

“I am excited about being here,” she said. “It is a pretty awesome school.”

Before focusing on electronic and computer services, web content and social media, Sweany worked for Santa Fe Public Library in New Mexico.

Before that, she worked at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library, in Topeka, Kan.

Sweany said she hopes to make the OCCC library webpage easier to use for faculty and students.

“The library is moving towards the digital age,” Sweany said.

The web update will help students and faculty go to the web library if they can not go to the library building for assistance, Sweany said.

Sweany’s committee assignments include the Health Professions division.

Sweany is the library’s liaison for that division.

Sweany helps students and faculty find books, information, “and everything health related within the library,” Sweany said.

Sweany also is on the Online Learning Committee, for online learning at OCCC.

Sweany is excited about having “fun with the social media.”

She’s pleased about that aspect of her job. Sweany said.

Faculty and students can find Sweany in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library at the reference desk or in her new office on the second floor, learning, training and ready to assist.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/library.

EMS students get real-life experience within college walls

KIANA MORIDI
News Writing Student

Earlier this semester, five EMS students were charged with responding to a man’s 911 call for help.

Once the emergency responders arrived at the scene at the patient’s home, they were required to assess the patient’s medical condition, determine that he needs to be taken to the emergency room, then deliver him there in an ambulance.

OCCC’s emergency medical sciences students get life-like training by loading a patient-stimulating dummy into the back of a real ambulance in the Health Professions hallway, said EMS Professor Shawn Ballard.

Classroom training prepares them with instructions on how to respond to various life-threatening situations, he said.

But the real test is how they use that knowledge on the job.

The patient simulator is the size and weight of an average man. Although the stimulator is not able to move, it is able to make noises and alert the workers that he is in pain, Ballard said.

The simulator has blood pressure, pulse, and heartbeat just as a human patient would.

The students place the conscious patient on a stretcher and take him to the ambulance while Ballard asks them questions every step of the way.

“What is his heart rate?”

“What does his blood pressure look like?” Ballard asks as the students try to work and think at the same time.

The ambulance is in standstill mode due to the lack of electricity, so the students are unable to employ any of the life-saving devices a real ambulance would be able to offer.

Nevertheless, the ambulance still offers a great opportunity for students to take their skills and abilities to a higher level, Ballard said.

Once the patient-stimulator is in the ambulance, students perform CPR while continuing to keep tabs on his blood pressure.

“What is his blood pressure right now?” Ballard asked the lead paramedic.

While the students give the patient CPR, the lead paramedic uses the radio to inform the dispatcher that they are headed to the hospital.

The students then proceed to take the patient into a simulated emergency room.

Four students continue to assist the patient as the lead paramedic speaks with the scenario doctor, played by Ballard.

Taking the patient to a simulated emergency room allows the students to know what to expect from a doctor when they arrive to the hospital, Ballard said. It is no secret this is an extremely nerve-racking profession.

Ballard said during these exercises, the students are able to apply the knowledge they have gained in the classroom to a real-life situation.

Different students are assigned to take the lead in the emergency situation.

Emergency Medical Sciences Program Director Leaugeay Barnes said EMS students practice these life-like scenarios that will ultimately prepare them for emergency situations.

These role-playing labs have allowed graduates of OCCC’s EMS program to be thoroughly prepared for their national exams, and more importantly, for their professional lives, Barnes said.

“The OCCC EMS program has the highest first-time paramedic pass rate in the state of Oklahoma,” Barnes said.

Support from the health professions industry has provided the program with extra resources, such as the decommissioned ambulance that sits in the hallway, which was donated by Tulsa Life Flight from St. Francis Hospital, Barnes said.

For more about the program, visit www.occc.edu/health/ems.
Student filmmaker from Japan finds home at college

LAUREN ALLEN
News Writing Student

One of the first stops in the U.S. for international student Yosuke Shingu was at a McDonalds restaurant, where he attempted to order a hamburger. Shingu admits that he couldn’t pronounce the word very well and ended up receiving coffee instead.

