EDITORIAL

NOT ALL STUDENTS ARE EQUAL

Editor Parris Burris says although Student Life should treat all OCCC students the same, they don’t. Read her thoughts inside.

OPINION, p. 2

NEWS

STUDENTS CAN FIND HELP NAVIGATING

Turn inside for helpful parking tips and campus maps that will help when trying to get around OCCC. Printable maps are available at www.occc.edu.

NEWS, p. 6 & 7

SPORTS

CAMPUS SOCCER TEAM RECRUITING

The Recreation and Fitness area is holding registration for any student looking to be part of the intramural soccer club. Turn inside for more.

SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE

GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE TO CHANGE NAME

The GSA club is about to undergo yet another name change, its fourth name change. Read more about it on page 10.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

Planning ahead will help students adjust

Police chief suggests alternate routes for closed entrances and parking areas

PARIS BURRIS
Editor
editor@occc.edu

From a car crashing into the front door of the Main Building to tornado damage on various parts of campus, OCCC has experienced significant destruction prior to the beginning of the semester.

This has resulted in parking lot and entrance closures which can make a student’s ability to find their way around campus more difficult.

However, with the help of campus police, wayfinder signs and help desks, students have resources available to help lessen the stress of navigating through the first days of the semester.

Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said students will need to use alternate routes to navigate certain parts of campus.

"Arts and Humanities entry 1 is closed," Fitzpatrick said. "The Main Building entry 1 is closed due to the kid that drove through the front of the campus.

"So two main areas where people normally come in, from A lot and C lot, are closed right now and we are trying to get them repaired as quickly as possible."

Fitzpatrick said the best way to get into the Main Building is through the SEM Center entries.

"Use one of the two SEM Center entries to actually access the Main Building … ," Fitzpatrick said. "That’s the quickest way to get in there."

As far as traffic goes, he said, students will have some guidance.

"There will be people assisting with traffic," Fitzpatrick said. "We try to push [students] to lots D, E, and F on the back ends of campus because we know there’s generally quicker parking to access and get in."

Fitzpatrick said students can see HELP page 9

Getting ready for the crowd

Bookstore employee Bianca Ramirez unboxes and sorts merchandise to put on the shelves. OCCC’s bookstore, located on the first floor of Main Building, has textbooks, snacks, college apparel and more. For more information, visit http://bookstore.occc.edu.

Arts Festival Oklahoma to celebrate 35 years

DELANEY HARNESS
News Writing Student

Arts Festival Oklahoma will celebrate its 35th anniversary this year by bringing some of the most talented artists and performers to the south Oklahoma City area during Labor Day weekend Aug. 31 through Sept. 2, said Lemuel Bardeguez, cultural programs director and the OCCC organizer for Arts Festival Oklahoma.

Bardeguez said he is particularly excited about this year’s AFO.

“This is launching a great year, and there is even more excitement to come."

He said attendees will have the chance to see local and
Some students less equal than others

OCCCC’s Student Life office says its purpose on campus is to “... provide a variety of programs and services that support students in their pursuit of a successful higher education experience.”

However, recently, they have done just the opposite — at least when it comes to journalism students.

On May 28, Student Life Director Erin Logan informed the Pioneer faculty adviser in an email that the Student Life office had changed its procedures and would no longer grant in-person interviews to the Pioneer staff writers or News Writing students regarding their assignments or class-assigned stories.

In the email, Logan claimed the reasoning behind this discriminatory refusal of student services was a result of “... a multitude of incidents of inaccurate reporting, misquotes, and reporters not properly identifying themselves.” She went on to say, “The number of requests for interviews has become burdensome, with no real benefit to the Office of Student Life or our events.”

In the email, Logan offered no specific instances to back up her blanket allegations.

To the best of their abilities, Pioneer staff members follow procedures and guidelines that reflect ethical and accurate reporting. This includes using voice recorders during interviews so reporters can refer back to confirm information.

Any time an individual tells us there was a misquote or wrong information given, the reporter listens to the recording to determine whether the claim is accurate. If there is a misquote or wrong information in the article, the Pioneer then promptly runs a correction or a follow-up story if need be — as all newspapers do.

However, during my time at the Pioneer, I’ve never known Student Life to report any incidents of misquotes or wrong information. Logan’s compromise is that Student Life would answer any questions; however, student reporters would need to email all interview questions and could expect a response within five working days of the email having been received.

Logan sent the email with the backing of Academic Affairs Vice President Felix Aquino and Enrollment and Student Services Vice President Marion Paden. Both were carbon copied on the email.

This procedure is wrong on a number of levels. First, it is contradictory to what Student Life is supposed to stand for.

