

PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INSIDE

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EDITORIAL

HELPING HANDS STILL NEEDED

Editor Chris James says as the news about Oklahoma's recent tornadoes winds down, volunteers are still needed.

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CAMPUS LIFE

MAY TORNADOES AFFECT MANY

When tornadoes moved through the state May 19 and 20, OCCC offered shelter and afterwards, help to those in its path. Read more.

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STUDENTS CAN GET FIT FOR NO COST

Current students with a valid OCCC ID can use the college gym, weight room and pool for free. Get more information and a listing of hours for each area.

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CAMPUS LIFE

CULTURAL CENTER OPEN TO EVERYONE

The World Languages and Cultures Center offers all students access to tutoring services, Rosetta Stone and more.

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MAY 31, 2013

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



Project Manager Larry Barnes looks at plans for new sidewalk construction and landscaping.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Construction closes parts of campus

CHRIS JAMES
Pioneer Editor
editor@occc.edu

Sidewalk, landscaping project to last into October and cost around \$1 million

New sidewalk construction and landscaping work around the Visual and Performing Arts Center has made it necessary to reroute both vehicle and foot traffic, said Project Manager Larry Barnes.

Barnes said a portion of parking lot C, Main Building Entry 2, Arts and Humanities Entry 1, Visual and Performing Arts Center Entry 2 and the VPAC delivery area are now inaccessible since the work began May 21.

A portion of Regents Boulevard also has been reduced to one-lane traffic during the

construction.

Accompanying the theater plans, Barnes said, the sidewalk and landscaping construction are part of a 10-year campus beautification program.

"... We're into the seventh (year), coming up on the eighth year now," he said.

Barnes said the 10-year plan also included the campus perimeter's wrought iron fence and the recently planted trees around campus.

Barnes said the new phase of construction is costing just under \$1 million and will include new sidewalks along the north side of campus, extensive landscaping and irrigation,

increased accessibility and the creation of a "crown jewel" project — an area where sidewalks meet at a circle of trees and benches — where there is now only grass.

He said the new sidewalks are meant to create a safe walking path from parking lot B to the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library and Main Building.

As far as the project's timing, Barnes said that was well thought out, too.

"First, safety is absolutely paramount in everything we do and trying to accommodate students — they're the reason we're here," he said. "Summer is the only strategic time to be

able to do it."

The work is scheduled to continue until the end of October, Barnes said.

Closed entrances are marked by yellow caution tape. In accordance with the fire code, the entrances may still be used as exits in emergency situations, he said, but should otherwise be avoided.

In the meantime, Barnes said, he advises anyone needing access to the Arts and Humanities Building or the VPAC, to park in parking lots D or A. There is no access to parking lot C.

For more information about parking lot closures and building access, contact the Safety and Security office at 405-682-7872.

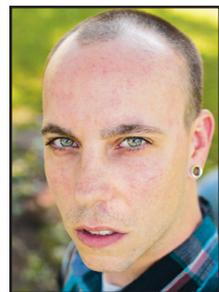
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Volunteering seems to be engrained in state citizens

Oklahomans help their own

In the aftermath of the May 19 and 20 tornadoes that uprooted trees and lives as they ripped through Edmond, Shawnee, Bethel Acres, Newcastle and Moore, it's been encouraging to see the outpouring of relief effort.

It's one more example of how, whenever a disaster strikes, Oklahomans generally look out for one another.



CHRIS JAMES

As a state, we've faced some of the worst events in U.S. history — severe droughts, wildfires, race riots, economic collapse, terrorist attacks and a tornado season that destroys homes and businesses each year.

Earlier generations endured the Dust Bowl and Great Depression of the 1930s.

Racial minorities, particularly African and Native Americans, have faced extreme prejudice

— even having their cultures stripped away and their communities burned to the ground.

On April 19, 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City became the site of the the largest domestic terrorist attack on U.S. soil. The devastation claimed 168 lives and left more than 680 injured.

The F5 tornado that struck the Bridgecreek, Oklahoma City and Moore areas on May 3, 1999, killed 36 people and did an estimated \$1.1 billion in damage.

In each of these past disasters, Oklahomans have pulled together to help communities heal and rebuild stronger than before. I'm confident this time will be no different.

Almost immediately after the May 19 and 20 storms cleared, volunteers and rescue workers flooded the affected areas to assist in the search, rescue and recovery efforts. Donation drives quickly formed, providing essential items people need when they have lost everything.

The nation watched and admired the outpouring of helpfulness they saw. And some questioned why so many people dropped everything to run to the aid of others.

The Journal of Emergency Management shows people give and volunteer for various reasons — compassion, sympathy, recognition, tax deductions, guilt, peer pressure or even a rewarding afterlife.

Whatever a person's motivation to help others happens to be, everyone who is able should get involved in the latest relief effort. It's not too late. There are still plenty of ways to help out and help will be needed for months to come.

What's in it for you?

According to www.givingandvolunteering.ca, there



are benefits to volunteering.

“More than 79 percent of volunteers said their volunteer activities helped them better their interpersonal skills, such as understanding people better, motivating others, and dealing with difficult situations.”

Long after the media has left to report the next breaking news story and many volunteers are back to their own lives, those affected by the recent storms will need help. Be that help.

—CHRIS JAMES
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Health Department offers tips to cope with recent tornadoes

Guidance offered for children affected by disaster

To the Editor:

The Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD) is committed to serving the needs to our local community whenever there is a need.

In response to [the May 21] tornado in Moore and Southern Oklahoma City, the Child Guidance Clinic at OCCHD would like to offer some tips to parents with concerns for the mental well-being of the children affected by this tragedy.

- Focus on safety first. Make sure your child has a feeling of safety. If you are displaced, (find) secure shelter immediately, preferably with someone your child already knows.
- Comfort your child through games, singing songs

or even through lots of hugs. Give verbal reassurances that they are safe.

