Financial aid changes affect enrollment

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
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Financial aid changes intended to encourage students to graduate faster may be pushing some students out of college, said Student Financial Support Services Dean Harold Case. OCCC may see a decline in enrollment partly because of these changes.

Recent changes to financial aid eligibility could make it more difficult or, in some cases impossible, for students to receive financial assistance from the government to continue their education, he said.

Case said, this fall, changes in federally subsidized student loans impose limits on how long students can receive them. These limits apply only to first-time borrowers, not students who previously entered the subsidized student loan program, Case said.

Last year about 3,800 students at the college received subsidized students loans, borrowing a total of $10 million, he said.

OCCC students applying for a subsidized loan for the first time this fall, if approved, will only be eligible for the maximum of three years, Case said. Any students who have previously received a subsidized loan will be unaffected.

Stephanie Shaw, a new OCCC student who will be starting classes this fall, said she thinks the changes will give students an advantage.

See AID page 9

Paper GED test soon to be a thing of the past

CHRIS JAMES
Pioneer Editor
editor@occc.edu

Oklahomans wanting to take the General Educational Development test or GED, on paper will need to do so soon. After this year, the test will only be available online — and will cost almost twice as much.

According to an email from the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the current 2002 Series GED test is set to expire by the end of 2013 and the 2014 GED will be available only online. “As far as I know, we’re just going to move from paper-based to computer,” said OCCC GED and Testing Programs Coordinator Brian Nguyen. “We do both [paper and online]”

See GED page 9
**OPINION**

**EDITORIAL | Community college students are at greater risk for depression than university students**

OCCC lacks in mental health area

As a student reporter on campus I have known of several instances where fellow students may need mental health services but don’t seem to be getting it. Just recently, two students voiced things on campus that caused others to feel worried enough to file police reports. In each case, the student was evaluated by campus staff, found to be of no threat and allowed to remain on campus. It’s not known if either received any further help off campus.

In both cases, certain administrators wanted to minimize the information released to the campus community.

Students deserve to be aware of any charged situations on campus and moreso, students who create these situations need to be getting actual professional help if they need it.

OCCC does have licensed mental health counselors but no psychiatrist so students must be referred off campus. It also has a Campus Area and Response Evaluation team — a group on campus that stores information and evaluate threats.

When a student displays concerning behavior, the case can be referred to the CARE team. However, members of that team are restricted by certain laws, inhibiting its members from even sharing certain information about the case with each other. I don’t see how that helps anyone and I don’t see how a true evaluation can be made in that manner.

An article from the American Psychological Association shows most community colleges lack in this area.

“Despite mounting mental health problems among students at community colleges, fewer than 13 percent provide psychiatric services for students, finds a January survey by the American College Counseling Association. By contrast, 56 percent of four-year colleges and universities offer on-campus psychiatric services, according to ACCA data.”

It goes on to say, “And while 68 percent of community colleges do offer some sort of personal counseling, the lack of psychiatric care is worrisome since many community college students are at an increased risk for depression, anxiety disorders and other mental health problems compared with their traditional university student counterparts, says Amy Lenhart, chair of the ACCA Community College Task Force that conducted the survey of 294 community college counselors.”

How many students on our campus are in emotional turmoil because they are not receiving the help they need? I can’t imagine being depressed or having suicidal thoughts, or dealing with a personality disorder you can’t fight on your own — and there is no real help. That can alienate a student from other students and professors. All of these situations are probably going on at this moment here at OCCC. Each one would leave a person feeling lost, upset, scared and possibly hopeless or more.

In addition, those types of thoughts can put others at potential risk. For someone suffering from mental health disorders, reality can become distorted. Without proper care, that person could pose a threat to others.

The wellbeing and safety of every OCCC student should be of the utmost importance to the administration.

The college needs to re-evaluate just how much it actually helps its student body and possibly look for a better way.

By doing so, the college will create a healthier environment for everyone. —Buffie Brown

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Program to focus on developing healthy habits**

Total Wellness classes offer free weight-loss support

To the Editor:

Beginning in August, the Oklahoma City-County Health Department and Wellness Now will offer free Total Wellness classes across the metro. These classes are designed to help participants lose weight by encouraging healthy behaviors. The program provides eating plans that are well balanced, healthy, and easy to follow said Jennifer Like, OCCHD’s Chronic Disease Prevention program dietitian.

"The classes focus on developing a range of healthy habits that can lead to better health over a lifetime."