Student Life is there as a resource for students to be successful in their college experience, yet they are showing unfair treatment toward certain students.

Coincidentally, in the weeks prior to the email, Logan had asked the Pioneer to hold a story about a student who three weeks earlier had been reported to the campus police for making a threatening statement towards his classmates.

In the spirit of timeliness and being a watchdog for the public, the Pioneer chose to run the story; complete with the student’s name and photo. In a later Student Newspaper Advisory board meeting, we were told by one of Logan’s supportive vice presidents that the Pioneer had no business running the story with the name and photo of the student. Not long after, the new procedure email was sent — with his approval.

A second reason the procedure is wrong has to do with the nature of reporting news.

Email interviews with a five-day turnaround is, at best, a lackluster method of supplying information. The Pioneer handles both daily and weekly deadlines that would not be met if information is not received in a timely manner. Almost a week later is not a timely manner.

In addition, the Pioneer is a lab where journalism and broadcasting students gain hands-on experience essential to their career path. The lab provides a real-life learning experience. No professional reporter conducts email interviews unless it just can’t be avoided and those circumstances are few.

And the worst thing is: all students will miss the opportunity to know about many upcoming student events because Student Life is unwilling to interview or provide quality news for you.

In the meantime, Student Life should rethink what its mission is and be more willing to work with students — all students.

—Paris Burris
Editor

West Nile virus case surfaces in Oklahoma county

To the editor:

As of today, there has been one confirmed case of West Nile Virus in Oklahoma County. Therefore, Oklahoma City-County Health Department is advising residents to take extra precaution by avoiding mosquito bites and reducing habitats where mosquitoes live and breed.

“One of the most effective measures people can take is looking around their homes to identify and get rid of any sources of standing, stagnant water where mosquito larvae can grow,” says OCCHD Public Health Protection Chief Phil Maytubby.

Residents may also report sources of stagnant water outside their own property. To file a complaint about mosquito habitats, visit our website at http://www.occhd.org/community/foodprotection/complaintform.

—OKLAHOMA CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PIONEER | OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

RESTAURANT REVIEW | For $8, four to six people can enjoy a mouth-watering dessert

Pops sundae a sugary delight

If you have ever been to Pops in Arcadia, chances are you have tried a strangely-flavored soda or two in your time there. What you may not have tried is not soda at all.

On top of Pops’ menu full of burgers, hot dogs, salads, etc., they also offer a small dessert menu. On that menu is probably one of the best desserts I’ve had in my life.

Pops’ ice cream “sandwich” sundae provides all the sugar you will need to last you a week.

For $8, customers receive a giant scoop of vanilla ice cream sandwiched in between two extra large cookies of your choice topped with whipped cream, caramel, chocolate sauce, oreos, Reese’s pieces, full-sized Reese’s, chopped nuts and cherries.

Designed to feed a family of about four to six, it does not come in a smaller size; therefore, if you come alone, be sure and save lots of room for dessert.

Having been to Pops half dozen times or so, there is not a single time I have been able to pass up this dessert.

Usually only going with one or two other people, we have never been able to finish it either. Nonetheless, we always try.

Ice cream sundaes are delicious to begin with but when you put it in between two giant cookies, it changes everything. I usually pick peanut butter and chocolate chip cookies to give my sundae some variety.

It’s fun to watch other customers’ reactions as the waiter or waitress brings out the giant dessert and sets it in front of two people. It’s as if they already know you aren’t going to finish it.

I highly recommend this sundae for anyone who visits Pops. I am not a big ice cream eater, but when you combine dessert with food, friends, and fun, it makes for a great experience. If you finish the sundae, it’s also a great way to earn bragging rights and make all of your other friends jealous they weren’t there too.

The only drawback is you can’t take it in a to-go box.

Pops is located at 660 W Hwy. 66 in Arcadia.

Rating: A

—ERIN PEDEN
Online Editor

MOVIE REVIEW | Sci-fi flick filled with action

‘Elysium’ not for weak stomached

“Elysium,” written and directed by Neill Blomkamp, is a story about an over-populated Earth and the rich people who leave Earth to create a paradise in space called Elysium.

The first thing I thought of when I saw the parade was the video game “Halo.”

Elysium is a huge satellite where the rich live and never get sick.

The main character Max, portrayed by Matt Damon, is an orphan who steals and gets into trouble while living in the ruins of Los Angeles. He is taken into an orphanage and raised with his friend Frey, portrayed by Alice Braga known for “Repo Men.”

Flash forward about 15 years and Max is a grown man who works for a company that makes androids who serve as servants and workers on Elysium.

Max’s goal is to get enough money to buy a ticket to Elysium.

I loved the fact that Max’s character is a smart mouth and always gives the androids a hard time.