- Allow your child to express his/her feelings about what has just occurred. Make sure your child understands what has happened (to an age appropriate degree of disclosure) and what you plan to do as a family for the next few days.
- Try to limit your child's exposure to media coverage of the disaster. Ask that other adults around your child be very aware of their conversations, as well.
- Connect yourself and your child with a support system as soon as possible. Maintaining contact with family and friends will help you and your child retain some sense of normalcy in the midst of this situation.

- Maintain personal care for yourself, through proper eating, sleeping and medical care. Your child will usually follow your lead on how to handle this situation.
- Try to stay as positive as you can.
- Allow three to four weeks for your child's behavior to return to normal. At that point, if you have any concerns do not hesitate to seek professional help.

The Child Guidance Clinic at the OCCHD is available to assist you as well.

For more information, contact the Child Guidance Clinic at OCCHD at 405-425-4412.

—OKLAHOMA CITY COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PIONEER

Vol. 41 No. 33

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

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

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

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

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

SERIES REVIEW | 'Continuum' keeps reviewer coming back for more

Sci-fi series out of this world

I recently watched the first season of the science fiction show "Continuum" and I am so glad I did.

The show follows Rachel Nichols, who plays police detective Kiera Cameron, from the year 2077.

Nichols' focus is a terrorist group called Liber8te. In season one, the group blows up a building and eight of their key members are then captured by the police force.

Scheduled to be executed, the eight Liber8te members use time travel to escape their deaths.

Cameron, who happens to be in the same area at the time, is pulled into the year 2012 with them.

The first season is about Kiera trying to stop Liber8te and get back home to her husband and son in 2077.

Kiera poses as a Section Six officer and joins a police department in 2012 so she can catch the terrorists. She is helped by teenager Alec Sadler, played by Erik Knudson, a technology whiz who will be a prominent figure in 2077.

Each episode has flashbacks from Kiera's memories that tie into the cases Kiera is working with her 2012 partner Carlos Fonnegra played by Victor Webster. Kiera begins to connect the dots toward Liber8te's plans for 2012 and how they ripple into 2077.

Season one has 10 awesome episodes with a cliff-



hanger in the last episode that will have you itching for more.

The series is very gray — no good and bad. Even the

Liber8te group can be seen in a different light other than terrorists.

Kiera finds herself a part of many events she had previously only read about in history books, now that she is a part of 2012.

She does her best to stop those events and change how the future will unfold.

Kiera meets people who will be key players in the 2077 society — the most important being Sadler, whose technology will be the controlling force in the future.

I enjoyed the first season immensely and was able to watch it in one week on Netflix.

Each episode gave one more piece to the puzzle for a slightly clearer picture while adding more questions at the same time. "Continuum" is my new Sci-Fi obsession.

Season two starts Friday, June 7, on the SciFi channel, according to www.syfy.com/continuum.

Rating: A+

—BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
STAFF WRITER

MOVIE REVIEW | Third time is not the charm in this case

'Hangover III' dark, disappointing

"The Hangover Part III" hit theaters May 24 as the newest addition to the "Hangover" series. The movie was a little disappointing to me in the sense that it was not as funny as I had hoped.

Spoiler Alert! The movie does not work around the basis of a wedding like the previous two, which was kind of disappointing. Instead, it starts as Mr. Chow (Ken Jeong), a character from an earlier "Hangover" movie, escapes from prison and is chased by guard dogs.

Fast forward to the Wolf Pack — played by Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Justin Bartha — staging an intervention for Zach Galifianakis' character Alan who, it turns out, has been off of his medication for some time.

As the four take off on their journey to get Alan help, they are kidnapped by Black Doug's boss, the drug dealer from the first movie, and forced to take extreme measures to find Mr. Chow and return a large amount of gold to Black Doug's boss.

Throughout the movie it seems Chow will meet his match and be killed off, but he always escapes.



In the end, everyone wins except the massive number of people who die.

Part of what made the first "Hangover" movie so great was the small jabs and pokes taken at

the characters throughout the movie. This film was missing a lot of those and some of the jabs are not that funny.

The series should have ended at the first movie and I knew this walking into the theater.

The second movie was an acquired taste. This third movie is too serious to be a "Hangover" movie. Too many people die for it to be funny.

If you like the second film, I would suggest this movie. If you like the first but not the second, I would not. Viewing the film a second time may help.

Until then, my opinion of this movie stands: It's too serious, off-the-beaten path and possibly running the series into the ground.

Rating: D

—KATIE HORTON
STAFF WRITER

COUNSELOR'S Corner Commit to your goals

"The elevator to success is out of order. You'll have to use the stairs ... one step at a time."

—Rande Wilson

As we begin the summer semester, we want to take a moment to welcome you and to offer some tips that might help you enhance your academic experiences and successes.

First, if we or anyone else has asked you if you're sure you're comfortable with what you've signed up for — number of hours, combination of courses, or delivery method — and your response has been, "Sure, how hard can it be?" we ask that you pause and answer that question. Have you considered how much time will be involved to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful? Are you willing to put in the time that may be required outside of class (especially in online formats) in order to be successful? Learning and success take time. If your decisions about taking classes are driven by a sense of "being behind" or by how many hours you need to take in order to get the most financial aid, you may not be making the best choices for yourself and the following advice may not help much.

If you are comfortable with what you're taking, then understand the importance of going to class. If you're in online classes, that means logging in and beginning work on day one. In traditional classes, that means going to class on day one and every day thereafter. Whether absences result in an actual grade-loss penalty or just the loss of information and opportunity, not being in class will cost you. Make the commitment to attend.

It's the 21st century and nearly everything we take for granted in the world is tied to technology. Accept that and get comfortable with the fact that even traditional classes may incorporate (REQUIRE) the use of technology either in or out of the classroom. Being able to text or post your status on Facebook doesn't equate to having adequate skills for your classroom experience. If you don't have those skills, we strongly encourage you to begin with a basic computer class here or at your local library so you can keep up with course demands. We have plenty of computers on campus for your use if you don't have a computer at home or reliable Internet connection, but you must make time to be here to use it.

Have your books, access codes and any other materials on the first day of class, especially for online classes. This will help you get off to a strong start so you can have a strong finish.