Born in Mexico, but raised in Japan, the OCCC student calls many places home. Though Shingu is fluent in Japanese, his first language is Spanish.

His first experience in the U.S. occurred when he moved to Felt, Okla., to live with a host family as a foreign exchange student. This is where Shingu first began to learn English.

He credits the majority of his language learning to watching the Disney Channel with his host family.

Although he didn’t always know what the actors were saying, Shingu said, he could mostly understand what was happening by their actions.

“Phineas and Ferb” is one of the many shows he liked to watch, where he picked up the phrase “Whatcha doin’?”

He’s currently in a beginner level Spanish class at OCCC, where, he said, he is refreshing his memory.

“When I was 3, I was speaking Spanish to my parents.”

Shingu’s family moved to Mexico from Japan when his father was hired for a teaching program there. Shingu was born shortly after.

The entire family then moved back to Japan after the three-year program finished.

Shingu also is still learning English, which he says is a work in progress.

As a film student, Shingu derives some of his inspiration from his experiences with the similarities and differences between the U.S. and Japan.

One of the differences he sees is that the Japanese have more respect for their mothers than Americans do. He said stand-up comedy also is not seen as funny in Japan.

Another big difference he noticed is seeing older people returning to school in the U.S., but he said he respects them for doing so.

Shingu, however, believes that despite the differences, Japan and the U.S. have much in common.

He aims to demonstrate this in a documentary he directed called “A Person.”

In the documentary he interviews many people — both Japanese and American — and asks both nationalities what their thoughts are on the countries.

The Americans say they think Japanese eat sushi all the time and drive recklessly. They also associate the word “Godzilla” with Japan, in reference to the popular monster from the movie “Godzilla,” which took place in Japan.

The Japanese believe Americans are very friendly and have the freedom to do whatever they want.

Both nationalities describe a slightly stereotypical view of the other country, which in actuality isn’t so different from their own.

Pete Hounslow, a friend and the film producer for many of Shingu’s projects, described the first time he met Shingu.

Hounslow was on the set of an independent film as an actor and watched as Shingu ran everywhere the cameras went.

“There wasn’t anything he didn’t do,” Hounslow said.

Shingu later approached Hounslow for some guidance on directing a class film project, which Hounslow said “wasn’t just a class project for [Shingu].”

Hounslow continued to help Shingu with his films and aided him in translating not just words from Japanese to English, but also ideas and concepts.

After graduating from Felt High School, Shingu left Oklahoma and returned to Japan. However, he came back to Oklahoma soon after in search of the nice people he had met in the small town, as well as a good film school, which he found at OCCC.

He has attended the college for two years and will graduate next fall. Shingu hopes to attend the University of Texas at Austin one day.

He also hopes his expertise in filmmaking will one day land him a studio internship at Disney.

He’s made several student films and has received a few awards for them, one of which was the Audience Choice Award at Bare Bones International Independent Film Festival in Muskogee for a documentary he directed called “In the Shadows.”

He said he normally shoots horror or thriller movies.

“The funny thing is I don’t like [to watch] that kind of film,” Shingu said.

Shingu visits his family in Japan about once a year.

As for Oklahoma, Shingu said he’s had a very good experience here. He said he dreams to one day walk the Red Carpet for his success in film.

Hounslow said he believes he will see Shingu fulfill that dream.
Weighty issues

Engineering major Sean Ly curls a free weight dumbbell after class on May 7 in the OCCC Wellness Center’s weight room. The weight and cardio rooms are open from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Free fitness classes offered during finals week

The OCCC Recreation and Fitness Department is offering current students an opportunity to participate in five group fitness classes free of charge May 13 through 18 said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

"During finals week students get stressed out over classes, grades and stuff, and it’s proven that exercise helps relieve stress," Wright said.

“So, we figured we’d offer some classes for free.” Some of the group fitness classes scheduled include Theatrical Dance, Abs Express, Total Body Workout, Cardio Kickboxing, Yoga and Zumba.