His mouth gets him a broken arm but gives him the chance to see Frey again. Everything changes though when an accident occurs at the warehouse he works at and he is exposed to high amounts of radiation.

He is given five days to live so his only choice is to sneak into Elysium and get into a medicalbed that each citizen on Elysium has. Once inside, a person is instantaneously cured of any and all diseases.

With nothing left to lose, Max accepts a job from his old friend Spider to hijack a businessman carrying important documents. He is told if the job is completed, he will be accepted into Elysium.

The fight scenes in “Elysium” are very well thought out and done in a new type of view I have never seen before.

One word of warning: If you get motion sickness easily, this movie may not be for you. All in all, the movie is good. I will purchase the DVD/Blu Ray when it’s released — it has some rewatch value in it.

Rating: B

—GRANT VANWINKLE
Sports Writer

View from the
President’s Office

College leader welcomes all students

The fall semester signals the beginning of a new academic year. To those returning students — welcome back. To our new students — let me be one of the first to welcome you to OCCC.

Also, I know that among returning and new students, there are a number of you who were and continue to be impacted by the tornadoes and severe weather we experienced in May. We especially greet you. We also hope you have found the support and strength to rebuild your homes and lives. I commend you for making college a continued priority.

Your choice to attend OCCC is a wise one. As costs rise to attend private colleges and public universities, some have questioned whether going to college is worth it — especially if you have to borrow a large amount to attend.

With our combined tuition and fees of less than $1,600 a semester for a full-time student, attending OCCC can significantly reduce the costs of earning a college degree.

Earning a college degree is one of the most powerful and life-changing decisions you will ever make. A college degree has never been as important for your financial security as it is today. The average income of a college graduate is now projected to be 84 percent higher than those without a college degree. Good jobs that require only a high school diploma are dwindling, while job opportunities that require an associate degree or higher continue to increase.

While future jobs and potential income are very important, there are other non-tangible benefits.

College is also about stimulating your mind, expanding your capacity to intelligently participate in our democracy, and learning more about yourself and the world. Simply put — college is the surest path I know to make you more successful in life.

Whether you are here to eventually transfer to another college, get the education to begin a new career, or just to learn something new, the faculty and staff at OCCC are dedicated to providing you with the support and education necessary to see your dream of a college education come true.

On behalf of everyone here — welcome, and have a great full semester at OCCC.

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC President

On behalf of everyone here — welcome, and have a great full semester at OCCC.

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—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC President
Kings of Leon new releases not bad, not good

American rock band Kings of Leon are gearing up for the release of their sixth studio album with a couple of pre-released tracks. “Supersoaker” and “Wait For Me” from “Mechanical Bull,” the group’s first full-length release since 2010’s “Come Around Sundown,” are being offered as a preview of what’s to come from the full album.

The verdict? Based on these two songs alone, it’s hard to say what “Mechanical Bull” will sound like, but I’m betting it won’t be entirely good.

It seems fair enough to say that time hasn’t always been kind to the Kings. While they enjoyed success early in their career in the UK, they remained largely unknown in the U.S. until the release of their album “Only By The Night” in 2008. A few hits came out of the album, there was a lot of mainstream radio play, a huge tour that took the boys all over the world, and in a more grim light, a lot of unhappy fans.

Fans who had been fond of KOL from the beginning felt that their favorite band had “sold-out.”

2010’s “Come Around Sundown” was supposed to be a departure from radio-friendly hits that would take the band’s music back to the homegrown Southern rock they played when they formed in 2003. What was released, however, was an album that sounded contrived — it lacked authenticity. To put it mildly, the album was mediocre and hardly a success.

Kings of Leon took a three-year break — all four of the members of the band married and most had children. They began working on “Mechanical Bull” in early spring.

The first promotional song released was “Supersoaker,” which sounds a great deal like any of the songs from the band’s sophomore album. While lead singer and lyricist Caleb Followill’s writing abilities seem to have improved gradually over the years, a good lyric or two isn’t enough to save this song. While “Supersoaker” isn’t bad, it’s underwhelming.

More recently, another song called “Wait For Me” was released. Again, it’s more of the same: a familiar melody, a familiar tempo. And again, the song isn’t bad. Neither song released has been a complete disaster, but sometimes OK just isn’t good enough.

While I’m glad Kings of Leon aren’t making bad music, I find myself wishing that they were still making good music.

It’s entirely impossible to recapture the magic of earlier albums, but it seems like that’s all the Kings are ever trying to do: recreate something that people liked, instead of making something they themselves like.

There’s a definite disconnect between the artists and the music they’re making, and it makes for a more lackluster listening experience.