Ask for help. This college has amazing resources, but they will be worthless to you if you don't access and use them. If you aren't sure what these are or how to use them, stop by the Office of Student Support Services and let us assist you. Our services, which include accommodations, counseling, and learning support, are free and confidential. We can't make this journey for you, but we might help make it easier.

—MARY TURNER AND ALTA PRICE
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | 'Secondhand Rapture' sure to bring duo acclaim

MS MR beautifully cross all music genres

New York dream pop duo MS MR recently released a stunning debut album. "Secondhand Rapture," the band's first full-length effort, was released on May 14 and has taken alternative music charts by storm.

MS MR piqued the interest of many listeners in late 2012 when they released a four-song EP.

All four tracks featured on the EP also are featured on "Secondhand Rapture" but in the group's downtime while recording the full-length album, they reworked the songs to make them even more impressive.

MS MR's music is appealing because of all the ways it's different: it's hard to find a niche where the creepy, atmospheric sounds of MS MR might fit in with ease, but without a well-established genre to define them, the group flourishes in a realm where they are free to experiment with different sounds.

The one thing that lacked on MS MR's EP was the instrumentation behind the songs.

On "Secondhand Rapture," the half-finished melodies and music tracks become fully realized in a way that complements lead singer's Lizzy Plapinger's unique voice in unexpected and surprisingly moving ways.

Standouts on "Secondhand Rapture" are "Bones,"

"BTSK," and "This Isn't Control." These are the songs where musicianship is at its best in all forms, displayed through the instrumentation, vocal capabilities and lyrics.

In two places, the album seems a bit oddly paced; the placement of the track "Salty Sweet," an upbeat almost saccharine tune, between two of the more brooding, darker songs on the album seems a bit odd to me and makes for a change of theme and tempo that is distinctly unnecessary.

Aside from a couple tracks that seem to stick out like sore thumbs and warrant the skip feature to be employed, the album has way more hits than misses.

All in all, "Secondhand Rapture" is one of the strongest debut showings I've seen from a rookie band in some time.

I expect big things from MS MR in the future and believe "Secondhand Rapture" has set them on a path for certain acclaim.

"Secondhand Rapture" is available on iTunes and in music stores near you.

Rating: A-

—KATIE THURMAN
STAFF WRITER



MOVIE REVIEW | The long drive out of state worth the end result

The Killers full of high-energy, fun

The Killers rocked the Verizon Theatre earlier this month in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Lead singer Brandon Flowers had the crowd on its feet as the show opened with "Mr. Brightside" promptly at 9 p.m. Flowers' energy was high as he bounced across stage, occasionally hopping up on LED boxes that lined the front of the stage and projected graphics during each song, or playing his lightning bolt-shaped keyboard which changed colors throughout the show.

A selection of new songs off the band's newest album "Battle Born" kept the momentum going, followed by old favorites such as "Smile Like You Mean It."

Flowers slowed things down when he sat down to play a solo piano intro to "Bling (Confession of a King)." The audience listened intently and after several seconds of playing, Flowers stopped mid-song to say:

"I don't know if you guys are quiet because you are being polite or just don't know the song."

This brought a chuckle from the audience and Flowers continued the piece.

Following a couple more slow-paced songs such as "Human," the band sped things up with hit song "Somebody Told Me" which had the audience dancing and singing along.

The band next surprised the crowd by doing a cover of the song "I Think We're Alone Now."

"Tiffany stole this song from the Tommy James and the Shondells and tonight we're stealing it back," Flowers said to a cheering crowd.

Old and new favorites such as "Read My Mind" and "Runaways" led the crowd into further excitement. Perhaps the coolest part of the concert was during "All These Things I Have Done," the last song played before the encore. The song had the entire crowd chanting the famous lines "I got soul but I'm not a soldier" long before they were prompted. The song ended with an explosion of confetti during the last chorus which had the audience roaring with applause.

Following a five-minute break, the band returned for a three-song encore. "I know it's a Thursday night but it always feels like a Saturday night to us," Flowers said. "We're here to make you party."

"Battle Born" was the last song played before the band took their final bows and exited the stage.

After many years of wanting to see The Killers live, they did not disappoint. The 20-song set list had the perfect mixture of new and old, and the graphics and special effects went along perfectly with each song.

Despite the concert being on a weeknight and in a different state, the band's energy and party-like atmosphere made it worth the three- and-a-half-hour drive there and back. The fact that even people in the very back of the arena stood up and sang along during the entire show made it that much more enjoyable. It was an excellent first time seeing The Killers and definitely won't be my last.

Rating: A

—ERIN PEDEN
ONLINE EDITOR

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of May 24 through May 26
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Fast & Furious*
2. *Hangover Part III*
3. *Star Trek Into Darkness*
4. *Epic*
5. *Iron Man 3*
6. *The Great Gatsby*
7. *Mud*
8. *42*
9. *The Croods*
10. *Oblivion*
11. *Oz the Great and Powerful*
12. *Pain & Gain*
13. *Frances Ha*
14. *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*
15. *The Iceman*
16. *Peeples*
17. *Escape from Planet Earth*
18. *Before Midnight*
19. *The Big Wedding*
20. *Love Is All You Need*

STUDENTS, STAFF, COMMUNITY TOOK SHELTER AT OCCC FROM RECENT TORNADOES

Official says alert system was effective May 20

KATIE THURMAN

Staff Writer

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When it was clear a tornado capable of destroying everything in its path was headed toward south Oklahoma City and Moore on the afternoon of May 20, OCCC officials sprang into action. They immediately notified students that a tornado warning had been issued for Oklahoma County, said John Richardson, Web Development & Social Media supervisor.

“Using the Campus Alert Notification System, we sent a message out at 2:46 p.m.,” Richardson said.

He said the initial message informed students that a tornado warning had been issued for Oklahoma County. A subsequent message said the warning included the OCCC campus and advised students to move to safe places within the building.

Richardson said the same message was broadcast across campus via internal and external loudspeakers, computers and telephones.

On May 20, he said, four separate messages were sent to students through the Campus Alert Notification System to update and inform students about the threat of severe weather in the area.