“Students get to come in and see what the classes are all about for free," Wright said.

“If they enjoy the classes, then they can keep doing them through the summer and into the fall semester.

“It’s just a way for students to try out some new things and maybe relieve some stress during finals week.” Students have free access to the gym and weight room year ‘round, so activities such as basketball, volleyball, weightlifting and ping pong are open to all students with a current ID during regular hours.

Wellness Center hours are 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information, contact Wright at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu or call the Recreation and Fitness Department office at 682-7860.

GOT SPORTS?
Know of an upcoming event or outstanding athlete?
Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676, or email sportswriter@occc.edu

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to be directed to a list of OCCC Intramural events, complete with the most current updates.

(Free QR code reader apps can be found online or in app stores on smartphones. Follow the directions for the app you download.)

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

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Staff Writer
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Campus police received a report on Friday, April 26, that a woman, 19, had been sexually assaulted on campus about two months prior.

According to the report, the woman's brother came to campus police, telling them the assault had occurred. The man said he had just found out the news that morning. He said he tried to get his sister to report the assault but she declined, asking him to report it for her instead.

The man told campus police his sister did not know which parking lot she was in when the alleged attack took place. The victim also told her brother she could not give the attacker's description because she had kept her eyes closed as it was happening.

According to the man, his sister was not raped. Campus police asked the man to encourage his sister to file a report with their office so they could take steps to identify the attacker and prevent other such incidents on campus.

He also was advised to encourage his sister to seek counseling.

Both the man and his sister declined comment at this time.

The Pioneer will update this story at the Pioneer Online located at www.occc.edu/pioneer as details are available.

Stolen wallet, false fire alarms keep cops busy

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Staff Writer
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A power failure on campus, an auto break-in and burglary, and three fire alarms had campus police busy during the middle of April.

At 12:15 p.m. Friday, April 10, it was reported a power glitch occurred, causing the power on campus to briefly go out.

When the power came back on a few minutes later, it tripped an alarm in the Aquatics Center.

The alarm was reset by campus maintenance.

A student's wallet was reported stolen from her blue 2000 Chevy Silverado on Thursday, April 16. Officer Tim Harris was dispatched to speak to Morgan Burleson who reported the theft had occurred between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. that day.

Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said a tree blocked the view of the security camera inhibiting them from identifying a suspect.

A second fire alarm sounded at 1:07 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Campus police responded to the alarm in the Main Building.

Upon arrival, it was discovered a dirty smoke detector was the cause. The alarm was reset and the smoke detector replaced.

That same day at 5:54 p.m., yet another fire alarm was reported by the lifeguard at the pool deck.

Officer David Madden and Sgt. Kevin Hammond went to the location to investigate and found there was no fire. Hammond silenced and reset the alarm.

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.

Increase: Tuition may rise as much as 5% in the fall

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said it’s difficult to make a call at this time.

"With regards to tuition and fees for next year, it is too early in the budget-building process to know what the final recommendation will be," he said.

"The student Leadership Council adopted a resolution supporting a total increase of less than 5 percent in combined tuition and fees.

"We are always mindful of the cost of going to college and maintain costs that result in OCCC remaining one of the most affordable colleges in the state.”

Sechrist said he is confident any increase would be less than five percent.

“Our commitment is to maintain all of the support services that students rely on to be successful at OCCC and that our students have access to a high quality collegiate experience.”

TLG member Mary Newcome-Hatch explained why she voted for the resolution.

“I have no problem with it,” she said. “OCCC is still the best place [financially] for a person to come.”

Newcome-Hatch is president of Kappa Beta Delta, the organization she represents on the Council. Her major is political science.

Reading from the resolution, Gutierrez said: “Oklahoma City Community College will continue in its commitment to remain fiscally competitive regarding tuition and fees when compared to peer institutions.”

Philosophy major and TLC Representative of the Philosophy Club, Brandon Bourassa, was one of the three dissenting voices.

He said there is “always a better way,” Bourassa said an alternative could be cutting some of the services the college offers.