Rating: B-

—Katie Thurman
Senior Writer

Rob Zombie worth 6-hour country drive

The bonafide Hollywood Devil-man Rob Zombie made a stop at the Cricket Wireless Amphitheater in Bonner Springs, Kan., Aug. 5, after wrapping Mayhem Festival in Texas the night before.

After missing the Twins of Evil tour where Zombie and Marilyn Manson co-headlined, I made a promise to myself I wouldn’t miss another opportunity to see him.

I kept that promise by taking two days off to drive to the show. I have to say Zombie was worth every boring minute of that 6-hour country drive.

However, I wasn’t too impressed with the lineup. I couldn’t really get into Children of Bodom. They were just not my cup of tea. I barely made it through Amon Amarth due to the fact I couldn’t understand a word they were saying. Machine Head wasn’t too bad actually, and got quite a bit of head banging from me.

Then it was time for Zombie to make his gloriously evil appearance opening his set with “Teenage Nosferatu Pussy” from high up on his Zombie pedestal.

The show amazed me. Every song brought a whole new stage setup. From the creepy mechanical devil robot dancing across the stage to a larger-than-life old-school boombox radio Zombie stood on during “Dead City Radio,” he never ceased to amaze me.

I was completely blown away by his stage presence and the showmanship of the band. Piggy D and John 5 played off of the energy of the crowd. Their performance was solid and tight, and went above and beyond the show. Participation which made for one hell of a time.

Rob Zombie demanded the crowd’s attention every step of the way. The production value was astronomical. I think it’s so quiet in here because my ears are still recovering from the concert. The devil horns were high in the sky that night. I doubt that Kansas has ever been rocked like that before.

Rating: A-

—Lori Valentine
Staff Writer

TOP 20 MOVIES
Weekend of Aug. 9 through Aug. 11
www.newyorktimes.com

1. Elysium
2. We’re the Millers
3. Disney’s Planes
4. Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters
5. Guns
6. The Smurfs 2
7. The Wolverine
8. The Conjuring
9. Despicable Me 2
10. Grown Ups 2
11. Turbo
12. Blue Jasmine
13. Chennai Express
14. The Heat
15. RED
16. Pacific Rim
17. The Way, Way Back
18. Fruitvale Station
19. Man of Steel
20. Monster University
At least 60 internships available through Greater Grads

Students who have successfully appealed financial aid suspension also are required to meet with the specialists and plan how to get the student back on track. Turner said about 1,000 to 1,200 students go on warning each semester.

"Our objective across the office is student success," Turner said. "We want students to be in a better place than when they started with us."

Jenna Howard, OCCC’s licensed mental health counselor, said the main issues students seem to face are anxiety and stress. She said many have trouble dealing with and balancing school, work, and families.

Many students also have issues with addictions, Howard said. She said all are matters that student services want to reach out and help with.

Turner said student services is always available for appointments and walk-ins. They serve hundreds of student each year through in-office help and through program referral.

"I can tell them what is normal," she said, "but when a peer says it, it makes it that much more meaningful."

"We want to reach everybody. "We want the campus to know that we are here."

Our objective across the office is student success. We want students to be in a better place than when they started with us."
—Mary Turner Learning Support Specialist

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ERIN PEDEN
Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

Students wanting to further their college experience may want to look into an internship, said Student Employment and Career Services Director Debra Vaughn. Vaughn said while finding an internship can sometimes be difficult, her office offers resources that can help with the search.

"For our internships we primarily use Greater Grads through the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, "Vaughn said. "We do have other groups that send us information about internships either by email or the phone or fax."

Students can search for an internship by going to www. greatergrads.com and clicking "find an internship." Company descriptions, benefits and responsibilities are among the criteria students will be able to view on the website, Vaughn said.

She said she has seen the website have as many as 60 internship listings — all approved by the Education Department — so there is likely something to fit most students’ needs.

"The student is looking at the internship role and those duties and expectations, but that company or organization is also looking at the intern," Vaughn said. "It’s a two-way street and students need to keep that in mind. It will lead to a job opportunity if the company needs someone and the company meets their expectations."

Vaughn said not all internships listed on Greater Grads will be available to OCCC students. Some require students have at least junior standing. However, she said, pay attention to those anyway.

"It’s good to go ahead and start looking at these things as freshman and sophomores so you can put your plans together for the future."

Vaughn said internships are a good way for students to learn more about their careers and to get embedded into a professional setting.

"It’s interesting because each of these internships speak a different language and people come to a college or university to learn that language," she said. "Internships are a good way for students to test drive."

Vaughn said searching online is not the only way to find an internship. A bulletin board located just outside the Student Employment and Career Services office is often filled with internship listings, she said. Vaughn said OCCC’s semi-annual job fair also is a good resource because not only do companies come to hire people, but also some have internships to offer as well.