"The risk of chronic disease often drops significantly with only a few pounds of weight loss. Losing just 5 percent of body weight can significantly lower cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar. Classes meet for one hour each week for 12 weeks. Participants will be encouraged to set goals of losing 5 percent of their body weight and becoming active for two and one-half hours per week.

Registration is required and classes are filling fast. To register, call 405-425-4352 or email Total_Wellness@occhd.org."

Fall 2013 Total Wellness Class Schedule for south Oklahoma City is:

- **Capitol Hill Library (Spanish)**
  334 SW 26th Street

5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Thursdays
Aug. 22 to Nov. 7
- **Oklahoma City Community College**
  7777 S May Ave
  5 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays
  Sept. 4 to Nov. 20
- **Southern Oaks Library**
  6900 S Walker
  2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays
  Aug. 20 to Nov. 5

For a complete listing of classes, visit the OKC-County Health Department at www.occhd.org.

—OCCHD
‘Pacific Rim’ reeks of del Toro

In a summer that has seemed devoid of blockbusters, the recent release of “Pacific Rim” has broken the humdrum cycle of the season. "Pacific Rim," an epic venture by director Guillermo del Toro, is every bit as fresh, fun and exciting as I had anticipated.

The sci-fi tale sets its story in the near future. A giant rift has formed at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean and from this portal to another world, aliens identified as kaijus (Japanese for “giant monster”) have risen. To combat the monsters, a new kind of weapon has been designed — massive robots called Jaegers. They are controlled by two pilots whose minds are bonded by a neural link and who are the main fighting force to defeat the kaijus.

Massive aliens, giant humanoids. On the surface, "Pacific Rim” might seem like your typical sci-fi fare but the feature, which clocks in at just over two hours (but manages never to drag or lose its pace), has brought something refreshing and innovative to a genre that we all tend to know very well.

The first strength of "Pacific Rim" is the passion that director and screenwriter del Toro has for the genre.

Del Toro, a longtime advocate and fan of mecha movies, said he wanted to create something original but also something that paid its dues to the classics of the genre — “Pacific Rim” is the perfect homage to its predecessors.

The film also boasts an impressive cast: Charlie Hunnam (famous for his turn on cable television show "Sons of Anarchy") is a textbook del Toro alum, having starred in a few of his films. Hunman gives an honest and engaging performance as Raleigh Becket, a former Jaeger pilot with a past that haunts him.

Rinko Kikuchi (nominated for an Oscar for 2006 feature film “Babel”) plays Mako Mori, Becket’s co-pilot, who has lost her family in a kaiju attack.

The best performance of the film is offered by Idris Elba, playing Stacker Pentecost, one of the commanding officers and supporters of the Jaeger program.

The acting, while sometimes a bit over the top — by fault of the screenplay, not the actors — is never entirely unpleasant to watch and proves to settle above the bar of what we typically see in action films. "Pacific Rim” is visually stunning and comes with a soundtrack that measures up to the grand production scale. It’s an excellent summer release, and provides action and excitement without sacrificing a substantial plot that gives the film its heart.

Rating: A+

—Katie Thurman
Staff Writer

The Mule a cheesy place to dine

I have found the most delicious place to get my cheese fix. The Mule, a restaurant that specializes in “Hot Melts & Cold Beer.”

I was a little apprehensive at first because normally, I hate getting grilled cheese sandwiches at restaurants. They just never compare to the ones I can make myself.

The fare at the Mule is an entirely different creature. I’ve ordered the same thing both times I’ve visited and will probably order it again on my next visit. It’s that good.

I started out with an appetizer of The Mule’s House Tomato Soup. The bread was perfectly toasted both visits. The cheddar cheese had a good taste and texture — the bacon thick and cooked to perfection.

Everything about the place is great: Parking was easy, service was great and the beer selection is pretty good. In addition to soup, they also have salads, beer-battered fries and onion rings.

The Mule’s hours of operation are 5 p.m. ‘till late on Mondays, 11 a.m. ‘till late Tuesdays through Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. They’re closed on Sundays.

You can find The Mule at 1630 N Blackwelder in the middle of Oklahoma City’s Plaza District.

Feed your cheese addiction with a variation of a childhood classic, like me, or something a little more fancy like the Big Ass Grilled Cheese with bleu. Either way, The Mule has a melt for you.

Rating: A+

—Chris James
Pioneer Editor
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FOOD REVIEW | There are 25 shake flavors on this summer’s menu — and at half price after 8 p.m.