“I have faith in the leadership,” Bourassa said.

“I think they’ll do what is best for the college, not our pocketbook.”

Sechrist said he understands the students’ perspective.

“I am particularly sensitive to tuition and fee increases since I paid my own way through college, which required me to work and receive financial aid as a student — I know that any increase has an impact.”

The next TLC meeting will be in the fall semester.

The Pioneer will run updates as they are available.

Books: Sell in-store or online

Continued from page 1

she said.

But the bookstore won’t buy books with water damage or if the pages are falling out.

Reinke said the most frequently purchased books are for general education courses: English Comp I and II, government, history and college algebra.

While many students prefer to sell to the bookstore, other students prefer to use popular online buybacks to get a little more cash.

Chegg and Amazon are two of the most popular online websites for reselling textbooks.

“I prefer to sell my books on Chegg or to friends I know that will be taking the class the following semester,” said OCCC student Breanna Dahlquist.

“I can usually get money back from online buybacks and they accept books that the bookstore doesn’t.”

For students wanting to sell their books somewhere other than the bookstore or online, check out Textbook Brokers just across the street at 7445 S May Ave.

“The student Leadership Council adopted a resolution supporting a total increase of less than 5 percent in combined tuition and fees. I have no problem with it,” she said. “OCCC is still the best place [financially] for a person to come.”
Some clubs active throughout summer

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Although it’s not required, several clubs and school organizations will be active during the summer semester, said Student Life Director Erin Logan.

Logan said, in the past couple of years, there has been a huge increase in activity, service and projects from multiple groups.

Logan said the only requirement for clubs that are active in the summer is that they do not make any major decisions, hold elections, or make any constitution changes. This, she said, ensures everyone in the club is present and able to participate in the decision-making process.

“Each club is able to decide how active they wish to be in the summer,” Logan said. “Most clubs do not choose to be active during the summer semester, but it is their choice.

“The Office of Student Life is able to offer clubs the same level of assistance during the summer semester as in the fall,” Logan said.

Logan said, the campus has about 35 to 40 clubs active each semester. Those range from educating students on issues of peace and justice to religion and ethnic groups.

Behind every club and organization is a purpose, she said. A few examples are increasing student development, providing students leadership skills, and receiving peer support.

“Networking among peers with similar interests is also effective for students,” Logan said. “Studies have shown that students who are actively involved on campus also have higher academic scores.”

Logan said each club is tailored differently, with a variety of goals and events.

Clubs host meetings, fundraisers, participate in service learning trips or other community service activities, compete with other clubs, attend national and international conferences, even assist with writing a bill reflecting the students interests, and more, she said.

Logan said having an active club includes some requirements. For instance, students must attend the Fall Leadership retreat, The Leadership Council meetings and the Spring Leadership workshop.

For more information regarding clubs and school organizations please contact the Student Life office at studentlife@occc.edu or by calling 405-682-7523.

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

**SUMMER JOBS**

**THE CITY OF EDMOND**

There are a variety of jobs available at:

- Pelican Bay Aquatic Center,
- Parks & Recreation,
- Arcadia Lake,
- Kickingbird Golf Club,

For information and an application: www.edmondok.com/jobs, — OR — 7 N Broadway, Room 129

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**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

TRIO helps students GRADUATE from OCCC and TRANSFER to earn a Bachelor's degree.

M–F, 8–5 in MB 177 (by the Bursar's Office) www.occc.edu/trio

Now accepting applications for Summer and Fall 2013

**SECS**

**Student Employment & Career Services**

Students register with their 7-digit student ID number
Alumni enter AL+last 5 digits of Social Security number
Find Jobs • Post Your Resume • Apply for Positions

**THIS WEEK’S PIONEER PUZZLE**

Movies: Science Fiction 2

Find and circle all of the Science Fiction movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional Science Fiction movie.  