A message sent at 3:58 p.m. after the immediate threat was over, informed students and that all classes and activities were canceled for the remainder of the afternoon.

At 4:25 p.m. the campus announced it would be closed immediately, effective for all students and faculty. OCCC employees were told, unless otherwise instructed by their immediate supervisor, to go home for the remainder of the day.

A final message was sent out at 9:47 p.m. informing students the campus would be closed on Tuesday, May 21, “due to several students, staff and faculty members being affected by the recent storms.”

Richardson said he believes the system was effective in getting out alerts to inform students.

“Obviously, one of the challenges in a situation like this, when it comes to text messages in particular, is that they rely on cell towers which may or may not



PHOTO COURTESY OF RONNA AUSTIN

Students watch weather reports while sheltering in a classroom in the underground portion of the Main Building on May 20 where they, faculty, staff and people from the surrounding community took cover.

even still be there after a storm,” Richardson said.

“So we’re victims of the technology that we utilize.”

Despite that, Richardson said, he believes officials on campus were adequately prepared to inform students of the threats of the impending storm.

“Obviously feedback from people is important to us,” he said.

“Because if there are some shortcomings [with the Campus Alert Notification System], we need to be aware of them.

“We know that the system is functioning properly but if the messages aren’t reaching everyone, we need to know about that so we know why people might not have been notified.

“We don’t want to just sit back and say the system worked fine ... and if it didn’t, we want to know because as [President Paul] Sechrist has said many times,

“

Using the Campus Alert Notification System, we sent a message out at 2:24 p.m.”

—JOHN RICHARDSON

WEB DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

safety is of paramount importance on this campus.”

Student Amy Truong said she received all the email alerts about the weather on May 20.

Truong said she feels safer knowing that OCCC has an effective campus alert system to inform her about the weather.

“I think it helps a lot because if we didn’t have [the Campus Alert Notification System], we would be late knowing the news and that could put us in danger.”

OCCC opens parking area to clean-up crews

BUFFIE RICHARDSON
BROWN

Senior Writer

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After May 20, OCCC assisted with the tornado relief efforts in many ways, including offering parking for vehicles used to remove storm debris in Moore.

An email sent by Business and Finance Vice President John Boyd explained: “ ... OCCC has agreed to allow

a portion of parking lot C to accommodate mobilization to provide support for tornado cleanup efforts in the affected communities throughout the OKC metro area.”

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority Maintenance Director Mark Kalka said his crew congregated at OCCC on the day after the storm.

Kalka said the location was ideal.

“ ... [OCCC] was close in

proximity but far enough away that our crews were not disruptive to the emergency relief the victims were getting,” he said.

“It was definitely close enough that when they finally released us to go in and start cleanup efforts, it provided really good access to the storm affected area.”

Facilities Management Director J. B. Messer agreed it was the best location.

“We are pretty much cen-

trally located to all of the areas affected.

“It was a good strategic point for them to mobilize.

“...Providing them a place to assimilate was in the best interest for the state and OCCC ...,” Messer said.

Kalka said the parking that was provided and the staff who assisted with the coordination were appreciated.

“[Messer] was so accommodating,” he said. “That was just

a rewarding experience visiting with him.

“We tried to minimize the amount of parking that we used but that staff was just very courteous.

“I can’t tell just how much we appreciate that.”

Messer said the entire procedure took two days.

“It started first thing Tuesday morning and they were fully mobilized by the end of the day Thursday,” he said.

Tornado leaves OCCC employee homeless

**BUFFIE RICHARDSON
BROWN**
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

When an EF5 tornado ripped through Moore on the afternoon of May 20, several OCCC employees and students suffered losses in the storm.

Financial Aid Adviser Theresa Shaklee lost her home that day. She shared her story by email.

Shaklee said she was at work when the tornado hit. One of her two roommates was home, she said, but unknown to Shaklee, had left before the tornado hit their neighborhood.

“While we were in the shelter at OCCC, I was watching the news coverage of the storm and just praying she was safe.”

About 30 minutes after the storm, Shaklee’s roommate sent her a text message saying she was safe but their house was gone.

Shaklee said she was not able to see what was left of their house until two days later.

“The whole week was just surreal,” she said. “It was so strange to look around and not even be able to identify the homes that I drove by every day.

“Before, if you looked around the neighborhood, all you could see were homes across the street. Now you can see for miles because there’s just nothing there.”

Shaklee said she could never have imagined the help she was about to receive.

“Everyone has been so generous this past week,” she said. “There have been so many coworkers, friends, family members, and complete strangers showering me with prayers, positive thoughts, gift cards, clothes, food — anything you can think of.

“Even as I dug through what was left of my house, there were constantly people stopping by to ask if we needed gloves, water, shovels, food, medical assistance, or even help digging things out.”

Shaklee said she feels fortunate despite having lost so much.

“I am lucky to have family and friends nearby who I was able to immediately turn to for help. I can’t imagine what it must be like for a family who doesn’t have that support system close by.”

She said those wanting to help victims from the May 19 and 20 tornadoes can do so by supporting the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and local organizations.

“Each of these groups had volunteers in the neighborhoods immediately and were such a huge help,” Shaklee said.

For more information on OCCC students and employees who were affected by the tornado and how to help, visit the OCCC website at www.occc.edu and click OCCC Cares.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE SHAKLEE

Very little is left of Financial Aid Adviser Theresa Shaklee’s home in Moore after an EF5 tornado moved through the area May 20.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA HAWKINS

A close-up view of the damage done to Financial Aid Adviser Theresa Shaklee’s home in Moore.

College sets up drive-through donation site

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Toothbrushes, baby wipes, coloring books and more were brought to OCCC May 23 and 24 as the college acted as a collection site for items needed by those affected by the May 20 tornado that destroyed portions of nearby Moore.

A drop-off line was set up outside of the former Child Development Center on the southeast side of the campus, said Alumni Relations and Community Development Coordinator Randy Cassimus.

Cassimus said donors didn't have to leave their cars. They were able to drive up and drop off the items with volunteers which included college employees, University of Oklahoma employees and Thunder girls.