**Sonic’s peanut butter-bacon shake worth a try**

Frozen treats are a great way to beat the heat. That’s why Sonic is offering more than 25 different flavors of shakes this summer. Among those is the peanut butter bacon shake.

After repeatedly seeing this shake on the menu, I jokingly told my best friend one day I would try it.

My worst fear soon became a reality as I found myself ordering the dreaded peanut butter bacon shake after intense peer pressure from my friend.

I was skeptical as they brought it out to my car and I gazed into a medium-sized cup filled with my shake and topped with whipped cream, garnished with crispy bacon. I began contemplating whether I should have bought a safer flavor as a back up in case things went awry.

I stared at the shake for several minutes and even took a picture to document the fact this was actually happening. Finally, I willed myself to take a bite.

It was unlike anything I had ever tasted before. In the first few seconds that the shake came in contact with my tastebuds, all I tasted was a frosty peanut butter-flavored consistency. Then something else hit: the bacon. Mixed thoroughly throughout the shake, the bacon made every bite a crunchy experience. I was left with a bacon-y aftertaste with every swallow.

The verdict? It actually wasn’t too bad. Despite the fact bacon and peanut butter is only a combination you would expect to find in some concoction at the fair, the ingredients surprisingly worked well together.

While the shake wasn’t as bad as anticipated, it is unlikely I will order it again. It is not often I feel like going out on a limb and try new things. I’m surprised I did with this.

My advice: if you are watching calories, scared of trying new things, or have a phobia of bold flavors, this is not the shake for you. However, if you are an extreme bacon lover like 75 percent of the population seems to be, then I would recommend you try this shake.

Keep in mind, Sonic’s shakes are half off all summer after 8 p.m. Just make sure you don’t order after 10:30 p.m. like I did or you will likely find yourselves greeted by less than happy employees who did not want to start up the stove again to cook bacon for your shake.

**Rating:** B

—Erin Peden
**Online Editor**

MUSIC REVIEW | Local band wows reviewer with over-the-top performance

**Stay calm and listen to Everybody Panic**

Local hard rock band, Everybody Panic, takes Oklahoma’s music scene to a whole new level with their high-octane live performances.

I caught their show when they opened for Deftones at the Diamond Ballroom.

When I first got there I didn’t know who Everybody Panic was. That made me panic a bit, but they completely blew me away.

The band made such an impression on me that night that when I heard they were performing at the Chameleon Room on June 14, I rushed there to meet them.

This four-piece panic machine is composed of Ty Gay on vocals, Provoo Provenzano on guitar, Gog Ger on bass and Timmy Braun on drums.

Fan Cin Munoz said they are great and considers them a must-see band.

“They are one hell of a band. I love seeing them perform,” Munoz said.

“They are all kickass guys.”

After meeting them, I couldn’t agree with her more. Band stage manager David Davis said he enjoys his job and looks up to them.

He said their live shows are full of energy and really pack a punch.

“What other singers do you know that can climb up on the ceiling bare-foot, hang upside-down, and still be able to sing with such power?” he said, referring to frontman Gay.

Provoo said they put their heart and soul into their music.

“I’m pretty sure if you cut us all open our music would just flow out.”

He gave me a copy of their EP after the show and I’ve listened to it non-stop since.

“When it All Burns” sets the stage for the entire EP. It ignites flames of energy that spread like wildfire throughout the CD.

“Such a Waste” is a killer track. It incorporates this heavy industrial vibe featuring some potent lyrics like “Land of the free, home of the slaves.”

They put on one hell of a show. I can’t get enough of these guys.

**Rating:** A+

—Lori Valentine
**Staff Writer**

**TOP 20 MOVIES**

Weekend of July 12 through July 14
www.newyorktimes.com

NATHAN BOONE
News Writing Student

Student Employment and Career Services Director Debra Vaughn's mission is to help set OCCC students apart from the other job market competition. She said she wants OCCC students to be the stronger job candidates for any position available.

Vaughn said she has a variety of ways for students to hone their résumé writing and interviewing skills by using an interactive computer program in her area.

The job-seeking journey starts with a résumé — a student’s strongest ally in an interview, she said, and important throughout a career.

As paper résumés become a thing of the past, Vaughn said, she is pointing students in a new direction — the Optimal Resume website at https://occcoptimalresume.com.

Vaughn said the primary focus of the website is to assist students with the digitalization process of résumés and the application process. With résumés, she said, there is no one-size-fits-all formula. She said students can use a variety of templates at the site for a more career-focused résumé.