"We want to give students ideas, links, and connections they may not have thought of," she said. "By doing that, we are a resource to them."

Vaughn said she loves helping students figure out a plan and encourages them to stop by the SECS office anytime. It’s located on the first floor of the Main Building.

"I enjoy talking with students because every student has a different plan, and if I can give them some information that will help them take those steps, then that’s what I like to do as a career counselor," Vaughn said.

"Going to college is a lot of time, effort, and money, so the sooner we can find the career field that is the correct match, then everybody is better served."

For more information on student internships visit www. greatergrads.com or email Vaughn at dvaughn@occc.edu.

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Parking tips, traffic guidelines given

KATIE THURMAN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

With construction ongoing around OCCC, some roads and parking lots on campus have been rendered inaccessible.

Knowing where and how to park on campus can alleviate some of the stress the beginning of the semester brings, said OCCC Police Chief James Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick said officers will be patrolling parking lots during the first week of school as well as assisting with traffic. He said some lots fill faster than others.

“We strongly recommend people come in off of May Avenue to get to the lots in the back, which are lots E, D, and F. [These lots] normally have available parking, even on days where everything is just a mad house up front,” Fitzpatrick said.

“If [students] just drive around to the back, they can generally park, get out, and walk into the building and get to class quicker than just constantly searching for a parking place out in C lot, B lot or A lot.”

Fitzpatrick said another key to avoiding the parking hassle is to get to school early for a couple of weeks.

“The first two days of school, Monday and Tuesday… [students] come early even though they might not have class,” he said. “… Parking comes and goes. But [students] just need to be ready to come to school early for the first week.”

In addition, he said, students need to allow themselves plenty of time for their commute and parking.

Fitzpatrick said students can stay up to date on what parking is like by following the OCCC parking twitter, @occcparking.

“If they will just use it, we give them updates every 10 minutes on if a lot’s closed or full,” he said.

Students also need to be aware of parking and traffic procedures.

Fitzpatrick said OCCC parking guidelines will be enforced, even during the first couple weeks of the semester.

“If [students] park in a faculty or employee spot without a decal, they’ll get a ticket.

“If they park in any outdoor fire lane, they’ll get a ticket. If they create a new parking lane on their own … sometimes we’ll have to tow them [and] they will be issued a citation if they do that.”

There is abundant legal parking on campus, Fitzpatrick said.

“[Students] can park in any spot on campus other than disabled parking, fire lanes or faculty employee parking.”

Traffic guidelines also will be enforced, he said.

Students who are caught driving past the “Road Closed” signs on campus, will get a ticket.

“Tickets range from $3 to $25,” Fitzpatrick said.

However, certain parking offenses can be referred to the Oklahoma City Police Department and can carry heftier fines.

Fitzpatrick said parking offenses such as parking in handicapped parking or a fire lane is out of the jurisdiction of the campus police.

“If [a student] parks in handicap spots, the fines are much more significant,” Fitzpatrick said.

“We always want to remind them … we enforce parking here on campus, but so does Oklahoma City.”

“[The Oklahoma City Police] have a crew of people that go around the city enforcing the disabled parking and those are very, very expensive tickets.

“If you get a ticket in district court, it can be up to $500.

“So, it’s not a smart thing to park in disabled parking.

“The fire department will come along and issue citations for parking in fire lanes.

“So [students] need to be mindful of it.”

at a glance

TRAFFIC FINES

- Parking in a fire lane: $100
- Parking in a handicapped space without a proper permit: $100
- Failure to stop at a stop sign: $25
- Going the wrong way on a one-way street: $25
- Reckless driving, unsafe driving: $25
- Parking in a faculty and staff area without a proper decal: $15
- Double parking: $5
- Improper parking (parts of vehicle outside of marked space): $3
- All other parking violations: $5
- Failure to display parking decal or parking permit: $5
- Improperly affixed parking decal or parking permit: $3

If a fine isn’t paid, a hold can be placed on a student’s records until receipt of payment of the citation is presented to the campus Police department.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/police/pdf/trafficparkingbrochure.pdf.
Maps helpful in navigating OCCC halls

VISIT www.occc.edu/maps FOR PRINTABLE VERSIONS OF ALL CAMPUS MAPS
**Weightlifting partnership**

OCCC student Dustin Bui spots student Drake Chu as he benches 45 pounds in the college’s workout room.

The weight room, gymnasium and Aquatic Center are free for OCCC students to use with a valid student ID. The facilities are located on the first floor of the main building just past the food service area.

For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness office at 405-682-7580 or visit www.occc.edu/rf.