Cassimus coordinated the volunteer effort for the OCCC donation drive.

"I was very pleased with the helpful spirit of OCCC staff and students," he said. "The offers to volunteer were overwhelming."

"We had way more volunteer offers than we had slots to actually place them," he said. "That was nice to see that so many people were willing to help."

OCCC partnered with a local non-profit organization for the donation drive, Cassimus said.

"Christmas Connection was our partner in this," he said. "We collected the donations for them and they will do the distribution to the folks in need."

Student Max Stewart said the drive was needed. He said several of his friends lost their homes in the tornado.

"I think [it's] great," Stewart said. "... It's a rough time for everyone and if people can help and are willing to ... I support that."

Cassimus said more than 83 toothbrushes, 32 bars of soap, 12 pans, dishes, shoes, diapers, baby wipes, 13 cans of baby formula, nine coloring books and five packs of crayons were collected.

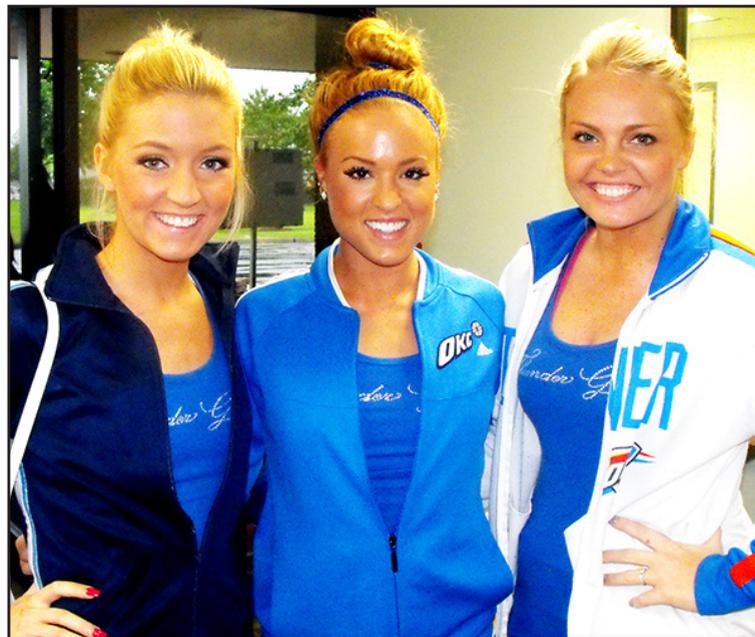
He said he was pleased with the results of the drive.

"I think we should be happy and proud of lending a hand and helping to facilitate donations getting to neighbors in need," Cassimus said.

For more information about the OCCC donation drive, contact Cassimus at 405-682-1611, ext. 7478, or email rcassimus@occc.edu.



BUFFIE BROWN/PIONEER



Above:
OCCC receives help during the drive from OU employees Jerry Teddy and Adam Whitworth.

Left: Thunder girls Ashley, Dominique and Kelsey help the college collect donations for those affected by the May 20 tornado.

Tornado victims, volunteers can rely on state resources

Those affected by the May 19 and May 20 tornadoes can use the following resources to get needed help:

- www.okstrong.ok.gov: provides up-to-date information and resources.

- www.safeandwell.org: those affected by the storm are urged to report their whereabouts on this American Red Cross website.

- **405-522-3908**: Licensed mental health professionals, certified case managers or certified recovery support specialists who would like to assist victims should call this number.

- www.fema.gov/disaster-survivor-assistance: To contact FEMA, Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency.

- **1-800-621-3362**: FEMA. Homeowners, renters and business owners in the following counties: Cleveland, Lincoln, McClain, Oklahoma and Pottawatomie are encouraged to register with FEMA for potential recovery assistance.

The same counties were also approved for public assistance to include debris removal, emergency protective measures and direct federal assistance.

- **Fraud Hotline 405-521-2029**: Investigators with the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office are investigating instances of price gouging and ask that anyone who experiences price gouging contact

the AG's office immediately on the Fraud hotline.

- **Dial 2-1-1**: For Oklahoma residents seeking non-emergency disaster or health and human service information. Services are available 24 hours a day by dialing 2-1-1 from your home or cellular phone.

- **National Disaster Photo Rescue**, a non-profit organization, is currently working in Moore. According to their website, the company will "rescue, save and return photos, documents and other personal memorabilia to owners."

Volunteers are needed to help with things like searching for, scanning, editing or returning photos.

To volunteer or find lost

photos, visit www.nationaldisasterphotorescue.net.

There also are a number of ways the community can help victims of the recent May 19 and 20 tornadoes.

- **www.okmrc.org**: Those who want to volunteer to help with disaster relief should register on the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC) website. Volunteers without a background in medical training also are needed.

- **Science Museum Oklahoma** located at 2100 NE 52 in Oklahoma City, is one of many places serving as a relief donation drop-off location for items such as bottled water, diapers, baby formula and canned foods. For more information,

call 405-602-6664, visit www.sciencemuseumok.org, or checkout their Facebook page.

- **Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity** is looking for donations and volunteers to assist with the massive rebuilding effort ahead.

According to their website, www.cohfh.org, able companies can donate by giving roofing, plumbing, lumber or other building materials. For more information, call 405-232-4828.

- **The Oklahoma Blood Institute** is always in need of blood donations, especially after major disasters.

Visit www.obi.org or call 405-278-3100 to find a nearby location.

SPORTS

Running toward fitness



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Nursing student Chau Le burns some calories on a treadmill in the Recreation and Fitness Center May 28. OCCC's weight and cardio room summer hours are 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays. The gym is open 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Neither are open Saturday or Sunday. The weightroom is free to students with a current I.D.

SPORTS | OCCC offers both free and affordable ways to shape up

Students can stay fit in many ways

KATIE HORTON
Community Writer
clubreporter@occc.edu

The Wellness Center offers fitness classes and services for students year 'round, said said Brooke Dresel, Aquatic and Wellness Center Customer Service Assistant.

Some of those services are free.