Students also can use the plethora of information and tools at the website to assist them with building a professional, clean online appearance they can integrate into other social media platforms, Vaughn said.

She said the computer program in her office contains videos showing common interview questions and how to create the best responses. With a laugh, Vaughn admitted to bombing interviews herself.

Also, she said, an up-to-date news feed keeps students aware of new job opportunities, events and seminars.

It's crucial for students to do their homework on future employers, Vaughn said. Not only is it important to prepare for the interview, she said but also know how to follow up after the interview.

When it comes to cover letters, résumés and post-interview thank-you letters, students can get confused, Vaughn said.

Information Technology major Levi Schultz has worked in the Student Employment and Career Services for two years and shares Vaughn's enthusiasm for assisting students.

Schultz said students sometimes face a Catch-22 situation in the job market — they need experience to work but have to work in order to gain the experience.

In situations like these, Schultz suggests new job hunters first look for work on campus. He said this helps students understand what they’re getting into and have a job that will be flexible with their school schedule.

Schultz has patience and a passion for helping his peers.

“It’s like a puzzle piece,” he said. “We don’t want them working for a job they’ll hate but a job that will work for them.”

Vaughn said she is currently preparing for the October job fair on campus. She said she is almost done creating the banners to be hung outside on SW 74 and May Avenue that will promote it.

“Once the banners are posted, the phones start ringing,” she said.

Aside from preparing for the upcoming fair, Vaughn's office is always readily available for students needing assistance. When students come to visit, they receive one-on-one guidance with the staff, she said, because many lack the confidence it takes to land their first job.

“Most students are unsure,” Vaughn said, “But once they start to see what they can do, they gain confidence. It’s a great morale booster.”

For more information, email dvaughn@occc.edu.

MARY MILLER
News Writing Student

Long before Academic Adviser Chris Borthick started working at OCCC, he was a graduate going through the process of transferring to the University of Oklahoma.

Like Borthick, each year, a number of OCCC students transfer to a four-year university. He said the most important piece of advice he can offer — start the transfer process early.

“Whether it is after your freshman year or the summer before transferring … you don’t want to go into it blind,” he said.

Borthick said the easiest way for students to prepare for transfer is to “get into contact with your desired university’s advisers, take a campus tour and become prepared to take entrance exams.”

The University of Central Oklahoma, DeVry University, the University of Oklahoma, and Mid America Christian University are among the colleges that send representatives regularly to visit students in the Transfer Center.

Students have the opportunity to visit with those representatives during the summer months as well.

Gayla Reeder, a representative of DeVry University, recently visited the Transfer Center.

“We offer a program to students that provides transfer students scholarships without any charge,” she said.

Reeder said DeVry University focuses on careers for students and how many are employed upon graduating.

“Eighty-eight percent of our students who graduated with a bachelor’s degree were employed in their chosen field within six months of graduating,” she said.

Through the college’s Transfer Center, located on the first floor of the Main Building, students can get advice on how to prepare for the transfer process, and even obtain information of when representatives from other colleges will visit the OCCC campus, according to www.occc.edu/transfercenter.

Reeder said higher tuition costs can cause students worry when transferring. She said there are transfer scholarships that can help.

“With a lot of focus on tuition costs, Career Outlook (www.careeroutlook.us) should be another point that students look into. It gives insight on what percentage of students become employed in their chosen field of study,” she said.

According to their website www.devry.edu, DeVry University charges $609 per credit hour up to six hours. Anything over six credit hours qualifies for a discount. The university also offers a military tuition rate, and scholarship money to those who qualify.

Borthick said students also need to take a long look at their chosen university and be ready for any changes.

He said every school is different in some aspect, so it is a great time for students to figure out what they want in a university and where they can see themselves fitting in comfortably.

“Pre-transferring students should be prepared for the differences they will have to overcome when moving to a different university,” he said.

“These changes can include longer waiting lines, parking fees, and greater distances between classes.”

According to www.occc.edu/transfercenter, students should never feel like they have to take on the transferring challenge alone because OCCC advisers are always there to assist them.

The site covers a wide variety of information such as a list of transfer scholarships and their qualifications provided from other colleges and checklists of how to become prepared for a transfer.

To learn more about how to prepare for transferring, visit www.occc.edu/transfercenter or stop by the Transfer Center in Academic Advising on the first floor of the Main Building.
Husband-wife duo give presentation in Belgium

Two OCCC broadcasting professors traveled across the Atlantic to Belgium for a five-minute presentation over mobile journalism. Husband and wife team, Rick Allen Lippert and Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, attended the World Journalism Education Conference in early July.

