Construction closes parts of campus

CHRIS JAMES
Pioneer Editor
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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.

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

 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.
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.

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 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

Guidance offered for children affected by disaster

To the Editor:
The Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD) is committed to serving the needs of 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.

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—Chris James

Editor
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 Knudsen, 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

‘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 jokes 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
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 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

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 weekend 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

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 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 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 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, 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 centrally 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.

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

—JOHN RICHARDSON
WEB DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

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.
Buffie Richardson
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.

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

“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.
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 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 then 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.

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

KATIE HORTON
Community Writer
clubreporter@occc.edu

The Wellness Center offers fitness classes and services for students year 'round, 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 Enrichment 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. Lockers 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.

KATIE HORTON
Community Writer
clubreporter@occc.edu

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For more information call the 405-682-7860.

Running toward fitness

Nursing student Chau Le burns some calories on a treadmill in the Recreation and Fitness Center May 28. OCCCs 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.

Chris James/Pioneer

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 Enrichment 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. Lockers 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.
Note left on car, tripped alarm reported

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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
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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 and 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."" ---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... ."

"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 email tutor@occc and the three of us [Chowning, Shelley, Nelson] will match students with tutors."

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

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PIONEER | OCCC.EDU/PIONEER
CLASSIFIEDS

THIS WEEK’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Literary Alchemist’ Crossword" by Dave Fisher

Across
1. Sock
2. Cowboy’s concern
3. Ode
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 defenses
41. Unfriendly
47. ___ voyage
48. Zileh
50. Was offensive, in a way
52. Nome dome
53. Something on stage
54. Foible
55. Not open, not closed
56. Stratford-Avon connector
57. California lake or park
58. Priceless?
59. ___ does it
60. Stir up
63. Negatives

Down
1. GRP. with panda logo
2. Synonym for "yes"
3. ___ -a -no
6. Fine china
7. Sand’s neighbor
8. Draft status
19. SAS is based here
20. Parking spot and corner office, perhaps
22. Season to be jolly
23. Enthusiastic exclamation
27. ___ of the match
34. Take a fall
36. Active date of the month
37. It’s an American classic!
42. Mission San Antonio de Valero
43. Merit
44. Friend
45. Abbreviation in an ad
46. Withhold
49. Harry magazine
50. ___ -mo
51. ___ in Montreal
52. Alchemist rewrites Ian Fleming classic
56. Seventh month for Moosels
57. Fine china
64. Sand’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

THE ONLY DOWNSIDE?
WHO GETS THE REMOTE?!

*Certain restrictions apply. See office for details.

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

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

Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?
VPAC construction on schedule to open spring 2014

KATIE THURMAN
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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.

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.

“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. 

Barnes said to stay within the alloted 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.”

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 Visual and Performing Arts Center 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.”