Those include use of the weight room, gym, cardio room and the pool, Dresel said.

Some of the free student services offered in the Aquatic Center are water walking, deep-water walking and adult lap swimming.

The pool is open several hours each day for recreational swimming as well, she said, which can be found in the Summer Fitness and Enrich-

ment Programs catalog which can be picked up in the Wellness Center located on the first floor of the Main Building or viewed at www.occc.edu/rf/enrichment.

The weight room, gym and cardio room are open most days from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

There also are group fitness classes for everyone of all ages for a fee, Dresel said.

Those include Zumba and Yoga classes, she said.

Those who want some flexibility to try out different classes can purchase a group fitness pass for \$35.

"You just need to bring a valid student ID to the gym check-in window or the office and they can help with that," Dresel said.

Students also can drop into classes

for a fee per class.

Lockers are available to anyone for a fee of \$25 for six months and \$50 for a year. Locks are provided by the renter. Small coin lockers are available for 25 cents per day.

Kids camps, sports camps and teen camps also are available during the summer.

Teen camps are for children age 12 to 14, while the other camps start at 6-years-old and go up to 12-years-old for other camps.

Advanced Competitive Swimming is the only camp offered for those up to age 18.

Camps for children include Intro Karate, Intro Competitive Swimming and Intro Soccer Fundamentals.

For more information call the 405-682-7860.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **June 3 through Aug. 2: OCCC Summer Camps:** Campers enrolled in morning and afternoon camps will have a supervised lunch from noon to 1 p.m. They may bring their own lunch or purchase a lunch ticket from the cafeteria for \$5.25/day. Camps offered are:

• **Childrens Sports Camps:**

Campers, age 6 through 12, meet from 8 a.m. to noon weekly on the OCCC campus. Sport camps focus on teaching basic fundamentals, and building the skills and confidence of young athletes in a fun and safe environment.

• **Recreational Children's Camp:**

Meets from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekly. Campers, age 6 through 11, will participate in health and wellness activities such as indoor/outdoor group games, swim time and field trips that promote an active lifestyle.

All-Day Fit Kids Camps:

Campers, age 6 through 14 will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a fun-packed week of swimming, indoor/outdoor games, and major field trips.

Teen Camp:

For ages 12 through 14, teens will explore careers and focus on character development such as leadership and responsibility as they interact with people and services within their community. Participants will receive volunteer/community hours and letters.

For more information about any of the camps, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone 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 smart phones. 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.

Note left on car, tripped alarm reported

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Senior Write
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Campus police followed up on a call about a vulgar note left for a student and an active alarm at the FACE Center May 10 and 11.

At 9:54 a.m. Friday, May 10, Kelly Williams reported a note had been left on her windshield the day before, May 9.

Williams said she discovered the note at 3:30 p.m. The report showed the note read "You piece of shit.

You need to learn how to park properly. From all OCCC students."

Williams said her left tire was on the line that divides parking spaces but said she did not believe that warranted the note. Campus police urged Williams to report any further incidents.

Officer Patrick Martino was in the campus police office at 4 p.m., Saturday, May 11, when the FACE center alarm sounded.

Martino and Officer Jimmie Watts went to the building to investigate and found there was no forced entry. A search of the building yielded no suspects,

property damage or stolen items. Martino and Watts re-set the alarm and secured the building.

Camera footage was reviewed later that showed a juvenile, approximately 10- to 12-years-old, had entered the building through the older doors of the center. Once in the building, the juvenile went to the vending machines to buy a snack. While at the machines the alarm went off, startling the suspect who ran out of the building through the front door.

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.

Tutoring program being developed by TRiO

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Senior Write
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC students can gain many benefits from signing up to tutor their fellow students TRiO Grant Programs Director Karolyn Chowning said.

Students also can earn volunteer hours by completing the four tutoring training sessions required to take part in the program, TRiO Grant Programs Director Karolyn Chowning said.

Once all four are completed, Chowning said, students will earn a completion certificate.

Chowning said the training sessions will be from 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. in AH 1D1 on the following dates: Tuesday, June 18, "Tutors Role"; Tuesday, June 25, "Tutoring Cycle"; Tuesday, July 9, "Talking & Listening," and Tuesday, July 16, "Patterns & Differences."

"[TRiO and Student Life] are doing this as a collaboration," Chowning said.

She said the session in April and the sessions in June, July and September will be led jointly by Student Life Assistant Director Chris Shelley and TRiO SSS Assistant Director Jessica Nelson.

"Chris and I obtained the grant," Chowning said. "I will be doing work behind the scene, like signing people up."

Chowning said her area already has tutors available to the students but said there is a need in other areas.

With 160 students a year, the TRiO program accounts for less than one percent of the students on campus, she said.

According to the college website, the Federal TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"So our office, like many offices, got a lot of requests for help with tutoring," Chowning said.

"I think that the learning labs are so helpful but even the Math Lab and the Comm Lab hear regularly from students [saying] 'No I need someone to sit down with me every week' and ultimately that is the problem we are trying to solve."

"So out of the office of Planning and Research we were awarded a one-year innovation grant to be able to provide this kind of new idea that would hopefully impact student success, retention and graduation," Chowning said.

Nelson said the thoughts behind the training were to have available and trained tutors to help students be more successful in their classes and to increase retention.

"... We were awarded a one-year innovation grant to be able to provide this kind of new idea that would hopefully impact student success, retention and graduation."

—KAROLYN CHOWNING
TRiO GRANT PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

"We had several students sign up for the June/July session and we had a session in April as well.

"We have had four students sign up for June/July so far," Nelson said. "And we had about 18 who did at least two sessions and nine who did all four classes in April.

"Most of the students were very positive about it and appreciated it," she said.

"I had a few say that the things we discussed were going to help them be better students..."

"I actually had comments of 'It needed to be a little bit longer' so those [comments] were all very positive."

Chowning said it's not yet been determined what, if any, qualifications students would need to meet to receive tutoring.

"We are still really early in the process, we will probably offer it to anybody that feels they need it," Chowning said.