Prior to the trip, on April 4, the Lipperts delivered their presentation to a News Writing class, where they were able to share their ideas and methods. The name of their presentation is “SMARTer MoJo: The 5 Minute Challenge.”

In five minutes, the Lipperts taught journalism educators from around the world how to separate disaster from success when practicing mobile journalism on a smart phone.

Lippert said doing mobile broadcast journalism on a smart phone enfolds the jobs of five people into one.

The mobile journalist is doing the job of producer, reporter, sound person, lights, and videographer.

Under setup, they listed the components to be assembled: a smart phone, monopod or tripod, microphone, and a Vericorder MoJo Kit, which will improve basic audio and clarify images.

A Vericorder MoJo Kit costs about $220 at technology retailers, Lippert said.

These equipment pieces are the key to success and fit compactly into a backpack or carrying case.

Next is monitoring image and sound. Lippert said you should review the subject’s appearance, check eye contact of subject, check for distractions, pay attention to background noise and lighting, and connect the location to the story through framing.

“Make sure your story is presented well to the audience,” he said. Good audio is critical, which many videographers overlook.

“If the audience cannot hear your story, they will turn it off,” Faulconer-Lippert said. The first tip they shared is to avoid using the built-in microphone in the phone.

The best option is a hand-held or clip-on microphone, Lippert said. The volume should have presence, and there should be no distracting noises. The way to check this is by listening with headphones while the person is speaking.

Faulconer-Lippert stressed the importance of the reporter practicing in front of the lens.

“You must be camera ready by looking prepared, locking in eye contact, acting like you know what you are doing, and enunciating words.

“It is important to look natural and comfortable,” she said, which takes practice.

On the technical side, you must make sure your gear is fully charged and ready to go.

“If it’s the wrong time to read your manual,” Lippert said.

End your story with your final thought, your station’s name, and your name to close your report, Faulconer-Lippert said.

“This is the signature to your work, so make sure it flows well,” she said.

The Lipperts closed their presentation by showing two pictures. One picture had a reporter doing everything right, and the other had the reporter doing everything wrong.

There is time for the audience to observe these pictures and say what can be corrected using tips from the presentation.

The Lipperts teach these skills in their broadcasting courses on campus. Rick Lippert said he has two MoJo kits for his students in Video Production. Instead of a smart phone, the kits come with an iPod Touch, which serves the same function.
Imagine going into a building with a furnace reaching 2,000 degrees. Conditions are miserably hot, sweaty. Now imagine going there for fun.

Once a week, physical science Professor Gary Houlette does just this.

For about a year now, Houlette has been learning the delicate art of glass blowing. Houlette said he has always had an interest in glass blowing but it was not until recently that he pursued it.

"About six or eight years ago, I went by the (Blue Sage) studio after seeing it on TV and I couldn't find anybody there, so I kind of just forgot about it," he said. "Then last August, my wife bought me a lesson for my birthday, so that's when I actually got started."

Other than taking a pottery class at OCCC several years ago, Houlette said he did not have much experience with art.

"My background is engineering so I've always been geared to numbers and formulas, and this whole creative side has always been a challenge," he said. "I think you always have to try that other side of who you are supposed to be."

Houlette said his engineering background does have its benefits, however.

"I remember when I first started, [my instructor] told my wife 'he has really good hands' in reference to working the equipment," he said. "I've been mechanically inclined all my life, so I think that's helped me a little bit."

Houlette said he finds it interesting to look at glass blowing from an engineering standpoint.

"Because I've always taught classes that involve rotational dynamics, I unfortunately think about that when I'm spinning the glass; not to analyze it but to think 'it's spinning. It's actually doing what it's supposed to do.'"

Since beginning glass blowing, Houlette has not looked back.

Houlette said Blue Sage Studio has been very helpful in helping him with his craft.

"The people at the studio are very kind and encouraging," he said. "I've seen them work with beginning students over and over again, and I think the students have a wonderful experience. There's always someone there to help."

Because of extreme conditions while working with the glass, Houlette said, proper safety gear is required.

"Safety-wise, you need eye and foot protection. You have to be able to follow instructions and be safe," he said.

"When you're working with somebody, you use these wooden paddles, and hold them in such a way you keep the heat off the person working on the glass. When you see the paddles, they are physically burnt pieces of wood. It gets that hot."

Houlette said he enjoys coming up with new and interesting pieces to make.