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**Flag football season to begin Sept. 3**

GRANT VANWINKLE
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Free registration for the upcoming intramural 7v7 flag football season has begun said Intramural Sport Assistant Matthew Wright. Students interested in being part of a team have until midnight Sept. 3 to get signed up.

Wright said the season kicks off Sept. 4 and runs until Oct. 9.

Game days will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday afternoons.

Wright said the team minimum is six and the maximum number of players per team is unlimited.

To be able to play in the league, students must be enrolled for the fall semester with a current college ID, he said.

Wright said, to register, visit the IMleague website at www.IMleague.com. Choose the green register/signup link to gain access, and create a team. Students also can join as free agents by joining already created teams.

Team names should be appropriate, Wright said.

At least five to six games are scheduled for the regular season, depending on how many teams sign up, Wright said.

A post-tournament season to determine rankings and winners also will take place, he said.

Last year, three teams participated. This year, Wright said, it’s hoped there will be at least four so an even number of games can be played.

Student Steven Blackman said he didn’t know OCCC had intramural flag football teams.

He said he might be interested in playing.

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**UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS**

- **Aug. 18:** Flag football registration opens. For more information, call Sport and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

- **Aug. 31 - Sept. 2:** Recreation and Fitness facilities closed for Labor Day weekend.

- **Sept. 3:** Flag football registration closes. For more information, call Sport and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

- **Sept. 20:** Registration due with payment for fall coed volleyball recreational league for men and women 18 and up. League play begins Sept. 23. Games are at 6:30 each Monday. Each team will play 12 games plus tournament using USVBA rules with some modification. League fees are $230 per team with a roster limit of 12. Payment can be made in person in the Recreation and Fitness office on the first floor of the Main Building or by calling 405-682-7860. Cash, check, credit or debit cards accepted.

- **Fall semester:** Visit the Recreation and Fitness website at www.occc.edu/rf/swimming-diving to enroll in a number of events held in the college’s Aquatic Center.

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**Weightlifting partnership**

OCCC student Dustin Bui spots student Drake Chu as he benches 45 pounds in the college’s workout room.

The weight room, gymnasium and Aquatic Center are free for OCCC students to use with a valid student ID. The facilities are located on the first floor of the main building just past the food service area.

For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness office at 405-682-7580 or visit www.occc.edu/rf.

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**Flag football season to begin Sept. 3**

GRANT VANWINKLE
Sports Writer
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Free registration for the upcoming intramural 7v7 flag football season has begun said Intramural Sport Assistant Matthew Wright. Students interested in being part of a team have until midnight Sept. 3 to get signed up.

Wright said the season kicks off Sept. 4 and runs until Oct. 9.

Game days will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday afternoons.

Wright said the team minimum is six and the maximum number of players per team is unlimited.

To be able to play in the league, students must be enrolled for the fall semester with a current college ID, he said.

Wright said, to register, visit the IMleague website at www.IMleague.com. Choose the green register/signup link to gain access, and create a team. Students also can join as free agents by joining already created teams.

Team names should be appropriate, Wright said.

At least five to six games are scheduled for the regular season, depending on how many teams sign up, Wright said.

A post-tournament season to determine rankings and winners also will take place, he said.

Last year, three teams participated. This year, Wright said, it’s hoped there will be at least four so an even number of games can be played.

Student Steven Blackman said he didn’t know OCCC had intramural flag football teams.

He said he might be interested in playing.

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Harassment, arrest top campus police reports

KATIE THURMAN
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Campus police responded to a variety of calls the fourth week of July.

On July 22, WFF Facilities Services employee Lorraine Lopez reported that at 12:20 p.m. that day, an unidentified man entered a restroom she was cleaning on the third floor of the Main Building and said, “Come on, let’s do things, you and me.”

Officer William Hall, who took Lopez’s statement, reported the unidentified man then extended his left arm and rubbed Lopez’s stomach. Lopez left the restroom and entered the women’s restroom. The unidentified male then left the men’s room and went in a direction unknown to Lopez. Lopez described the male as having short black hair, being about 210 pounds, and wearing a green shirt and blue jeans.

On July 23, Isis P. Espino, a visitor on campus, reported her camera had been lost in the Aquatics Center area. Espino described the camera as being a black Nikon digital camera valued between $150 and $200. An area surveillance camera didn’t provide any help, according to the report.

A traffic stop on July 26 resulted in an arrest. Officer David Madden reported he pulled over a car at 12:30 p.m. that drove through a closed section of Parking Lot B. Madden said as the vehicle excited onto Faculty Circle, he initiated the traffic stop in Parking Lot A. That’s when he noticed the tag had expired in May 2012.