CEEN IHSNUS C WATCHMEN
KRCL RNTENALPDEROSED
C AEA GERNEROTADERPCAA
ATAIRE MOOKV SS L�THERR
J ASLH HAIMENINBLACK
EVUPIFTNGMRZODRAZNS
EASTLE DAINFDNALTUOT
RLRURKNRPE IT EDTNA
FLXMOACSADEWI JORRA
KASNAENRILZONAKEMS
ABGC MGDSNEDMNNEVQRO
ERPIADECFONIORKRUES
RETOREDGOEEITOSEEPE
BLFUCPNTDDRRLPNNUR
TLMTHEE AOADMTTCESE
UOCIMIMRNRNTVEHAEHYN
POLHULKTSSJIRKIKII
NNAMNORI THEABYSSFDT
SPECSNOITANNEILAY

**REWARD OFFERED:**

For missing prescription glasses. Lost Monday, April 15, on the second floor by the Math Lab or near the coffee shop & restrooms in the Main Building. If found, please turn in to the OCCC police or call Jorie at 405-919-5475.

**It's a connected world. Do your share.**

For 30 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share, 3402 International Drive, NW, Suite 2K (AD4), Washington, DC 20028.

**Student films to be screened on campus May 16**

OCCC Student Film Showcase will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 16, in the Bruce Owen Theater on campus. Nine to 15 student films produced by Film and Video Production majors in the past year will be shown. They range in length from 10 to 30 minutes, including documentaries, narrative shorts and trailers. “Dancing in the Chamber” by Shawn Barfield, which won Best Short Film at the Traildance Film Festival in Duncan, OK, will be included. Barfield graduated in December. Another student film is about a World War II concentration camp. The link to a trailer for the film showcase will appear in a banner on the OCCC home page at occc.edu. For more information, call Coordinator Sean Lynch at 405-682-1611, ext. 7129, or email him at sean.m lynch@occc.edu.
Students can appeal grades by following procedure

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OCCC students who disagree with a final grade can appeal it, said Academic Affairs Associate Vice President Greg Gardner.

Students have 90 days from the end of a semester to appeal a grade, he said.

Gardner said the process to appeal a grade is located on pages 33 and 34 in the Student Handbook and page 34 in the college catalog. It also appears on the college website at www.occc.edu.

According to the Student Handbook instructions, the first step is to contact your professor.

OCCC student Alexis Lehnen said she wasn’t aware she could appeal a grade until she received a grade in math she didn’t agree with.

“I just emailed the teacher after I found out what my grade was,” Lehnen said.

She said she emailed her professor that summer and he recalculated her grade.

Lehnen said she didn’t actually get to meet with her professor until the next semester.

“I went and talked to him and he changed it because he recalculated during the summer when he got my email.

“It was as simple as that.”

If a student is not satisfied with the results from speaking with the professor, the student then contacts the division dean of that department for an appeal form.

The appeal form must be submitted to the appropriate division office within two weeks after the student has met with the professor.

The form asks for the student’s personal information, the professor’s name, course, the date of meeting with instructor, the current grade and the requested grade.

If the student still isn’t satisfied with the results, there is a third step: The student may appeal the instructor’s decision by requesting an appeal hearing before a Grade Appeal Committee.

According to the Student Handbook, “The student’s appeal must be in writing directed to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and must be received by the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs within five working Days of the student’s receipt of written notification from the Division Dean.

“The Grade Appeal Committee shall consider all information and documents presented by the student and the instructor, and the recommendation of the relevant Division Dean.”

The committee, according to the handbook, is made up of “six faculty, one from each of the academic divisions, who have been elected by the faculty in the respective divisions, not to include the instructor involved in the case. The Grade Appeal Committee will also include three students selected by the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services.”

At that point, only a unanimous decision will result in a grade being changed. The student is notified within five working days by certified mail.

Lehnen said she is glad OCCC has a process in place to appeal grades because some students may be afraid to speak out or confront the situation if they have an issue.

For more information on the Student Grade Appeals process, contact the Academic Affairs office at 405-682-7546.

Final grades for the summer should be posted to student records by May 23, said Academic Advising Assistant Director Jill Lindblad.