"I'm into weird pieces. "It's really hard to make a perfectly symmetrical piece, so it's always kind of off-centered," he said. "My teacher, Roy, says there's no such thing as ugly glass. Every time I bring something home, my friends and family are amazed."

Houlette said vases are among his favorite things to make.

"My wife likes flowers so I make a lot of vases for her."

He said he has made so many pieces of glass he has a designated area in his home for the pieces.

"In one of our rooms we have them arranged on a dresser," he said. "Every weekend when I bring home more pieces, my wife will rearrange them.

"When she first did that, I was really happy because it ... shows the beauty of all the glass when you can see it all together."

Houlette said he has donated his pieces to fundraisers, faculty scholarship funds, and to his church for a youth silent auction.

"It's fun to see how people react to my pieces," he said.

Houlette said he draws his inspiration from many things.

"The Chihuly exhibit at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art probably piqued my interest at one time," he said. "It's unbelievable. The lighting is key for glass many times, because you can't see the beauty of the glass unless it's lit properly, and they do a fantastic job lighting it there."

Houlette said he also will watch YouTube videos of people blowing glass.

"It's really fascinating to see people who have lots of glass blowing skills."

"It's really fascinating to see people who have lots of glass blowing skills."

Houlette said he believes glass blowing is a hobby that is quickly growing in popularity.

"I've talked to people here at the college who have bought things off groupon for glass classes," he said.

"Lessons are $75 an hour, but that includes a one-on-one instructor, and all the glass materials and colors. It's not cheap and it's not for everybody."

For those interested in glass blowing, Houlette gives this advice: "Just continue."

"I took a poetry class with Richard Rouillard one time and he said 'most of what you write is not going to be very good, but occasionally you're going to write something really well,' so my goal is I have to do glass every week."

"I wish I could do it every day. You have to make a lot of bad glass before you can make some actually beautiful glass."

Houlette said he enjoys glass blowing mostly for the aspect of being creative.

"I'm just a beginner but if I can do this for five more years, I'll consider myself a glass blower," he said.

"But right now, I just go to a studio and see these guys that are incredibly talented. I enjoy the creative environment as a whole because it's just different."

"I don't consider myself an artist but I certainly enjoy doing it."
SPORTS

Serve it up!

Jada Berry prepares to serve the ball to her teammates in Volleyball Fundamentals, one of many Youth Summer Sports Camps hosted at OCCC from May into August. Sport camps focus on teaching basic fundamentals, and building the skills and confidence of young athletes in a fun and safe environment. For more information, call Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.

Rec and Fitness programs successful

HUNTER MCKEE
Pioneer Story
News Writing Student

This summer, OCCC’s recreation and fitness program for children has consisted of several popular sports and activities camps such as basketball, soccer, karate and swimming.

"The camps have all filled up," said Sports and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson.

Watson said not any one specific camp has been the most popular with the estimated 500 campers.

“They’re all very popular and all have had a good enrollment... ”

—Eric Watson
SPORTS AND RECREATION SPECIALIST

The camps have all filled up. They’re all very popular and all have had a good enrollment... . ”

The current camps run through Aug. 9, he said.

Parents can sign their kids up for next year’s program beginning in April.

Those who sign up in April will receive a discount, Watson said.

Watson said he is proud of the program.

He said the camps provide good interaction between the kids so they can possibly meet new friends.

For more information about the program, call the Recreation and Fitness number at 405-682-7860 or email ewatson@ewatson@occc.edu.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• 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 per day. Camps offered are:

  • Children’s 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.

(All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Email your news to sportswriter@occc.edu.)
A woman was arrested for driving under the influence on campus.

**Aid: Financial aid changes may cause drop in enrollment**

Case said students from the 1970s or 80s who went to college full time with Pell grants and had to drop out, may have used their lifetime eligibility.

"So if you apply now, this year, for financial aid, and this runs through the federal system, and they are grabbing data, there is no limit to how far back they can go," Case said. Pell grants started in the early 70s.

Under the new rules, those students would be denied funding if they have reached the limit, no matter how many years they have passed since they first received the aid.

Those students would have to find other options to pay college costs, Case said.

"If you got a significant amount of Pell grant early on, you may have very little eligibility remaining," he said.

Maximum eligibility is a percentage, he said. It's 600 percent. That's 100 percent of a Pell grant, spread out over four years. Pell grant recipients who attend part-time will have longer eligibility.

Case said about 6,800 OCCC students received Pell grants last year, totaling approximately $20 million.