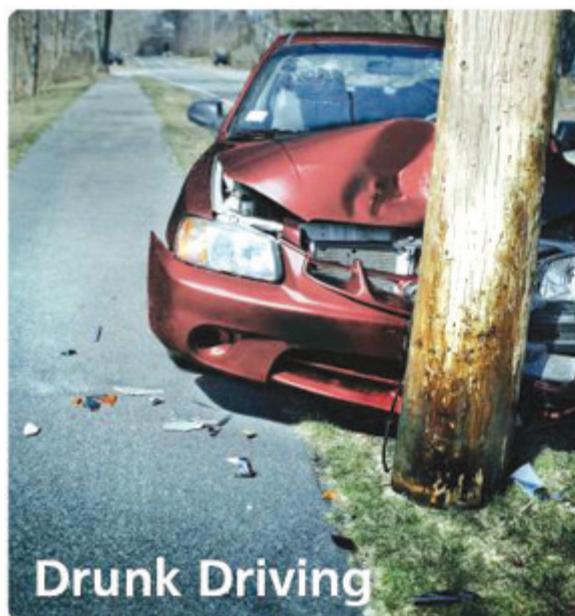
She said the group best served may be with students who are concurrently taking more than one developmental.

"Nothing is set in stone," she said.

"We don't know exactly how it will be set up.

"When I have been pitching the idea, it will either be like you sign up for a campus group or maybe just emailtutor@occc and the three of us [Chowning, Shelley, Nelson] will match students with tutors."

For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523 or TRiO at 405-682-7865 or email kchowning@occc.edu.



CAMPUS COMMUNITY

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Information building



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC Librarians Tricia Sweany and Ann Raia construct a tornado display that was set to be on display for the month of May in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. The display was later taken down out of respect for the May 20 tornado victims and survivors.

COMMUNITY | Tutoring, world television coverage and more offered to students

Language center services free with ID

The World Languages and Cultures Center on the second floor of the Main Building is open for services during the summer semester.

All services offered in the center are free to students, including the Rosetta Stone language programs and tutoring, said Chaiki Troutman, World Languages and Cultures Center Coordinator.

Rosetta Stone can be used by all students even if they are not enrolled in a foreign language class, Troutman said. The Rosetta Stone program offers 11 different languages, she said.

“Anyone who wants to learn another language and explore cultures [can use the program],” she said.

Troutman said students should bring in an OCCC ID to access a course.

Troutman said the program also can be accessed in the Communications Lab on the first floor of the Main Building.

There also are dictionaries in other languages available in the lab for student use.

Students in the World Languages and Cultures Center also have access to Foreign Satellite, a way to watch television from many different countries.

“Students can come in and watch the TV and we always have it on the news,” Troutman said.

Foreign Satellite can be accessed through the computers in the center.

In addition to television, students also have access to an International Film Collection of DVDs that are in different languages.

“We allow students to watch movies we have in the lab on computers or on their laptops,” said Troutman.

A list of films in the office can be picked up at the front door, she said. The films range from Arabic to Spanish to Tajik.

ESL software also is available to students.

The program is set up to help those whose first language isn't English practice reading and writing the language.

Tutoring also is offered to students who are enrolled in foreign language classes.

“Tutoring (classes and times) will be posted in the first week of the semester,” Troutman said.

Summer tutoring hours in the World Languages and Cultures Center are from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

Troutman said the center also will host Spanish and French grammar workshops, although the dates have not been released yet.

Summer Kids Camps offered at OCCC

OCCC Recreation and Fitness offers camps for children ages 6 to 15 for half-day or whole-day fun. Children can participate in sports camps including basketball, baseball, flag football, multi-sports, cheer, dance, tennis and more. All enrollments are due by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the Monday start date of that class. To enroll a child or for more information, stop by the OCCC Recreation and Fitness office or call 405-682-7860.

Summer College for Kids

OCCC Community Outreach and Education will offer a wide variety of classes this summer at the FACE Center through the College for Kids program. College for Kids is designed for students entering first through eighth grades. For more information, call Brannon Dresel at 405-682-1611, ext. 7205.

June Loan disbursements scheduled

Summer Loan Disbursement for the upcoming week is Wednesday, June 5, and Friday, June 7. For more information, contact Financial Aid at 405-682-7525.

Tuition and Fees Due

Summer Tuition and Fees are due to the Bursar's Office Monday, June 3. One hundred percent is due to avoid late fees. If you are on a payment plan 50 percent is due to avoid fees. For more information, contact the Bursar's Office at 405-682-7825.

Jobs Workshop on calendar

A workshop will be held from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 6, in the Student Employment and Career Services office. The workshop will be one-on-one with those who work in the office teaching students tips on what to put on an application and how to find helpful employment websites. For more information, contact Debra Vaughn at 405-682-1611, ext 7362.

Last Day to Drop

The last day to drop summer classes with any refund is Friday, June 7. For more information, contact Enrollment and Student Services at 405-685-7595.

University of Oklahoma Recruitment

The University of Oklahoma will be set up at the Transfer Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 6. For more information, contact Linda Little at 405-682-7567.

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

A Modern Language Festival also is planned for the fall semester, she said. The date for the event, which will be held in the center, will be announced at a later date, Troutman said.

For more information, contact Troutman, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7104 or by email at ctroutman@occc.edu.

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.

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED: Must be at least 21, willing to rent and share 2-bedroom, 2-bath apartment, preferably in the NW OKC area. Call or text 405-474-8454 or 405-512-9482.

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

TRiO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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

M-F, 8-5 in MB 1T7 (by the Bursar's Office) www.occc.edu/trio

Now accepting applications for Summer and Fall 2013

Three For All!

Fill a 3 Bedroom/3 Bathroom apartment and we'll mount a 50" flatscreen TV on your living room wall!

THE ONLY DOWNSIDE? WHO GETS THE REMOTE!?!?