Gabriel Muchemi, 29, told Madden he did not have insurance verification with him. When Madden ran Muchemi’s information, he found Muchemi’s license was suspended for a prior conviction of driving without insurance and that the vehicle was uninsured. According to the report, Muchemi had numerous past citations for not having insurance on the vehicle and for the tag being expired.

Muchemi was cited for driving under suspension and failure to provide proof of insurance, and arrested. Muchemi’s driver’s license was seized and his car impounded. Muchemi was then transported to the Oklahoma County jail.

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.

Help: OCCC committed to helping students navigate

Continued from page 1

follow a few simple steps to make getting around campus easier.

“[Students] just need to be ready to come to school early for the first week,” he said.

“Allow plenty of time and consider parking in the back because, really, they get to class quicker.”

Student Ambassador Alicia Menz said the Welcome Center, temporarily located on the first floor of the SEM Center, also is available to help students.

“We can help direct them to the right area of the school,” Menz said.

“We can help them figure out what parking lot they want to park in to get to their class on time, and help them figure out where it is. We provide maps of the building, maps of the parking lots …,” she said. “If they say ‘I have a class in this room,’ we can help them locate that room on the map and route them in that direction.”

The Welcome Center is normally located inside Main Building Entry 1 but was relocated to SEM Entry 1 after a car ran through the MB1 entrance.

“There’s just one for right now,” Menz said.

“… We wanted to make it as easy as possible for people to find what they need to find, so it is set up over there so we can do that and we can help facilitate traffic a little better.”

Menz said the Welcome Center will be in that area for a while.

“It’s going to be there until we get the main entry open again,” Menz said.

Along with these resources, signs called “Wayfinders” located internally and externally around campus can help students navigate throughout different buildings, said Facilities Management Assistant Director Chris Snow.

“We want the students [who] come … to have the best experience they can,” Snow said.

“We did not want them to be frustrated with not knowing where to park, what building to enter and where to go once they entered the building.”

For more information, about parking, call Fitzpatrick at 405-682-7891. For more information about navigating around campus, call the Welcome Center at 405-682-7553. For more information about wayfinders, call Snow at 405-682-7575.

AFO: Art, food, entertainment, more starting Aug. 31

Continued from page 1

international acts perform on a headlining stage, as well as see some of the best artists of the southwest.

The Oklahoma City Philharmonic Symphony and Orchestra will headline this year’s Arts Festival. The event is free to the public.

The festival began in 1978 and has since become one of the largest arts and crafts shows in the southwest. It hosts more than 25,000 visitors each year, according to www.occc.edu/afo.

AFO’s continued success is thanks to strong community support and more than 500 volunteers, making it free to the public.

OCCC and its partners, the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and the Women of the South, continue to produce it.

Bradiguez said AFO will be a weekend where attendees can immerse themselves in art, culture and food.

“Arts Festival Oklahoma is about fun, food, and art,” he said. “It’s about entertaining and bringing outside culture to OCCC and South Oklahoma City.”

The festival will play host to an estimated 135 local, state and southwest artists, Bradiguez said.

More than 200 artists have applied, he said, that a panel of judges select from. “It’s top quality,” Bradiguez said.

He said visitors to the festival will see and experience art from all walks of life and in many cases, can speak with the artists.

Bradiguez said those artists come from all media backgrounds including ceramics, jewelry, glass, digital, drawing, painting and photography.

All art is for sale, he said.

Child visitors to AFO can have their own experiences in the Children’s Creative Center, Bradiguez said.

There, he said, children will be able to make arts and crafts, taking a piece of the festival home with them.

The Children’s Creative Center also will house giant sand boxes, face painting and games. Kids will get hands-on experience at the festival.

For more information, visit occc.edu/afo or contact OCCC Cultural Programs at 405-682-7576.
Gay Straight Alliance has big plans

LORI VALENTINE
Online Writer
onlinewriter@occc.edu

OCCC’s Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) has been through many name changes in the past 11 years said Club President Chris Reece, and the club is doing it again.

Reece said, the GSA is about to make yet another name change. The campus club was originally formed in Sept. 3, 2002, under the name Gay Alliance & Friends. Shortly after, on Dec. 19, 2003, the name changed to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance (GALA), then, to GSA in 2007.

At a spring 2013 GSA meeting, the club approved a proposal to change the name to LIFE — Leading Individuals for Equality — effective next spring, he said. Reece said the club will continue to use GSA until then.

“The reason behind the change was to brand the GSA, getting the attention of potential new members and reach lesbian, gay, bi, transgendered or questioning students as well as the heterosexual community,” Reece said he joined GSA because he wanted to make a difference.

“There is a lot of room for growth and change within the OCCC campus,” he said. “We want to spread awareness, acceptance and love.”