Planning and Research Executive Director Stu Harvey said there was a modest enrollment decline from financial-aid changes last year [2012-2013] when new rules came into effect.

Harvey said the changes are in place for several reasons, one of which is completion or graduation rates.

The longer students are in the process, the less chance they have of succeeding, he said.

Case said these new regulations for financial aid are not just for Oklahoma. The changes are a nationwide issue. Colleges are being asked for higher student completion rates.

Completion rates are a national issue, he said. The focus is on students getting a credential before they leave college, Case said. The goal is to improve graduation rates.

Oklahoma rates slightly below the national average for graduation in an associate-degree program. About 28.7 percent of Oklahoma students complete a two-year program within three years, according to National Center for Higher Education Management Systems Information Center. That compares to 29.2 percent nationally.

The three-year graduation rate at OCCC is 10 percent, well below the national average, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. That rate rises to 16 percent over four years.

About 24 percent of OCCC students transfer after three years, according to the same source.

The web site notes the graduation rate is calculated only on first-time full-time degree-seeking students.

Harvey stressed these statistics are calculated on only 10 percent of OCCC's students. More than half of OCCC students are enrolled part-time, and others attend other colleges before enrolling here, so they are not counted.

OCCC students, on average, take about 5.5 years to graduate because so many are working and going to college at the same time, Harvey said.

Graduation numbers have been rising, going from 1048 graduates in 2006 to 1336 in 2011, according to the college's Report on FY 2011 Graduates prepared last August.

For more information, call 405-682-7525.
Food service change is mostly in name

LORI VALENTINE
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

After seven years, OCCC’s cafeteria is assuming a new identity.

As of July 1, what was formerly known as Carson’s has now taken the name of Smokehouse Grill, owned by Consolidated Management Company.

District Manager Dan Wilbur said the company is an on-site, regional food service management company, with more than 38 years of experience in the service industry.

Wilbur said not much has changed with the switch.

“The majority of the staff that was working here before are still going to be working here,” he said. “Catering will still be done by the same people. We also have the same management team with the exception of the chef.”

Wilbur said most of the food will remain the same but said Consolidated will incorporate some new menu items.

“Most of the food is actually the same,” he said. “...we’ll promote a different product every week.”

OCCC Food Service Director Corrine Aguilar added the cafeteria will be trying new things.

“We want to try and please all students the best we can,” she said, “We have new approaches to things like the salad bar and deli.

“We are going to be rotating different salads and deli items.”

Aguilar said most of the comments left in the suggestion box inside the cafe are from students asking that more healthy items and smaller portion sizes be added to the menu.

“They like to have a lot of healthy options so we try to make sure we offer fresh vegetables on the entree line everyday along with our fresh salads and our new wraps.”

Student Malcolm Frometa said he enjoyed a recent meal from the Smokehouse Grill.

“I was curious why they changed management but it’s pretty nice,” he said. “I really like it.”

The coffee shop in the Main Building will get some new items as well. Wilbur said he plans to add hot entrees like cheese fries or nachos to their menu to appeal to both daytime and evening students.

“We are very much aware of the fact that evening students miss out on our services due to the cafeteria’s hours of operation,” he said.

“We are trying to come up with ideas that these students would benefit from.”

Wilbur said there are some things that are different such as prices and portion sizes.

“Some things have gone up. Some things have gone down,” he said. “We also now group things and provide a lot of combos. It’s much cheaper for you.

“We definitely try to price things as comparable as we can to the market as well as make ourselves presentable to the students.”

OCCC student Patrick Pham said he eats a turkey sandwich from the area every school day.

“I hope they don’t change the prices.”

Aguilar said Consolidated Management will promote their services throughout the year with things as we can to the market as well as make ourselves presentable to the students.”

Controversial play on campus through July 26

The Red Dirt Theater Company in Oklahoma City, presents its first production “Race” at 8 p.m. July 19, 25 and 26 in the OCCC Theatre Lab. The play, by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet, contains offensive language and is not intended for young or sensitive viewers. Tickets are $15 general admission, and $10 for students and seniors. For more information, call 405-682-7519.

Application for international students nears

Monday, July 22, is the last day for international students to apply to OCCC for the fall semester. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/is.

Students invited to career workshops

An Optimal Interview workshop is scheduled from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, July 25, also in the Student Employment and Career Services office. This workshop will teach students good interviewing skills. Online coaches and interviews provide professional tips to help students get a job. For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519.