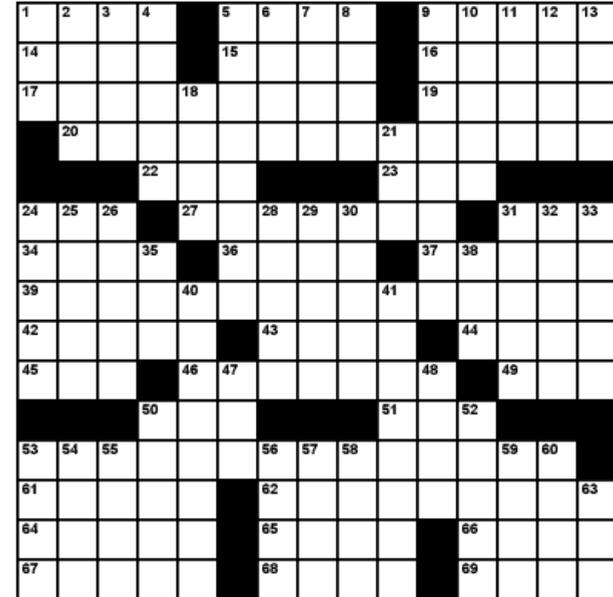
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730 Stinson Street | Norman, OK 73072 | ReserveOnStinson | @ReserveStinson

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

'Literary Alchemist' Crossword by Dave Fisher

Across

- 1. Sock
- 5. Yiddish 'trash'
- 9. Less
- 14. ___ wolf
- 15. Van Morrison's homeland
- 16. Make the innocent look guilty
- 17. Like poultry allowed to forage
- 19. Most populous English-speaking country
- 20. Alchemist rewrites Charles Dickens classic
- 22. Wane
- 23. Nice summer
- 24. Snake
- 27. City in the Evergreen State
- 31. School grp.
- 34. Decorated
- 36. 4,840 square yards
- 37. Art supporter?
- 39. Alchemist rewrites Alexandre Dumas classic (with 'The')
- 42. Mission San Antonio de Valero
- 43. Merit
- 44. Friend
- 45. Abbreviation in an ad
- 46. Withhold
- 49. Humor magazine
- 50. ___ -mo
- 51. Me in Montreal
- 53. Alchemist rewrites Ian Fleming classic
- 61. Seventh month for Moslems
- 62. Fine china
- 64. Saudi's neighbor
- 65. Draft status
- 66. SAS is based here
- 67. Parking spot and corner office, perhaps
- 68. Season to be jolly
- 69. Enthusiastic exclamation



Down

- 1. Grp. with panda logo
- 2. Cowboy's concern
- 3. ___ code
- 4. Irritate
- 5. Like some dads
- 6. Peal
- 7. Hence
- 8. Sailboat stabilizer
- 9. "Desert Storm" aircraft
- 10. Bert's buddy
- 11. ___ vs. Roe
- 12. Author Ludwig
- 13. Scan
- 18. BBQ favorite
- 21. ___ Shannon
- 24. Draw a bead on
- 25. Climb
- 26. ___ colony
- 28. Pains' partner
- 29. Doctor
- 30. Four: prefix
- 31. Sacred song
- 32. Inventor Nikola
- 33. Synthetic resin used in paint
- 35. Like a night light
- 38. Doctors org.
- 40. Lacking certain defences
- 41. Unfriendly
- 47. ___ voyage
- 48. Zilch
- 50. Was offensive, in a way
- 52. Nome dome
- 53. Something on stage
- 54. Feeble
- 55. Not open, not closed
- 56. Stratford-Avon connector
- 57. California lake or park
- 58. Priceless?
- 59. ___ does it
- 60. Stir up
- 63. Negatives



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?

Get your breaking news online: www.occc.edu/pioneer



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Construction on the Visual and Performing Arts Center is right on schedule, said OCCC Project Manager Larry Barnes. The renovated VPAC building will be the home to a new art gallery, a number of employee offices, and a theater that will seat 1,070.

VPAC construction on schedule to open spring 2014

KATIE THURMAN

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

Construction on the Visual and Performing Arts Center is moving along right on schedule, said OCCC Project Manager Larry Barnes.

The expanded VPAC building will be the home to a new art gallery, a number of employee offices, and a theater that will seat 1,070.

At this moment, Barnes said, a team of contractors is currently working to install the Blue Duct system in the auditorium. The Blue Duct System is an air and ventilation unit that is installed entirely underground, beneath the renovated building, he said.

"It's a lengthy process," Barnes said. "There are other things going on from glass install to tiling bathrooms, putting sheetrock up, finishing painting ... but the big hold up is this Blue Duct.

"Understand, it's quite a complex install," he said. "It takes a lot of time ... but that's our big push now. Once we get out of there, we're going to pour concrete and install the seating."

Construction on the VPAC has been ongoing since September of 2011. Barnes said budgeting for the project began in 2007. Barnes has been in charge of monitoring and guaranteeing quality assurance for the duration of the project.

"We're on schedule," he said. "We've had some rain delays that are legitimate but I still say that we're on schedule because the Board of Regents hasn't approved a change of order at this time."

Barnes said the contractor has scheduled for construction to be completed on Sept. 13, 2013. The substantial completion, which is decided by the Board of Regents, could come a bit later, he said.

Barnes said even then, there would be a delay before an event could be hosted in the VPAC as finishing touches, like moving furniture into the building, are completed.

The renovated VPAC will be fully operational by next spring, Barnes said. Although the wait has been lengthy, he said, the project speaks volumes about the longevity of OCCC and the possibilities for the future.

"There's a lot of room for growth," Barnes said. "And I know that (Cultural Programs Director) Lemuel Bardeguet has had his peers from 12 other colleges and universities, from Rose State to [The University of Oklahoma], come and visit, and they were in awe.

"Rose State has a nice auditorium but when they saw what we were doing, they were rather impressed, I felt. They weren't able to see the finished product but they're professionals ... and they had vision — they could see what we were doing."

Barnes said to stay within the allotted budget, some features had to be cut from the project but haven't been tossed aside completely. Instead, he said, the infrastructure for them has been put into place to allow for changes at any time in the future.

Barnes said the "bells and whistles" being put into place in the theater are cutting edge.

"It's state of the art stuff," Barnes said. "We'll have a primo theater."