The mission statement of LIFE is to provide a safe, non-judgmental space for LGBTQ students and provide tools necessary to educate all students on various LGBTQ subjects, Reece said.

“We are a non-judgmental group of students who just want to fit in, educate others, make connections and pursue an education.”

As of last semester, Reece said, there were 20 active members with five officers and two faculty sponsors — Academic Adviser Tennent Emmons in Academic Advising and Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner.

Reece said all students should consider joining a club.

“You learn a lot while being a part of a club,” he said. “You learn how to interact with different variations of people from all walks of life.”

He said everyone is welcome to join LIFE. Club Vice President Sierra Biagas said there are many different ways to join a club at OCCC.

“The most effective way to join is to go in person by attending a meeting,” she said. “They normally have sign-in sheets where you put down your name and email address.”

Reece said sign-up sheets will be at their “Welcome to LIFE” meeting at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3. In addition, he said, look for GSA from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 28 and 29 at the Club and Organization Fair. The club has several events already planned for the fall semester he said.

“Events planned for the fall are participation in the HIV/AIDS walk Sept. 22; National Coming Out Day Oct. 4; and LGBTQ month will be in October.”

Reece said he is also looking forward to next spring.

“I am happy to announce that OCCC is looking to host the 3rd annual LGBTQ college summit March 1, 2014.”

For more information about the GSA, contact Emmons at temmons@occc.edu or Turner at mturner@occc.edu.
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 ad-man@occc.edu.


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

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.

FOR SALE: Assorted purses, $3 each or two for $15. Text 405-245-7319 for pics or more info.
Tree farm cost-effective way to beautify campus

SKYLOR WALL
News Writing Student

OCCC has a secret it keeps right out in the open — a campus tree farm, located on the western side of campus just off Faculty Drive.

Project Manager Larry Barnes said most who see the farm think it’s just a grove of trees that serves to bring a welcoming environment to the campus but, he said, it has a more important job.

He said the farm was created about 12 years ago to provide trees for landscaping around campus at an affordable cost to the college.

“It was smarter to have our own reserve of trees, than going out and buying one by one,” Barnes said. “It’s more cost effective plus it saves a lot of time.”

After storm damage like the college just recently had or, in one case, when a car hit a tree on campus, a new tree is taken from the farm and set in its place.

Irrigation manager Charlie Neatherlin said most of the trees are native to Oklahoma. The farm consists of oak, bald cypresses, pines, and water oak trees.

“It was easier to get a hold of native trees as far as shipping and cost goes, and they grow well with very little problems,” he said. “It’s more like an outside warehouse of a product, only they’re plants.”

Neatherlin said the trees were bought as baby trees for three to four cents each from the Goldsby National Forestry Reserve just south of Norman.

The trees, located near Facilities Management, are watered for two hours every day from a series of hoses that line each row of trees, Neatherlin said. This method is called a dripline system.

He said the price to run the farm is inexpensive since the reserve’s drip line system runs from an automatic timer making upkeep minimal. Barnes said currently, there are at least 90 trees in the farm.

“The farm is only one part in a master plan to beautify OCCC.”

Professor Boyle relates to students through music

ZACH LADNER
News Writing Student

Music professor Michael Boyle plays his upright bass at an outdoor venue. Boyle said having passions in addition to teaching makes him a better professor.

“Most chefs have a garbage can in the backyard of their restaurant.

I had one of the most beautiful mountains in the world in mine.”

—Michael Boyle
Music Professor

He truly does enjoy talking to people and it comes as no surprise he had multiple students pouring through his office door although he was only teaching online during the summer.

Another passion of his is music. Boyle said he travels every two years to meet up with the 1,000 top bassists in the world.

An almost underground society within themselves, he said, they hold up to 15 concerts within four days with this past year being Rochester, N.Y.

The International Society of Bassists is widely considered the elitest of their craft, Boyle said.

He said more than 49 countries are represented through a wide range of musicians who teach, play and love the double bass.

Musicians such as Matt Ulrey who is headlining the World Class Jazz concert series is a regular, Boyle said.

Oklahoma City hosted the event back in 2007, Boyle said. With a gleam in his eye, said he is hoping Seattle or Boulder, Colo., will be a future site.

Prior to becoming a professor, Boyle said, he was a chef in Seattle.

“Most chefs have a garbage can in their backyard of their restaurant,” he said.

“I had one of the most beautiful mountains in the world in mine.”

In his free time, Boyles said, he gigs with his local jazz band, holds season tickets to the Lyric Theater, and indulges in a few hot dogs and Oklahoma Sooner football.

He said by creating balance in his life, he is better able to relate to his students and they to him.

Boyle said that buffering zone can separate a good professor from a great one.