Summer disbursement dates set

Summer loan disbursements are on the following dates: Friday, July 19; Wednesday, July 24; and Friday, July 26. Summer Pell Grant Disbursement will be Friday, July 26. For more information, contact Financial Aid at 405-682-7525.

Tickets are $15 general admission, and $10 for students and seniors. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/is.

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Classes will be taken into consideration as well

Fifteen minutes

Monica Avila works on painting a self-portrait in an Upward Bound class.

The class emphasized the style made popular by pop-art icon Andy Warhol.

Upward Bound is an educational student assistance program funded through the U.S. Department of Education.

CHRIS JAMES/ PIONEER
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.

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

**FOR SALE:** Women’s professional dresses and suits. Sizes 18W, 20W, and 22W.

- $10 per item or two for $15. Text 405-245-7319 for pics or more info.

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**MISSISSIPPI**

**FOR SALE:** Two like-new jean jackets, juniors size XL $5 each; Strapless summer maxi dress, juniors size L $5; Pink terry robe, size XL $5. Text 405-245-7319 for pics or more info.

**FOR SALE:** Assorted purses, $3 each or take whole lot for $10; Women’s shoes and boots, size 10. $2 for each pair of shoes, $5 for boots or take all for $10. Text 405-245-7319 for pics or more info.

**FOR SALE:** Solid wood table with a bench and three chairs. $500 or best offer. 405-245-7319 for pics.

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Simon Says’ Crossword by Dave Fisher

**ACROSS**

1. Certain jirders
6. Makes 'p'
10. 7 O'clock __
14. Souvenir
15. Winter bird feed, maybe
16. List eder
17. Supreme Being
18. Domain
19. Prego competitor
20. ...all these years
23. Dead, e.g.
24. Parapsychology subj.
25. Rosies
26. Earlier
31. Fruit related to custard apples
36. Drive off
38. Browie
39. Like a sob
40. And whispered in the...
43. Says yes
44. Big ISP
45. First left-handed Masters winner
46. The Divine
47. Gilets brand
49. Croak
50. Rent to
52. Global standards
54. Are you going to...
63. Decorative work
64. Eye part
65. First movement of a sonata
66. ___ of Man
67. Bait fish
68. Pays for a hand
69. First name for this puzzle
70. Winter transport
71. ___ Verde (National Park)

**DOWN**

1. Gershwin and Levin
2. Wallop
3. "___ Need" (Temptations hit)
4. Tehna hills
5. Lug
6. Last one was shot in 1918
7. Hblo, e.g.
8. Eccentric old man
9. Remains
10. Spongy toy
11. Slate in France
12. Salary
13. Aspersion
21. Stroke
22. Outrage
25. Famous Indian tea state
26. Japanese chess
27. Entry sign info, probably
28. Worldwide worker's gap
30. Meat for petfood, say
32. ___ good men
33. Longed for
34. Common text code
35. Seeker's word
37. Snake eyes
39. Roughneck's locale
41. Discharge militarily, abbr.
42. Tippler
47. Imaginary
48. Guru's community
51. Plains
53. "The Power ___" (Bryce Courtenay novel)
54. Berth
55. Mason in Mexico
56. Rights protection org.
57. Ro's partner
58. Story teller's first weed, often
59. Not new
60. Colony critics
61. Light bulb, figuratively
62. Phillies' famous Betty
Former soccer kid now teaches others

HUNTER MCKEE
Pioneer Story

Evan Crabtree grew up playing soccer. Now, he gets to share his soccer knowledge with children as a counselor for the summer recreation and fitness program at OCCC.

“Sports are fun, and teaching kids to play sports is a rewarding experience,” he said.

Crabtree said, although at times it can be difficult keeping the campers focused and on their best behavior, he enjoys the experience.

The key to being a good counselor, he said, is to always be available for the children, and “to be patient with them and learn to be stern without being mean.”

Crabtree is one of six counselors who work the morning camps each week. He said he has worked at the camp since late May.

“The staff works well together,” he said.

Each staff member plays a key role in each camp, he said, and does a good job of keeping the kids entertained and dialed in to the sport in which they’re participating.

The camps have been a good experience for both him and the campers, Crabtree said. He said he is proud and enthusiastic to be a contributor to the success of every child he teaches.

He recommends parents sign up their children for next year’s program because, he said, the classes are good for the campers and build great relationships between them and the counselors.

Crabtree said the program is going in the right direction and the high enrollment this summer backs that up.

For more information about the sports camps, call Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.